

OMAR TREMAYNE SIMS, PhD, LCSW
osims@uab.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Georgia, August 2011

Dissertation: An Epidemiologic Longitudinal Analysis on the Management of Neuropsychiatric Side Effects with Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) during Hepatitis C Antiviral Therapy: Implications for Sustained Virological Responses and Quality of Life

Committee Members: Christopher C. Whalen, MD, MS (Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, College of Public Health); Larry G. Nackerud, PhD (School of Social Work); Brian E. Bride, PhD, MPH, MSW (School of Social Work)

M.S.W. University of Georgia, May 2008
Concentration: Clinical Social Work

A.B. University of Georgia, December 1999
Speech Communication: Public Speaking and Rhetoric

Minor University of Georgia, December 1999
Theatre

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2019-Present.

Visiting Scholar—Associate Professor, (Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA]), Division of Prevention Science, Department of Medicine, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco. 2018-Present.

Associate Professor, Secondary, Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2015-Present.

Associate Scientist, Center for AIDS Research, School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2015-Present.

Associate Scientist, Integrative Center for Aging Research, School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2015-Present.

Associate Professor, Secondary, African American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, January 2021- Present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2015-2019.

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, January 2013-August 2015.

Full-Time Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Human Services, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia, August 2011-July 2012.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Psychotherapist (LCSW), Samaritan Center for Counseling and Wellness, Athens, Georgia, 2008-2018.

- Clinical work included clinical, health, and psychological evaluations to determine candidacy and readiness for hepatitis C antiviral therapy (e.g. direct acting antivirals in combination with pegylated interferon in combination with ribavirin), management of neuropsychiatric side effects induced by hepatitis C antiviral therapeutics, and health and behavioral interventions to improve both health and psychological outcomes.
- Other specialties and clinical work included treating psychological disorders in patients living with co-occurring chronic/infectious diseases (e.g. hepatitis B virus, HIV, STIs, diabetes, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders [irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease]), affective disorders (e.g. bipolar, major depressive, anxiety disorder), and alcohol/substance use disorders.
- Non-medical related work included providing individual, couples, and marital therapy.
- Certified Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) clinician for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Marketing Executive of Regional Lab Outreach & Outpatient Pathology Services, Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens, Georgia, 2005-2008.

- Responsibilities included all sales and marketing operations for both branches of Athens Regional Medical Center's Outpatient Laboratory Services: Regional Lab Outreach and Athens Regional Pathology Associates.
- Development and planning of outpatient laboratory services (e.g. pathology, phlebotomy) throughout northeast Georgia [the largest regional hospital in northeast Georgia], and laboratory contracting with dialysis centers, medical practices [small, medium, and large], home health centers, assisted living facilities, hospices, university medical centers, and small hospital-based laboratories throughout 18 counties of Northeast Georgia.
- Business development also included negotiating laboratory health services contracts with small and large physician groups; collecting data to strengthen fee schedule reimbursement with managed care companies; branding; identifying opportunities for competitive advantages; conducting cost benefit analyses; electronic medical records (EMR) contracting, supporting efforts to acquire the latest laboratory diagnostic methodology and technology; and securing a greater market of gastro-, uro-, and

hematopathology laboratory diagnostics for Athens Regional Medical Center's Outpatient Laboratory Health Services.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

All other prior work experiences were in corporate (can provide upon request).

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Of publications listed below, 29 publications were co-authored with student mentees, trainees, and junior faculty from multiple disciplines and at all levels [undergraduate students; graduate students—MPH, MSW, MBA, DSW/PhD; post-docs] or MD residents and fellows

Disciplines: several public health disciplines [epidemiology/health behavior/biostatistics/healthcare organization and policy/health education]; medicine; behavioral pharmacology; psychiatry; psychology; nursing; social work; finance
[*] *indicates manuscript with student mentees/trainees/MD residents/fellows/junior faculty*

***Sims, O.T.**, Truong, D.N., Wang, K., Melton, P.A., & Atim, K. (2021). Time to hcv treatment disfavors patients living with hiv/hcv co-infection: Findings from a large urban tertiary center. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-021-01105-5>

Sims, O.T., Gupta, J., Missmer, S.A., & Aninye, I.O. (2021). Stigma and endometriosis: A brief overview and recommendations to improve psychosocial well-being and diagnostic delay. *Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18, 1820. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18158210>

***Sims, O.T.**, Melton, P.A., Oh, H., Truong, D.N., Atim, K., & Simon, C. (2021). African american ethnicity, hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis independently predict co-occurring depression and obesity among community-dwelling older adult alabamians. *Social Work in Public Health*; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2021.1895019>

- Sims and Melton Co-1st Authors.

***Guo, Y., Sims, O.T., Qin, W., & Yang, F.** (2021). Factors associated with symptoms of depression and psychological distress during the covid-19 pandemic. *Behavioral Sciences*. 11(2), 13. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs11020013>

- invited paper for special issue: *Disasters, Diagnosis, and Distress: Multiple Perspectives, Populations, and Methodologies*
- selected by the editors as the cover issue.

BinDhim, N.F., Althumiri, N.A., Basyouni, M.H., **Sims, O.T.**, Alhusseini, N., & Alqahtani, S.A. (2020). Arabic translation of the weight self-stigma questionnaire: Instrument validation study of factor structure and reliability. *JMIR Formative Research*. 4(11), e24169. <https://doi.org/10.2196/24169>

***Sims, O.T.**, Jackson, A., Guo, Y., Truong, D., Odame, E.A., & Mamudu, H.M. (2020). A cross-sectional analysis of tobacco use and concurrent alcohol and substance use among patients living

with hiv/hcv co-infection: Findings from a large urban tertiary center. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10880-020-09744-2>

***Sims, O.T.**, Wang, K., Chandler, R., Melton, P.A., & Truong, D.N. (2020). A descriptive analysis of concurrent alcohol and substance use among patients living with hiv/hcv co-infection. *Social Work in Health Care*. 59(7), 525-541. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2020.1814938>

*Guo Y., & **Sims O.T.** (2020). A longitudinal analysis of patient-level factors associated with pap test uptake among chinese american women. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-020-00836-1>

Pollio, D.E., North, C.S., **Sims, O.T.**, & Hong, B.A. (2020). Hepatitis c psychoeducation curriculum topics generated by group members. *Social Work with Groups*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01609513.2020.1815631>

*McPhail, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Wooten, D., Herndon, J.S., & Massoud, O.I. (2020). Fibrosis improvement in hcv patients treated with direct acting antivirals. *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MEG.0000000000001821>

***Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Pollio, D.E., Hong, B.A., Pollio, E.W., & North, C.S. (2020). Personality in combination with alcohol and drug use and psychiatric disorders to predict psychosocial characteristics and behaviors of hepatitis c patients. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*. 12(6), doi: 10.1007/s10880-019-09694-4

*Gray, C.A., **Sims, O.T.**, & Oh, H. (2020). Prevalence and predictors of co-occurring hypertension and depression among community-dwelling older adults. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 7(2), 365-373. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-019-00665-x>

***Sims, O.T.**, Chiu, C., Chandler, R., Melton, P., Wang, K., Richey, C. & Odlum, M. (2019). Alcohol use and ethnicity independently predict antiretroviral therapy nonadherence among patients living with hiv/hcv coinfection. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 7(1), 28-35. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-019-00630-8>

***Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Pollio, D.E., Hong, B.A., Pollio, E.W., & North, C.S. (2019). Quality of life, functioning, and coping in hcv patients continuing versus ceasing alcohol use. *Health Promotion Practice*. e1-e6. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524839919837968>

*Hong, B.A., Pollio, D.E., Pollio, E.W., **Sims, O.T.**, Pedrazine, A., & North, C.S. (2019). Religious and spiritual aspects of disaster experience among survivors of the 9/11 attacks on new york city's world trade center. *Journal of Religion & Health*, 58(5), 1619-1630. Doi: 10.1007/s10943-019-00785-y

*Romano, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Richman, J., Guo, Y., Matin, T., Shoreibah, M., Kommineni, V., Lakshmi, K., & Massoud, O.T. (2018). Resolution of ascites and hepatic encephalopathy and absence of variceal bleeding in decompensated hcv cirrhosis patients. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2(6), 317-321. Doi: 10.1002/jgh3.12091

- ***Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Noh, H., Melton, P.A., Sheffield, S.D., Ingram, K.E., & Sawyer, P.S. (2018). Prevalence and predictors of co-occurring diabetes and hypertension in community-dwelling older adults. *Geriatrics & Gerontology International*, 18(9), 1356-1360. Doi: 10.1111/ggi.13489
- *Oh, H., Noh, H., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y. & Sawyer, P. (2018). A comparison of urban and non-urban African American older adults on health-related characteristics *Social Work in Health Care*, 57(9), 762-773. Doi: 10.1080/00981389.2018.1497748
- *Shoreibah, M., Romano, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Jones, D., Venkata, K., Kommineni, V., Orr, J., Fitzmorris, P., & Massoud, O.I. (2018). Effect of hepatitis c treatment on renal function in liver transplant patients. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Hepatology*, 6(4), 391-395. Doi: 10.14218/JCTH.2018.00026
- *Shelnut, D., **Sims, O.T.**, Zaibaq, J., Oh, H., Venkata, K.V.R., Peter, S. (2018). Predictors for outcomes and readmission rates following double balloon enteroscopy: A tertiary care experience. *Endoscopy International Open*. Jun; 6(6): E751-E757. doi: 10.1055/a-0602-3967
- ***Sims, O.T.**, Melton, P.A., & Ji, S. (2018). A descriptive analysis of a community clinic providing hepatitis C treatment to poor and uninsured patients. *Journal of Community Health*, 43(4), 725-730. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-018-0476-2>
- ***Sims, O.T.**, Hong, B.A., Ji, S., Pollio, D.E., & North, C.S. (2018). A systematic comparison of african american and non-african american patients on psychosocial aspects of hepatitis C infection, 57(5), 1764-1770. *Journal of Religion & Health*. doi: 10.1007/s10943-018-0565-7
- ***Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Shoreibah, M.G., Venkata, K., Fitzmorris, P., Kommineni, V., Romano, J., & Massoud, O.I. (2017). Alcohol and Substance Use, Race, and Insurance Status Predict Non-Treatment for HCV in the Era of DAAs: A Retrospective Study in a Large Urban Tertiary Center. *European Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, 29(11), 1219-1222. doi: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000000961
- Sims, O.T.**, Pollio, D.E., Hong, B.A., & North, C.S. (2017). Racial disparities in hepatitis c treatment eligibility. *Annals of Hepatology*, 16(4), 530-537, doi: 10.5604/01.3001.0010.0282
- North, C.S., Pollio, D.E., **Sims, O.T.**, Jain, M.K., & Hong, B.A. (2017). Prospective longitudinal substance use patterns in patients preparing for hepatitis C treatment. *Journal of Dual Diagnosis*, 14(1), 60-69. DOI: 10.1080/15504263.2017.1380246
- North, C.S., Pollio, D.E., **Sims, O.T.**, Jain, M.K., Brown, G., Lisker-Melman, M., & Hong, B.A. (2017). An effectiveness study of group psychoeducation for hepatitis c patients in community clinics. *European Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, 29(6), 679-685. doi: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000000860.

- *Guo, Y., & **Sims, O.T.** (2017). Assessment of recent hiv testing and predictors and barriers associated with testing among older adults in the united states. *Social Work in Health Care*, 56(9), 855-864. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2017.1339762>
- *Guo, Y., & **Sims, O.T.** (2017). HCV health policy developments in response to the national viral hepatitis action plan: A systematic review. *Social Work in Public Health*, 32(2), 77-81. doi: 10.1080/19371918.2016.1188745.
- *Kim, J., Lee, J., & **Sims, O.T.** (2017). The productive aging concept and social work students' perceptions toward an older population: An exploratory study. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 43(2), 149-155, doi: 10.1080/01488376.2016.1202878.
- ***Sims, O.T.**, Hilgeman, M., Standfield, H., Womack, B.G., & Maynard, Q. (2017). Prevention of suicide among older adults. *The Deep South CME Network*.
- ***Sims, O.T.**, Maynard, Q.R., & Melton, P.A. (2016). Behavioral interventions to reduce alcohol use among hepatitis c patients: A systematic review. *Social Work in Public Health*, 31(6), 565-573, doi: 10.1080/19371918.2016.1160346.
- *Simpson, E.W., **Sims, O.T.**, North, C.S., Hong, B.A., & Pollio, D.E. (2016). Family psychoeducation for hepatitis c patients and their families: Recommendations for clinicians. *Journal of Social Work with Groups*, 40(3), 202-213. doi: 10.1080/01609513.2016.1149545.
- Sims, O.T.**, Pollio, D.E., Hong, B.A., Jain, M.K., & Brown, G. (2016). An assessment of concurrent drug and alcohol use among patients seeking treatment for hepatitis c. *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry*, 28(1), 31-36.
- *Noh, H., Kim, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Ji, S., Sawyer, P. (2016). Racial differences in associations of perceived health and social and physical activities with advance care planning, end-of-life concerns and hospice knowledge. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 35(1), 34-40. doi: 1049909116677021.
- ***Sims, O.T.**, & Womack, B.G. (2015). Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection for social workers in public health, medical, and substance use treatment settings. *Social Work in Public Health*, 30(4), 325-335. doi: 10.1080/19371918.2014.1000506.
- ***Sims, O.T.**, & Womack, B.G. (2015). Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis C (HCV) Associated Liver Disease Among Older Adults. *The Deep South CME Network*
- North, C.S., **Sims, O.**, Hong, B.A., Jain, M.K., Brown, G., Lisker-Melman, M., & Pollio, D.E. (2014). An empirical study of alcohol consumption by patients considering HCV treatment. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 40(6), 484-489. doi: 10.3109/00952990.2014.945592.
- Sims, O.T.**, Whalen, C.C., Nackerud, L.G., & Bride, B.E. (2014). Longitudinal effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor therapy and cytokine-related depression on hepatitis C viral

logs during antiviral therapy. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 34(1), 80-84. doi: 10.1097/JCP.b013e3182a47397.

Sims, O.T., Whalen, C.C., Nackerud, L.G., & Bride, B.E. (2013). Birth cohort testing for hepatitis C virus: Implications for clinical social workers in health care settings. *Social Work in Health Care*, 52:8, 689-703. doi: 10.1080/00981389.2013.806385

Alqahtani, S.A., Schneider, C., **Sims, O.T.**, Gurakar, A., Tamim, H., & Saberi, B. (under review). Liver transplantation for budd-chiari syndrome in the model for end-stage liver disease (meld) era. *Liver Transplantation*

Pollio, E.W., **Sims, O.T.**, Randle, E., Hong, B.A., North, C.S., & Pollio, D.E. (under review). Sources and accuracy of information for patients with hcv. *Gastroenterology Nursing*.

Ahmed, M., Herndon, J., Elkafrawy, A.A., Massoud, M., Truong, D., **Sims, O.T.**, Robbin, M., & Massoud, O.I. (under review). Frequency of disagreement between liver ultrasound and shear wave elastography in the diagnosis of cirrhosis. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*

Odlum, M., **Sims, O.T.**, & Yoon, S. (under review). A machine learning approach to understanding hiv and comorbidities in electronic health record data. *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making*.

Hernandez, N.D., Francis, S., Allen, M., Bellamy, E., **Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Guillaume, D., Parker, A., & Chandler, R. (under review). Prevalence and predictors of symptoms of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders among a sample of urban black women in the south. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*

Guo, Y., **Sims, O.T.**, Yang, F., Hao, Z., & Li, Q. (under review). Factors associated with first-generation immigrant parents' unwillingness to vaccinate their daughters for hpv. *Journal of Migration and Health*.

Sims, O.T., Wang, Z., & Guo, Y. (in progress). A forthcoming epidemiologic storm: Annual incident cases of hcv-associated morbidity and mortality will disfavor non-hispanic blacks over the next 30 years in the u.s.

Alqahtani, S.A., & **Sims, O.T.** (in progress). Hepatocellular carcinoma (hcc) outcomes across different etiologies: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Abdul Razack, H.I., AlHusseini, N., Alqahtani, S.A., Hameed, S., Naoum, A., **Sims, O.T.**, Salem, V. (in progress). The obesity epidemic in saudi arabia: A systematic review of the epidemiological evidence and treatment interventions. *Obesity Reviews*

Alqahtani, S. A., & **Sims, O.T.** (in progress). Barriers to organ donation in saudi arabia: Lack of will or knowledge?

Sims, O.T., Melton, P.A., & Wang, K. (in progress). Prevalence of concurrent alcohol and substance use in a sample of art patients in routine clinical care living with hiv/hcv co-infection

Sims, O.T., Guo, Y., Logan, D., & Melton, P.A. (in progress). Development and reliability of the sims covid-19 anxiety scale.

Sims, O.T., Rudulph, M., & Guo, Y. (in progress). Longitudinal analysis of 1-year state-wide covid-19 testing data in alabama

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Ahmed, M., **Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Massoud, M., Herndon, J., Wooten, J., & Massoud, O.I. (2020). Esophageal varices do not progress in hcv cirrhotic patients treated with daas. *Hepatology*

Romano, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Richman, J., Tansia, M., Shoreibah, M., Fitzmorris, P., Guo, Y., Kommineni, V., Lakshmi, K., & Massoud, O. (2018). Treatment of patients with decompensated cirrhosis with DAAs improves clinical symptoms without affecting their MELD score. *Journal of Hepatology*, 68 (Supplement 1), S287. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-8278\(18\)30792-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-8278(18)30792-X)

Fitzmorris, P., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Shoreibah, M., Romano, J., Kommineni, V., Massoud, M., Matin, T., & Massoud, O. (2018). A comparison of renal function before and after treatment in chronic hepatitis C patients who achieved sustained viral response with direct acting antivirals. *Journal of Hepatology*, 68(Supplement 1), S549. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-8278\(18\)30792-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-8278(18)30792-X)

Shelnut, D. J., Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (2017). Utility of double balloon enteroscopy in patients with altered gastrointestinal anatomy: A single center experience. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 85(5). <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2017.03.705>

Shelnut, D. J., Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (2017). Outcomes of double balloon enteroscopy: A 4-year experience at a tertiary care center. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 85(5), AB311-AB312. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2017.03.716>

Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Shelnut, D. J., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (2017). Outcomes and predictors for positive therapeutic yield and readmission rates among the obscure gastrointestinal bleeding (OGIB) patients undergoing double balloon enteroscopy. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 85(5). <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2017.03.734>

Sims, O.T., Venkata, K.V., Moore, J.X., Arora, S., Shoreibah, M.G., & Massoud, O.I. (2016). Defining hcv-related cirrhosis clusters in alabama using geospatial methods. *Hepatology*, 64(1), (suppl).

Venkata, K., Guo, Y., Shoreibah, M., Arora, S., Massoud, M., Elkaryoni, A., **Sims, O.T.**, & Massoud, O. (2016). Racial differences in the rate of hcv complications: At tertiary referral

center experience. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 111: S336-S400, doi:10.1038/ajg.2016.359

Sims, O.T., Ji, S., & Melton, P.A. (2016). A descriptive analysis of a multidisciplinary health agency providing treatment to uninsured hepatitis c patients. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 111: S336-S400, doi:10.1038/ajg.2016.359

EDITORIAL BOARDS

2020-Present Traumatology

AD HOC REVIEWER

2013-2015 *Journal of General Internal Medicine*
2014-2019 *World Journal of Gastroenterology*
2015-2019 *World Journal of Hepatology*
2015-2017 *Health and Social Work*
2016-2019 *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*
2017-2018 *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*
2017-Present *Annals of Hepatology*
2017-2020 *Archives of Suicide Research*
2018-2020 *Social Work in Health Care*
2019-2020 *Women and Health*
2019-2020 *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*
2019-Present *BMC Public Health*
2019-Present *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*
2020-Present *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*

GRANTS

2021-Present *Alcohol Use Reduction in Patients with Living with HCV and HIV/HCV Co-infection*. NIH Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Award—Independent Investigator. *Competitive Renewal*. Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Principal Investigator, 2021-Present.

2019-Present *Forecasting Future Hepatitis C Disease Burden between African American and Non-African Americans*. Funded by the National Institute on Aging through UAB’s Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR), Principal Investigator.

2018-2020 *Assessment and Analysis of Concurrent Substance and Alcohol Use Patterns in Relation to Patient-Reported Outcomes and Biomarkers of Disease Severity in HIV Patients with HCV Co-infection*. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) through the University of California San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, Principal Investigator.

- 2016-2018 *Alcohol Reduction Among HCV Mono-infected and HCV/HIV Co-infected Patients*. NIH Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Award—*Competitive Renewal*. Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Principal Investigator, 2016-2018.
- 2014-2016 *Alcohol Reduction Among HCV Mono-infected and HCV/HIV Co-infected Patients*. NIH Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Award. Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Principal Investigator, 2014-2016.
- 2015-2015 *Behavioral Interventions to Reduce Alcohol Consumption Among Patients with Liver Disease Caused by Hepatitis C Virus*. Funded by the University of Alabama, School of Social Work, Principal Investigator.
- 2015-2015 *A Systematic Analysis of Federal-Initiated Public Health Policies to Combat Hepatitis C Virus Since the Institute of Medicine's 2010 National Report on Hepatitis C Virus*, Principal Investigator.
- 2015-2015 *Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Hepatitis C Treatment Program for Uninsured Patients*. Funded by the University of Alabama, School of Social Work, Principal Investigator, Principal Investigator.
- 2014-2015 *Clinical Characteristics and Health Disparities of African Americans Receiving Care and Treatment in Clinical Care for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)*. Funded by the University of Alabama's Research Grants Committee, Principal Investigator.

Under Review:

NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

R21 (Co-PI: Omar T. Sims, PhD)

Development of an Aftercare Model to Prevent Hospital Readmission among Patients with Post-COVID Syndrome

\$275,000

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Revise and Resubmit:

NIH/ National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

R21 (PI: Omar T. Sims, PhD)

Facilitators and Barriers to Discontinuing Moderate Use of Alcohol in HIV/HCV Co-infection Patients who are without Alcohol Use Disorders: Formative Work to Guide Intervention Development

\$275,000

Role: Principal Investigator

NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
R21 (PI: Carol North, MD, ME)
A Novel Drug, Alcohol, and Mental Health Clinic Intervention for HBCU Students
\$275,000
Role: Co-Investigator

In Progress for Submission:

NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
R21 (PI: Omar T. Sims, PhD)
Markov Modeling to Forecast a Complex Snowballing Epidemiologic Storm: HCV Syndemics
Role: Principal Investigator

RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMS

- 2017 Columbia University's Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute (3 Courses, 2 credit hours per course).
Meta-Analysis for Observational Data
Network Meta-Analysis
- 2016 Columbia University's Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute at (2 credit hours).
Cancer Epidemiology
- 2015 Johns Hopkins' Graduate Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (2 Courses, 2 credit hours per course).
Introduction to SAS
Methods for Clinical and Translational Research
Growth Curve Modeling
- 2014 *University of Michigan*, Institute for Social Research, Summer Workshop on African-American Aging Research.
- 2013-2014 *University of Alabama at Birmingham*, The University of Alabama at Birmingham Geriatric Education Center's Faculty Scholars Program (UAB GEC FSP).
- 2013-2014 *University of Alabama*, Institute for Rural Health Junior Investigator's Program.
- 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Connections Symposium, *Princeton University*.

GASTROENTEROLOGY/HEPATOLOGY CLINICAL AND RESEARCH TRAINING COURSES PROVIDED BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

- Hepatitis C (HCV) Single Topic Update (3-day course, New York City, NY 2015)
- Midyear Course Clinical Hepatology: State-of-the-Art Management (3-day course, Chicago, IL., 2016)
- Midyear Course Clinical Hepatology Update (3-day course, San Diego, CA. 2017)

American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)

- Hepatology School (3-day course, Las Vegas, NV., 2017)
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) School (2-day course, Nashville, TN., 2017)

International Antiviral Society-USA (IAS-USA)

- HIV Course (2-day course, Los Angeles, CA., 2015)
- Hepatitis C Course (1-day course, Los Angeles, CA., 2015)

International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and the International Association of the Study of the Liver (IASL)

- Clinical Update: Viral Hepatitis (3-day course, San Francisco, CA., 2016)

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sims, O.T., Wang, Z., & Guo, Y. (October 2021). *Forecasting Future Hepatitis C Disease Burden Between Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic White, and Hispanic Older Adults in the United States*. American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting & Postgraduate Course, Las Vegas, NV.

Ahmed, M.K., **Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., Massoud, M., Herndon, J., Wooten, J., & Massoud, O.I. (November 2020). *Esophageal Varices Do Not Progress in HCV Cirrhotic Patients Treated with DAAS*. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Digital Experience Meeting.

Pollio, E.W., **Sims, O.T.**, Pollio, D.E., Hong, B.A., & North, C.S. (October 2020). *Sources and Accuracy of Information for Patients with Hepatitis C and Co-occurring HIV/HCV*. American Public Health Association. Virtual Meeting.

Sims, O.T., Jackson, A., Guo, Y., Truong, D., Odame, E.A., & Mamudu, H.M. (July 2020). *Tobacco Use and Concurrent Alcohol and Substance Use Among Patients Living with HIV/HCV Co-infection: Findings from a Large Urban Tertiary Center*. 23rd International AIDS Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Gray, C.A., **Sims, O.T.**, & Oh, H. (January, 2020). *Prevalence and Predictors of Co-occurring Hypertension and Depression Among Community-dwelling Older Adults*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2020 Annual Program Meeting. Washington D.C.

Sims, O.T., Oh, H., Pollio, D.E., & Pollio, E.W. (November, 2019). *Associations Between Personality, Alcohol and Drug Use, and Psychiatric Disorders: Hepatitis C*. American Public Health Association (APHA), Philadelphia, PA.

Sims, O.T., Chiu, C., Chandler, R., Wang, K., & Melton, P. (September, 2019). *Prevalence of Alcohol and Substance Use in a Sample of HIV/HCV Co-infected Patients Who Are in Routine Clinical Care Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy*. 8th International Conference on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users, Montreal, Canada.

Sims, O.T., & Wang, K. (August, 2019). *Time to Treatment Disfavors Patients Living with HIV/HCV Co-infection*. Puerto Rico Meeting on Hepatitis & HIV, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sims, O.T., Chiu, C., Chandler, R., Wang, K., & Melton, P. (March, 2019). *Prevalence of Alcohol and Substance Use in a Sample of HIV/HCV Co-infected Patients Who Are in Routine Clinical Care Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2019 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Chandler, R., Toppin, N., Hernandez, N., & **Sims, O.T.** (March, 2019). *Creating Representative Advertisements Zone [C.R.A.ZE]: HIV/STI Media Messages for Black Women who Attend Historically Black Colleges/Universities*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2019 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Sims, O.T., Chiu, C., Melton, P., Wood, C., & Odlum, M. (November, 2018). *Prevalence and Predictors of Antiretroviral Medication Non-adherence Among HIV/HCV Co-infected Patients in Clinical Care*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Sims, O.T., Oh, H., Pollio, D.E., Pollio, E.W., Hong, B.A., & North, C.S. (November, 2018). *Association of Quality of Life, Functioning, and Coping with Continuing Versus Ceasing Alcohol Use Among HCV Patients*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Sims, O.T., Oh, H., Noh, H., Melton, P., Sheffield, S., Ingram, K., & Chiu, C. (November, 2018). *Prevalence and Predictors of Co-occurring Diabetes and Hypertension in Community-dwelling Older Adults*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Romano, J., **Sims, O.T.**, Richman, J., Tansia, M., Shoreibah, M., Fitzmorris, P., Guo, Y., Kommineni, V., Lakshmi, K., & Massoud, O. (April, 2018). *Treatment of patients with decompensated cirrhosis with DAAs improves clinical symptoms without affecting their MELD score*. The International Liver Congress/European Association for the Study of the Liver, Paris, France.

Fitzmorris, P., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Shoreibah, M., Romano, J., Kommineni, V., Massoud, M., Matin, T., & Massoud, O. (April, 2018). *A comparison of renal function before and after treatment in chronic hepatitis C patients who achieved sustained viral response with direct acting antivirals*. The International Liver Congress/European Association for the Study of the Liver, Paris, France.

Oh, H., Noh, H., **Sims, O.T.**, Guo, Y., Ingram, K., Sheffield, S., & Sawyer, P. (November 2017). *The Health Status of African American Older Adults Varies by Residential Geography: A Reason to Consider Geography in Racial Comparisons of Health Disparity Research*. American Public Health Association (APHA), Atlanta, GA.

Sims, O.T., & Oh, H. (October 2017). *An Assessment of Failure to Vaccinate Hepatitis C Patients for Both Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B*. World Congress of Gastroenterology/American College of Gastroenterology, Orlando, FL.

Zaibaq, J., Venkata, K., Shelnut, D., **Sims, O.T.**, Oh, H., & Peter, S. (October 2017). *Readmission Rates and Follow up Outcomes of Patients Found to Have Arteriovenous Malformations on Double Balloon Endoscopy*. World Congress of Gastroenterology/American College of Gastroenterology, Orlando, FL.

Sims, O.T., & Guo, Y. (July, 2017). *Predictors of and Barriers with HIV Testing Among Older Adults in the United States*. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) 2017 Annual Program Meeting. San Francisco, CA.

Shelnut, D. J., Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (May, 2017). *Utility of Double Balloon Enteroscopy in Patients With Altered Gastrointestinal Anatomy: A Single Center Experience*. Digestive Disease Week, Chicago, IL.

Shelnut, D. J., Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (May, 2017). *Outcomes of Double Balloon Enteroscopy: A 4-Year Experience at a Tertiary Care Center*. Digestive Disease Week, Chicago, IL.

Venkata, K. V., Zaibaq, J. N., Shelnut, D. J., Oh, H., **Sims, O. T.**, & Peter, S. (May, 2017). *Outcomes and Predictors for Positive Therapeutic Yield and Readmission Rates Among the Obscure Gastrointestinal Bleeding (OGIB) Patients Undergoing Double Balloon Enteroscopy*. Digestive Disease Week, Chicago, IL.

Guo, Y., & **Sims, O.T.** (January, 2017). *Predictors of HIV Testing Uptake among Older Adults in the United States*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2017 Annual Program Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

Sims, O.T., Venkata, K., Moore, J.X., Arora, S., Shoreibah, M.G., & Massoud, O.I. (November, 2016). *Defining HCV-Related Cirrhosis Clusters in Alabama using Geospatial Methods*. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

Sims, O.T., Ji, S., & Melton, P.A. (October, 2016). *Evaluation of A Multidisciplinary Health Agency Providing Treatment To Uninsured HCV Patients*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), New Orleans, LA.

Sims, O.T., Ji, S., & Melton, P.A. (October, 2016). *A Descriptive Analysis of A Multidisciplinary Health Agency Providing Treatment To Uninsured Hepatitis C Patients*. American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting (ACG). Las Vegas, NV.

Venkata, K., Guo, Y., Shoreibah, M., Arora, S., Massoud, M., Elkaryoni, A., **Sims, O.T.**, & Massoud, O. (October, 2016). *Racial Differences in the Rate of HCV Complications: At Tertiary Referral Center Experience*. American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting (ACG). Las Vegas, NV.

Sims, O.T., & Pollio, D.E. (October, 2016). *African Americans and Racial Disparities in Hepatitis C Treatment Eligibility*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. Denver, CO.

Whitney, E.W., **Sims, O.T.**, & Pollio, D.E. (October, 2016). *Family Psychoeducation for Hepatitis C Patients and Their Families: Recommendations for Clinicians*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. Denver, CO.

Melton, P.A., & **Sims, O.T.** (October, 2016). *PTSD and Poor Antiretroviral Adherence Among African American HIV Patients: A Comprehensive Review*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. Denver, CO.

Guo, Y., & **Sims, O.T.** (January, 2016). *A Systematic Analysis of Newly Implemented Hepatitis C Public Health Policies in the United States: To Inform Policy Efforts to Control Hepatitis C in China*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2016 Annual Program Meeting. Washington, DC.

Pollio, D.E., & **Sims, O.T.** (January, 2016). *A Randomized Control Trial of a Multifamily Group Psychoeducation Model for Hepatitis C*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2016 Annual Program Meeting. Washington, DC.

Sims, O.T., Maynard, Q., & Melton, P.A. (January, 2016). *Behavioral Interventions to Reduce Alcohol Consumption Among Patients with Liver Disease Caused by Hepatitis C Virus: A Systematic Review*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2016 Annual Program Meeting. Washington, DC.

Sims, O.T., & Pollio, D.E. (January, 2016). *An Assessment of Concurrent Drug and Alcohol Use Among Patients Seeking Treatment for Hepatitis C*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2016 Annual Program Meeting. Washington, DC.

Guo, Y., & **Sims, O.T.** (November, 2015). *A Systematic Analysis of Novel Public Health Policies to Combat Hepatitis C Virus in the United States: Implications for China*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition. Chicago, IL.

Sims, O.T. (April, 2015). *An Assessment of Alcohol Use Recency Among Patients Considering Hepatitis C Treatment*. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases'

Network of Minority Health Research Investigators Annual National Workshop. Bethesda, Maryland.

Sims, O.T., & Pollio, D.E., (January, 2015). *An Empirical Study of Alcohol Consumption by Patients of Alcohol by Patients Considering HCV Treatment*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2015 Annual Program Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pollio, D.E., & **Sims, O.T.** (January, 2015). *Participant-Generated Content in Curriculum in a Multifamily Psychoeducation Group for Persons with Hepatitis C*. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2015 Annual Program Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sims, O.T. (November, 2014). *Barriers to Care Contributing to Health Disparities among African-Americans Living with Hepatitis C Virus*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition. New Orleans, LA.

Pollio, D.E., & **Sims, O.T.** (November, 2014). *Consumption of Alcohol by Patients with HCV: Empirically Informed Recommendations*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition. New Orleans, LA.

Sims, O.T., & Womack, B.G. (2014, May). *Novel Advances in the New Direct Acting Antiviral Era to Prevent Advance Liver Disease Among HIV/HCV Co-infected Populations*. The Twenty-Sixth Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS 2014: New Practice Approaches For a New Era in HIV/AIDS Care, Denver, Colorado

Sims, O.T., Whalen, C. C., Nackerud, L. G., & Bride, B. E. (2014). *SSRI Therapy to Manage Depression in Patients with Hepatitis C Virus: A 72 Week Retrospective Study*. Society for Social Work Research 2014 Annual Program Meeting. San Antonio, Texas.

Sims, O. T. (2013, May). *A Public Health Initiative for Prevention of Hepatitis C Viral Infection (HCV): Implications for Social Workers*. The Twenty-Fifth Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS 2013: The Social Work Response, Chicago, Illinois.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

2021 *Effective Mentorship*, UAB's Post-Doctoral Association & UAB's Black Post-Doctoral Association.

2015 *Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis C Virus Associated Liver Disease*, School of Medicine, Universidad Central del Caribe.

2015 *Public Health Management of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and HCV/HIV Co-infection*, Alabama Public Health Association Annual Program Meeting (April 2015).

2014 *Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis C Associated Liver Disease*, Winternitz Lecture Series, The University of Alabama School of Medicine (July 2014).

FELLOWSHIPS

2008-2011 *Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholar and Fellow*, The Southern Regional Education Board. 3-year \$15,000 annual stipend during the doctoral program. Lifetime membership and designation as a *Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholar*.

TEACHING

- *Research in Health and Behavioral Health Populations I* (Graduate) (**On Campus, Hybrid, & Remote**) (Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring & Fall 2019, Spring & Fall 2018, Spring & Fall 2017), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Evidence-informed Interventions in Health and Behavioral Health* (Graduate) (**Remote**) (Fall 2020), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Introduction to Research Methods* (**Fully On-line**) (Undergraduate) (Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring & Fall 2019, Spring & Fall 2018, Spring & Fall 2017, Spring & Fall 2016, Fall 2015), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Professional (Writing) Communication in Social Work* (**Fully On-line**) (Undergraduate) (Spring 2021, Summer 2019, Summer 2018, Summer 2017), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Co-occurring Hypertension and Depression* (Graduate) (**On Campus**) (Fall 2018), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Human Behavior and the Social Environment II* (**Fully On-line**) (Undergraduate) (Spring & Fall 2017, Spring & Fall 2016, Fall 2015), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Social Welfare History* (**On Campus**) (Undergraduate) (Fall 2016), University of Alabama at Birmingham
- *Evaluation Research* (**Fully On-Line**) (Graduate) (Summer & Spring 2015, Summer 2014), University of Alabama
- *Psychopathology* (**Fully On-Line**) (Graduate) (Summer 2014, Summer 2013), University of Alabama
- *Research-Informed Practice* (**Fully On-Line**) (Graduate) (Summer 2015, Spring 2014, Fall 2013), University of Alabama
- *Program Development and Evaluation* (**On Campus**) (Undergraduate) (Summer 2012), Kennesaw State University.

- *Working with Support Groups (On Campus)* (Undergraduate) (Spring 2012), Kennesaw State University.
- *Integrative Seminar* (Graduate) (**On Campus**) (Spring 2012, Fall 2011), Kennesaw State University.
- *Social Welfare Policy (Hybrid)* (Undergraduate) (Spring 2012), Kennesaw State University.
- *Introduction to Research in Social Work (Hybrid)* (Graduate) (Fall 2011), Kennesaw State University
- *Ethics in the Helping Profession (On Campus)* (Undergraduate) (Fall 2011), Kennesaw State University
- *Service Learning in the Introduction to the Social Work Profession (On Campus)* (Undergraduate) (Fall & Spring 2009-2011), University of Georgia.

SERVICE

Mentoring and Training

2015-Present I have mentored and trained 20 trainees in public health and clinical research. I have co-authored publications with all 20 trainees (6—DSW/PhD level trainees; 7—resident and fellow trainees in gastroenterology/hepatology; 6—MSW, MPH, MBA trainees; 1—BSW trainee).

Dissertation Committee

2021-Present Advanced Clinical Project/Dissertation Committee Member
Dana Logan
School of Social Work, Tulane University

2021-Present Advanced Clinical Project/Dissertation Committee Member
Daniel Callahan
School of Social Work, Tulane University

2018-2020 Dissertation Committee Member
Cicily Gray
School of Public Health/School of Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
I assisted Mrs. Gray with co-authorship and publication of a manuscript that counted towards her program requirement of 3 publications for dissertating. Currently, she has postponed her PhD studies and works in industry as a Project Manager at Partners in Health.

- 2014-2019 Dissertation Committee Member
 Yuqi Guo
 School of Social Work, University of Alabama.
 Dr. Guo currently works as an Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) at the
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2016-2018 Advanced Clinical Project/Dissertation Committee Member
 Pamela Melton
 Tulane University.
 Dr. Melton currently works as Professor of Practice & Advanced Practice Project
 Coordinator at Tulane University.

MPH Internship/Practicum Site

- 2020 My research lab served as an internship/practicum site for MPH (Healthcare
 Organization and Policy) Students

American Heart Association

- 2021-Present *Reviewer*, American Heart Association Career Development Award Population
 Sciences Review Committee

Southern Regional Education Board

- 2019-Present *Reviewer*, The SREB Doctoral Scholars Fellowship Program Committee (3-year
 Doctoral Fellowship and 1-year Dissertation Fellowship)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- 2015-Present *Member*, BSW Program Admissions Committee
 2015-Present *Member*, Accreditation for the MSW program
 2017-Present *Member*, MSW Curriculum Committee
 2017-Present *Member*, MSW Program Admissions Committee
 2016-2017 *Member*, Faculty Search Committee (for 2 faculty positions)
 2017-2018 *Member*, Faculty Search Committee (for 2 faculty positions)
 2019-Present *Member*, Departmental Chair Search Committee
 2019-Present *Member*, Department of Social Work Faculty Handbook Review Committee
 2020-Present *Member*, Student Awards Committee
 2020-Present *Alternator Senator*, Faculty Senate Committee (2-year appointment)
 2020-Present *Member*, Faculty Senate Research Committee (2-year appointment)
 2020-Present *Member*, College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate (2-year appointment)

University of Alabama

- 2013-2015 *Member*, MSW Program Committee
 2013-2015 *Member*, MSW Program Admissions Committee

- 2013-2015 *Member, The Diversity Committee*
 2013-2015 *Member, AD Hoc Readmissions MSW Committee*

3rd National Conference on Civil Rights

- 2013 Conference Planning Committee, 3rd National Conference on Civil Rights (Meridian, MS, June 16-18, 2013), Conference Theme: *Rise, Advocate, Educate and Cooperate: Voices of Heroic Women and Men in the Civil Rights Movement*

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016 *American Gastroenterological Association Award*, Honored by the American Gastroenterological Association with an award at National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)'s Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI) Annual Workshop in Bethesda, Maryland for a study that I published in *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry*, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26855983/>
- 1996-1999 *Vice Presidential Scholarship*, University of Georgia.
- 1996 *NAACP Academic Scholarship*, National Associate for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- 1996 *Athens Area Human Relations Academic Scholarship*, Athens Area Human Relations Council.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)
 Member, American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)
 Member, American Public Health Association (APHA)
 Member, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
 Member, European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)
 Member, International AIDS Society (IAS-USA)
 Member, International Society for Medical Publications (ISMPP)
 Member, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)'s Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI)
 Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

- State of Georgia, LCSW, License Number CSW005163 (Active)
 Trained Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Clinician for PTSD-Level 2

