



2nd Annual Black Child and Youth Wellness Conference

Transforming the Lives of Black Children and Youth in Canada Project.

May 7- 8, 2026
University of Calgary Downtown Campus
906 8 Ave SW, Calgary, AB, T2P 1H9
Calgary, Alberta



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Black Child and Youth Wellness Conference

Agenda

May 7 - 8

University of Calgary Downtown Campus
Calgary, Alberta

Day 1 – Thursday May 7 Note Takers: Victoria Fajenyo and Tsinat Semagn			
TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS	VENUE
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast	All Attendees	Room: Event Centre
9:00am – 9:05 am	Introduction, washrooms, exits, acknowledge Indigenous land and Black ancestry	Dr. Emmanuel Marfo & Camilia Thieba	Room: Event Centre
9:05 am – 9:10 am	Project Chair Welcome	Dr. Bukola Salami	
9:10 am – 9:20 am	Chancellor Welcome	Chancellor Jon Cornish	
9:20 am – 9:40 am	Welcome from Senate	Honorable Wanda Thomas Bernard	
9:40 am – 10:25 am	Opening Keynote (Day 1)	Dr. Kwame McKenzie	
10:25 am – 10:55 am – BREAK & POSTER PRESENTATIONS			
10:55 am – 12:35 pm – SPEAKER AND PANEL PRESENTATION			
10:55 am – 11:35 am	Black Child and Youth Health in Canada: Results of National Survey	Dr. Bukola Salami / Dr. Gervin Apatinga	Room: Event Centre
11:35 am – 12:45 pm	Reflection on Emerging Research Data and Gaps on Black Child and Youth Wellbeing Session Chair: Dr. Shirley Anne Tate Note Takers: Victoria Fajenyo and Tsinat Semagn	Dr. Dominic Alaazi Dr. Alleson Mason Dr. George Frimpong Dr. Annette Bailey Dr. Lance McCready	Room: Event Centre
12:45 pm – 1:30 pm -LUNCH & POSTER PRESENTATIONS			
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: PAPER PRESENTATIONS			
Breakout Session 1: Black Children & Youth’s Experiences in the Education Sector Session Chair: Dr. Alleson Mason Note Taker: Camilia Thieba			

Dr. Gina Thésée	“Under the Microscope of Epistemological Marronage: research data developed on/without/against and to the detriment of Black children and youth.”	Room: Event Centre
Dr. Tay Mawuli Martin Ako	Exploring Black Immigrant Parents’ Engagement with STEM Enrichment Programs in Greater Moncton: An Environmental Scan of Needs, Barriers, and Opportunities.	
Blanche Monabeka Véronique Church- Duplessis Dr. Bernadette Sánchez Dr. Amy J. Anderson	Building Resistance Capital and Advancing Cultural Humility to Support Black Youth Wellbeing in Canada	
Breakout Session 2: Black Children & Youth’s Experiences in the Health Sector <i>Session Chair: Dr. Nicole Johnson</i> <i>Note Taker: Joyeuse Senga</i>		
Dr. Nicole Johnson; Victoria Fajenyo; Olajumoke Oyebode; Ulises Charles Rodriguez; Maryse Hendi; Tanvir Kaukab; PEER research group	Integrating Youth and Community Voices into Social Determinants of Health Data in Electronic Health Records for Equitable Care.	Room: DTC 330
Vivian Kilanko	Advancing Afrocentric Primary Health Care for Black Immigrant Patients in Ontario: A Nominal Group Technique Study	
Dr. Cecilia Bukutu	Sexual Health and Social Determinants Among Black Youth in Alberta	
Breakout Session 3: Black Child and Youth Belonging and Identity Formation <i>Session Chair: Dr. Nneka Orakwue - Ononye</i> <i>Note Taker: Habeebah Aladelan</i>		
Alphonse Ahola	How do our children grow? 25 years of demographic change and the integration of francophone children from sub-Saharan African communities into schools	Room: DCT 430
Crystal Watson	Exploring play through the voices of African Nova Scotian girls	
Milena Pimentel Moashella Justin West	Reconnecting and Reclaiming Africentricity: Applying Africentric Principles and Pedagogy in Early Learning and Child Care Settings	
Breakout Session 4: Black Health <i>Session Chair: Dr. Adedoyin Olanlesi-Aliu</i> <i>Note Taker: Tsinat Semaqn</i>		

Dr. Janet Kemei	We Don't Talk about it: Accessing mental health services during the perinatal period	Room: DTC 432
Dr. Adane Tesfaye Desalegn Tamiru Tefera Belachew	Effect of nutrition behavior change communication on Nutritional status and Gestational weight gain of pregnant adolescents in West Arsi, Central Ethiopia, a cluster randomized controlled trial using GEE and LMM	
Bernice Yamoah	Healthy Fathers, Thriving Children: Culturally Safe Program Evaluation for Black Immigrant Men's Mental Health Services in Canada	
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm- BREAK, POSTER PRESENTATIONS & NETWORKING		
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm: PAPER PRESENTATIONS		
Breakout Session 1: Black Child and Youth Mental Health Session Chair: Dr. Bukola Salami Note Taker: Noah Boakye-Yiadom		
Dr. Olutobi Akingbade; Dr Nicole Johnson; Dr Olu Awosoga; Dr Dominic Alaazi; Dr Nneka Orakwue-Ononye; Dr Janet Kemei; Dr Folajinmi Oluwasina; Dr Sandra Dixon; Dr Juliet Onabadejo; Dr Adedoyin Olanlesi-Aliu; Dr Esther Monari; Dr Sophie Yohani; Dr Richard Elcock; Dr Bukola Salami, Kelechi Kemnele; Dr. Leslie Walwyn; Danielle Walwyn; Alisha Thomas; Julia Nord-Leth; Andrea Airall; Dr. Ian Janssen; Dr. Kate Storey; Dr. Lucie Lévesque Dr. Folajinmi Oluwasina; Dr. Joanna Henderson; Dr. Kwame McKenzie; Dr. Mullings Delores; Dr. Andre Renzaho; Dr. Tolulope Sajobi; Dr. Cecile Rousseau; Dr. Ambikaipakan Senthilselvan Dr. Hayley Hamilton; Dr. Bukola Salami	Beyond the Clinic: Everyday Infrastructures of Black Children's Mental Health in Alberta Gender Differences in Child Mental Health in Antigua and Barbuda: A Dual Continuum perspective Correlates of low resilience and physical and mental well-being among Black youths in Canada	Room: Event Centre
Breakout Session 2: Education and Mentorship Session Chair: Dr. Annette Bailey Note Taker: Camilia Thieba		

Dr. Alleson Mason	Black Community-based Education Programs and Their Contributions to Black Student Success in Education	Room: DTC 330
Safeyyah Raji; Ashley McKeown; Charles Ozzoude; Danielle Fearon	Supporting Black Youth Well-Being Through Race-Concordant Mentorship: Lessons from an Educational Mentorship Initiative	
Dr. Cecilia Bukutu Dr. Viola Manokore Mr. Michael Safo Ofori	Building Resilience and Supporting Youth Mental Well-Being through Mentorship	
Breakout Session 3: Criminal Justice, Anti-Black Racism, and Equity Session Chair: Dr. Barbara Hamilton-Hinch Note Taker: Adane Tesfaye		
Dianna K. Mbari; Juliet Ajoloko; Agnes Somuah; Grace Mamah; Destiny Otoadese; John Muthuka:	Structural and Socioeconomic Determinants of Gang Involvement Among Black Immigrant Youth in Edmonton: Implications for Policy and Prevention	Room: DTC 430
Dr. Esther Monari	Experiences of Black Canadian Families Navigating Systemic Barriers While Supporting Their Youth Relatives in Substance Use Recovery	
Dr. Janet Kemai; Emily Khalema; Dr. Doriane Intungane; Dr. Hellen Gateri; Dr. Fiona Edwards Akunesiobike; Dr. Olabisi Oyelana; Dr. Mary Asirifi	"Not Made for Me": Cultural Safety, Structural Barriers, and the Promise of Technology in Black Youth Mental Health Access in Canada"	
Breakout Session 4: Black Migration Challenges Session Chair: Dr. Janet Kemei Note Taker: Adebola Adetiba		
Dr. Odette Murara	From Lived Experience to Policy Action: Youth Perspectives on Migration, Settlement, and Substance Use	Room: DTC 432
Tsinat Semagn; Ingrid Waldron; Allison Williams; Olive Wahoush	Impact of Transnational Family Separation on Parenting and Psychosocial Well-Being for Black African Migrant Parents in Hamilton	
Derek Akateh; Dr. Elizabeth Onyango; Silvia Odhiambo	Immigration Status and Household Food Insecurity: A Population-Based Study of Vulnerable Youth (2017–2022)	
6:30 pm – 9:00pm	Global Health Inequities & Cancer Care Presentation	Room: Event Centre - DT

Day 2 – Friday May 8 Note Takers: Adejoke Adekanmbi & Nana Obeng			
TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS	VENUE
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast	All Attendees	Room: Event Centre
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Day 2 Introduction	Dr. Motilola Adejare & Victor Williams	Room: Event Centre
9:10 am–9:55 am	Day 2 Keynote Speaker	Dr. Barbara Hamilton Hinch	Room: Event Centre
9:55 am – 10:20 am – BREAK & POSTER PRESENTATIONS			
10:20 am – 11:30 pm: PANEL PRESENTATION Session Chair: Dr. Olu Awosoga Note Takers: Adejoke Adekanmbi & Nana Obeng			
Advancing the Mental Health of Children and Youth	Black	Dr. Esther Monari Xavier McLaughlin Dr. Geoffrey Maina Dr. Zahra Clayborne	Room: Event Centre
11:30pm to 12:15 pm – LUNCH BREAK & COMMUNITY NETWORKING			
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm: PAPER PRESENTATIONS			
Breakout Session 1: Black Child and Youth (Mental) Health Session Chair: Dr. Geoffrey Maina Note Taker: Joyeuse Senga			
Muyibat Omotunde; Gbemisola Lawal; Temilola Gbadamosi; Tomilola Oni-Adebayo		Building Intergenerational Resilience through Exploring the Perspectives and Experiences of Black Youth and Seniors on Mental Health	Room: Event Centre
Melissa Uwera; Lisa Cyuzuzo; Mervyn Ntagwabira		Restorative Storytelling: Using Intergenerational Community Learning Groups to Advance Mental Health Equity Among Rwandan Diaspora Youth Living in Edmonton.	
David Top		Rooted Resilience: Exploring Neurodiversity and Cognitive Regulation in Black Families	
Breakout Session 2: Black Child and Youth Belonging and Identity Formation Session Chair: Dr. Shirley Anne Tate Note Taker: Nana Obeng			

Funke Olokude	Navigating Home: Illuminating the experiences of Black Youth in Edmonton	Room: DTC 330	
Dr. Gbenga Adejare Benedicta Asante Ilana van der Merwe	Mentoring frameworks, identity negotiation, and belonging among Black boys from immigrant families in Canada		
Dr. Kolsoum Heidari	Climate Shock as Settlement Shock: Climate Justice and Mental Health Among Black Migrant Families in Canada		
Breakout Session 3: Cancer and Oral Care Session Chair: Juliet Onabadejo Note Taker: Tsinat Semagn			
Victoria Fajenyo; Yinka Oladele; Adeola Adesemowo; Adejoke Adekanmbi; Olakunmi Adelagun; Dr. Aloysius Maduforo; Dr. Bukola Salami	A Community-Based Participatory Action Research to Improve Breast Cancer Screening for Black Women in Alberta	Room: DTC 430	
Raliat Owolabi	Navigating the Gap: Cancer Care Experiences of Immigrant Black Women in the Greater Toronto Area		
Olawale Dudubo	Beyond Emergency Care: Upholding the Oral Health Rights of Refugee Children		
Reflection on Knowledge Gained Session Chair: Menna Kebede Note Taker: Habeebah Adeladan & Adebola Adetiba			
1:50 pm- 2:45pm	Advancing the wellbeing of Black children and youth in Canada	Dr. Charles Odame-Ankrah Dr. Andre Renzaho Alphonse Ahola Floydeen Charles-Fridal	Room: Event Centre
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm - Closing Remarks Dr. Bukola Salami			

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTERS	TITLE	VENUE
Bukola Oladimeji Dr. Pilar Camargo-Plazas	Mental Health Literacy and Help-seeking among Black Immigrant Women: A Critical Hermeneutic Study	ATRIUM
Adeola Adekugbe	The impact of family violence on Black Child and Youth	ATRIUM
Dr. Aimable Nkurunziza	Exploring Black, and People of Colour (BPOC) Nursing Students' experiences in Rural Academic and clinical settings	ATRIUM
Dr. Uchechi Opara Ifejesu Salam	Maternal Health Experiences of Black Newcomer Women in Saskatchewan: Qualitative Insights into Maternal and Child Health Outcomes	ATRIUM
Kayode Orolade	Navigating Digital Learning Transitions: Usability and Engagement Experiences of African International Students in Canadian Universities.	ATRIUM
Raliat Owolabi	Healing Beyond the Clinical: Styled Soul Series as a Community-Based Creative Wellness and Health Equity Platform for Racialized Women	ATRIUM
Rita Arnold	Auntie Model	ATRIUM
Silvia Odhiambo; Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc; Dr. Patrick Owuor; Dr. Elizabeth Onyango	Food Insecurity and Mental Wellbeing in the Context of Migration: Evidence from Immigrant Youth in British Columbia Using the BC Adolescent Health Survey	ATRIUM
Dr. Sulemana Fuseini	The Well-Being of Black Children and Youth: Perspectives of Black Immigrant Fathers in Canada	ATRIUM
Yasmin Hussein	Reframing of Post-secondary Education: Examining the Push for Entrepreneurship and Industrial Training Over Higher Education for Black Secondary Students in Canada	ATRIUM
Yann Kamga Kuate	Emerging Research Evidence on the Mental Health of Black Children and Youth in Canada: A Scoping Review	ATRIUM
Simran Sidhu Gbenga Adejare	Black Boyhood: Exploring Development, Resilience, and Belonging in the Canadian Context	ATRIUM
Mary Olukotun; Breanna Barker; Victoria Fajenyo; Folake Awoyiga; Dr. Bukola Salami; Gillian Lermeyer	Black preterm infants in North America: Survival Paradox or Systemic Phenomenon?	ATRIUM
Adedoyin Olanlesi-Aliu Dr. Giwa Aisha Prof. Salami Bukola	Mental Health of Black Canadians: A Scoping Review	ATRIUM
Dr. Mary Asirifi Dr. Olabisi Oyelana Dr. Aimable Nkurunziza	Exploring the Educational Experiences and Support Needs of Black Students in Health Science Professional Programs in Canada: Scoping Review	ATRIUM
Noah Boakye-Yiadom Tsinat Semagn	Mental Health Promotion among Black, Caribbean and African immigrants in Canada: a scoping review protocol	ATRIUM
Adebola Adefioye	Ubuntu and Sankofa in Action: Supporting Black Child, Youth, and Family Mental Wellness Through Community-Based Practice	ATRIUM
Xavier McLaughlin	Anti Black Racism in Canadian Education Systems	ATRIUM