

DENÉE THOMAS MWENDWA, Ph.D.

Howard University
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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

06/2000-07/2001 Internship	Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC <i>APA-Accredited</i>
08/1999-08/2003 Ph.D.	Howard University, Washington, DC Department of Psychology <i>Clinical Psychology, APA-Accredited</i>
08/1996-08/1999 M.S.	Howard University, Washington, DC
08/1986-05/1990 A.B.	Trinity College, Washington, DC

Academic Positions

06/2017 – Present	<i>Professor</i> , Department of Psychology Howard University
05/2013 - 05/2017	<i>Associate Professor with Tenure</i> , Department of Psychology Howard University
08/2007- 05/2013	<i>Assistant Professor</i> , Department of Psychology Howard University

RESEARCH

*indicates graduate student/adviser authors at time of publication

Publications: Select

Mwendwa, D.T. & Beard, B.N. (In Progress). *The storied self: A narrative approach to Black women's health*. Wiley, Inc.

Dabiri, S., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Campbell, A.L. (2024). Psychological and neurobiological mechanisms involved in the relationship between loneliness and cognitive decline in older adults. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity*, 116, 10-21.

*Dabiri, S., *Ramirez Ruiz, M. I., Jean-Louis, G., Campbell, A. L., Ntekim, O.E., Obisesan, T. O., **Mwendwa, D. T.**, and the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (2023). The mediating role of inflammation in the relationship between a-synuclein and cognitive functioning. *Journal of Gerontology: Series A, Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, 78, 206-212.

Bygrave, D.C., Gerassimakis, C.S., Erus, G., Davatzikos, C. **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Wright, R.S. (2022). The role of race in relations of social support to hippocampal volumes among older adults. *Research on Aging*, 44, 205-214.

Martin, C.M., Greene, D., Harrell, J.P., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Williams, C.D., Horton, S., Cradle, M., Hudson, B.D., & Taylor, T.R. (2020). The impact of social constraints on insomnia among African-American breast cancer survivors: The mediating role of fear of recurrence. *Psycho-Oncology*, 29, 1296-1302.

Refereed Published Abstracts: Selected

Daniel, G., Williams, C., Bailey, O., Lawrence, A., Buckley, K., Leonard, D., McKoy, K., Head, R., Bernal, D. & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2024). Income-Based Poverty and Material Hardship Predict Cognitive Impairments in Older Adults Study. *Innovation in Aging*, Volume 8, Issue Supplement_1, December 2024, Page 1322, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igae098.4221>

Daniel, G., Williams, C., Wilkinson, J., & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2023). Incarceration as a risk factor for impairment in cognitive functioning. *Innovation in Aging*, 7(Suppl 1), 1067. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igad104.3427>.

Ilori, F., Dabiri, S., Ramirez-Ruiz, M., Daniel, G., Head, R., Wright, R., & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2022). The Impact of Sleep on Mindfulness, Well-Being, And Depressive Symptomatology in Middle to Older African Americans. *Innovation in Aging*, 6(Suppl 1), 491. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igac059.1889>

Dabiri, S., Ruiz, M.R., Obisesan, T.O., Ntekim, O., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ngwa, J.S., Campbell, A.L., Jr. and for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (2021), The mediating role of inflammation in the relationship between α -synuclein and cognitive functioning. *Alzheimer's Dement.*, 17: e052597. <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.052597>

National/International Conference Presentations: Selected

Daniel, G., Williams, C., Bailey, O., Lawrence, A., Buckley, K., Leonard, D., Bernal, D., & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2024). Poverty as a risk factor in cognitive functioning. GSA 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, WA, 2024.

Daniel, G., Williams, C., Bailey, O., Lawrence, A., Buckley, K., Leonard, D., McKoy, K., Head, R., Bernal, D. & **Mwendwa, D.T.** (2024). Income-Based Poverty and Material Hardship Predicts Reduced Cognitive Performance in American Older Adults: The Health and Retirement Study, Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, 2024. Mediators and Moderators of Incarceration as a Risk Factor for Dementia.

Dabiri, S., Ramírez-Ruiz, M.I., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Ntekim, O.E., Obisesan, T.O., Ngwa, J.S., Campbell, A.L., The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (2021). The mediating role of inflammation in the relationship between α -synuclein and cognitive functioning. *Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2021*.

Beard, B., Bygrave, D.C., Ruiz-Ramírez, M., Head, R., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, & Wright, R.S. (2020). The moderating effects of sleep and sex on physical activity and cognitive functioning in African Americans. *Sleep 2020*. Winston-Proctor, C.E., **Mwendwa, D.T.**, Beard, B., & Frank, A. (2020). Toward a new narrative personality health psychology training model. The Society of Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

GRANTS

Funded Extramural Grant

Funding Sponsor: United States Department of Veterans Affairs Research Supplement Award

Grant Title: *Whole Health in VA Mental Health: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Omnis Salutis MSI Supplement*

Funding Dates: 08-2023-02-2025

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Principal Investigator(S): Denée T. Mwendwa, Ph.D.,

Co-Principal Investigators: Cynthia Winston-Proctor, Ph.D. & Samantha Hack, Ph.D.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Graduate Level Course Instruction

Seminar in Psychoneuroimmunology

First-Year Graduate Research

Health Psychology

Individual Psychotherapy

Group Psychotherapy

Undergraduate Level Course Instruction

COAS Honors Health Psychology

Doctoral Dissertations Completed

2008-2013 Georica K. Gholson, Ph.D. (Dissertation Advisor)
2012-2015 Mana Ali, Ph.D. (Dissertation Advisor)
2007-2015 Shellie-Anne Levy, Ph.D. (Dissertation Advisor)
2013-2016 Desiree Bygrave, Ph.D. (Dissertation Advisor)
2013-2016 Nomi K. Bennett, M.S. (Dissertation Advisor)
2014-2018 Victor L. Jones, M.S. (Dissertation Advisor)
2013-2018 Olga Herren, M.S. (Dissertation Advisor)
2015-2018 Keri Kirk, M.S. (Dissertation Advisor)
2018-2020 Kanisha Simmons Bank (Dissertation Advisor)
2020-2022 Sanaz Dabiri (Dissertation Chair/Co-Advisor)
2020-2023 Folasade Ilori (Dissertation Chair/Co-Advisor)
2018-2024 Mara Ruiz-Ramirez (Dissertation Advisor)
2017-2026 Breanna Beard (Dissertation Advisor)

Doctoral Dissertations Ongoing

2025-Present Olivia Bailey (Dissertation Advisor)
2022-Present Cedric Williams (Dissertation Advisor)
2022-Present Krystal McCoy (Dissertation Advisor)
2020-Present George Daniel (Dissertation Advisor)
2019-Present Robert Head (Dissertation Advisor)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE***Editorial Board Member***

Frontiers in Neuropsychology
Frontiers in Psychology
American Psychological Association On-Line PsychLearn Textbook for Mental Health

Ad-Hoc Reviewer (On-going)

Annals of Behavioral Medicine
Ethnicity & Health
Frontiers in Psychology
Journal of Gerontology
Psychoneuroendocrinology
Translational Behavioral Medicine

University, College of Arts & Sciences, and Departmental Service

- University General Education Committee, (Co-Chair) Office of the Provost (2020 – Present)
- COAS Student Grievance Committee (2023- Present)
- Department of Psychology Appointment Promotion Tenure
- Department of Psychology Curriculum Committee
- College of Arts & Sciences Academic Policy, Standards, and General Education (2019-2023)
- College of Arts & Sciences Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee (2019-2023)
- Howard University Research Day, *Evaluator* (2013-2022)
- Howard University Faculty Scholars and Coaches Program, *Scholar Coach* (2016-2019)

- College of Arts and Sciences Academic Policy, Standards, and General Education Committee, *Member* (2011-2018)

Professional Associations

American Psychological Association *Division 38, Health*

Psychology, Division 5, Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Society of Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology