

IKECHUKWU CASMIR ONYEWUENYI

Sennott Square, 3rd Floor
 210 South Bouquet Street
 Pittsburgh, PA15260
 412.624.8790
ico3@pitt.edu

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh **2010 - Present**
 Clinical/Biological Health Psychology Graduate Student
 Advisor: Dr. Peter J. Gianaros

Howard University **2004 - 2008**
Bachelor of Science, Honors (*summa cum laude*)
 Major in Psychology, Minor in Human Development
 GPA: 3.80 (cumulative); 3.94 (major)

Honors Thesis: Blood Pressure and Frontal-Executive Cognitive Function: The Examination of a Linear Versus Nonlinear Relationship (Advisor: Dr. Jules P. Harrell)

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

American Psychosomatic Medicine Travel Award for MacLean Scholars *January 2010*
 NHLBI Post-Baccalaureate Research Diversity Supplement *September 2008 - Present*
 Nissim Levy Undergraduate Research Award *May 2008*
 The Phi Beta Kappa Society *May 2008*
 Amour J. & Helen M. Blackburn Endowed Scholarship Fund *August 2007*
 Travel Grant, College of Arts & Science Honors Program, Howard University *October 2006*
 NIMH-COR Honors Undergraduate Research Training Grant *September 2006 - May 2008*
 Yale University Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship *June 2006 - July 2006*
 Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program *October 2005 – May 2008*
 Reader's Digest Endowed Scholarship Fund *August 2005*
 APA Summer Science Institute: Vanderbilt University *June 2005*
 Dean's List, Howard University College of Arts and Sciences *2004 - 2008*
 Alain Locke Award, Howard University College of Arts and Sciences *May 2004*
 Howard University Legacy Scholarship *August 2004 – May 2008*
 The President's Volunteer Service Award *August 2004*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA *Sept 2008 – Present*
Research Fellow/Specialist, Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine Program

- Working on several projects that utilize functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and cardiovascular psychophysiology to expound on the brain mechanisms that potentiate the association between stressor-evoked autonomic reactivity and cardiovascular health risk. Structural MRI projects also examine the chronic stress and cardiovascular disease as it relates to brain morphology.
- Responsibilities include running research participants through fMRI protocol, processing structural and functional brain MR images, editing and managing physiological data, concept development, conducting literature reviews, and manuscript preparation.

Supervisor(s): *Peter J. Gianaros, Ph.D. and J. Richard Jennings, Ph.D.*

University of Chicago, Department of Psychiatry, Chicago, IL *June 2007 - August 2007*
Research Fellow/McNair Scholar, Brain Imaging and Emotions Lab

- Worked on a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) study that examined the modulatory effects of cannabinoids on amygdala reactivity to facial expressions of threat in humans.
- Responsibilities included concept development, conducting literature reviews, data analysis (i.e., Statistical Parametric Mapping 2), and manuscript preparation.

Supervisor(s): *K. Luan Phan, M.D.*

Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC *September 2006 – December 2007*
Research Assistant, Howard University Mental Health Clinic

- Assisted primarily on NIMH funded Collaborative Genomic Study of Bipolar Disorder that is designed to investigate how genes affect the development of manic-depressive illness or bipolar disorder.
- Responsibilities included recruitment, screening, and scheduling of participants. Additional contributions in various duties such as conducting literature reviews, research gathering, data entry and manuscript preparation.

Supervisor(s): *Maria Hipolito, M.D. and Evaritus Nwulia, M.D.*

Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

June 2006 - July 2006

Research Fellow, Yale Child Study Center, Comer School Development Program

- Worked on a U.S. Department of Education funded research project examining the efficacy of the Comer School Development Program Process. Specifically, the project examined whether students' school climate perceptions can better elucidate the school experiences that affect the Black-White racial-ethnic achievement gap.
- Various duties included concept development, data management, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Supervisor(s): *Christine L. Emmons, Ph.D.*

Howard University Department of Psychology, Washington, DC

August 2005 – May 2008

Research Assistant, Howard University Psychophysiology Lab

- Investigated the effects of cardiovascular health and associated risk factors on cognitive and emotional functioning, health behaviors, and psychiatric disorders from a psychophysiological and psychoneuroimmunological (PNI) approach.
- Duties included the concept development, participant recruitment, scheduling and screening for research projects, running subjects/experiments, data management, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Supervisor(s): *Jules P. Harrell, Ph.D. and Alphonso L. Campbell, Ph.D.*

New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, NY

May 2005 - August 2005

Volunteer Research Assistant, Center for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health

- Conducted research on a pilot study aimed at improving the implementation of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for the diagnosis and evaluation of ADHD in primary care practice.
- Duties included literature review on the management of ADHD in the primary care setting, grant writing and preparation, preparation of consent forms, and office duties.

Supervisor(s): *Rachel Zuckerbrot, M.D.*

Vanderbilt University Department of Psychology, Nashville, TN

June 2005

Visiting Scholar, Perception, Attention, and Control Lab

- Conducted research that investigated the attentional processes involved in attentive tracking by assessing the effects of a visual discrimination task on the accuracy of tracking visual targets that are in motion.
- Duties included concept development, running of subjects, and data analysis.

Supervisor: *Adriane E. Seiffert, Ph.D.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bell Foundation Incorporated, Washington, DC
Teacher Aide, LaSalle Elementary School

December 2004 – January 2006

- Tutored kindergarten to 5th grade students in literacy and math.
- Worked with Literacy and Math Specialists to develop weekly lesson plans.
- Assessed and evaluated scholars.
- Documented observations of students and completed monthly progress reports on all scholars.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED AND IN PREPARATION

Onyewuenyi IC, Muldoon MF, Hariri AR, Manuck SB, & Gianaros PJ (in preparation). Metabolic syndrome covaries with reduced grey matter volume in corticolimbic circuitry.

Soreca I, **Onyewuenyi IC**, Sheu LK, Kuller LH, Matthews KA, Jennings JR, & Gianaros PJ (in preparation). Gain in adiposity across 15 years is associated with reduced grey matter volume in healthy women II: Associations with regional tissue changes and cognitive performance.

Onyewuenyi, I, Emmons, CL (in preparation). How race and gender affects students' school experiences and outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

Harrell CJP, Neblett E, & **Onyewuenyi I** (in press). Physiological activity during adolescence. In D Swanson, M Edwards, MB Spencer (eds), *Adolescence: Development During a Global Era*.

Gianaros PJ, Gray MA, **Onyewuenyi I**, Critchley HD (in press). Neuroimaging methods in behavioral medicine. In A Steptoe (ed), *The Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research Handbook of Behavioral Medicine*.

Onyewuenyi, I, Gianaros, PJ (2009). Blue blood and depression. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 3, 280.

Phan KL, Angstadt M, Golden J, **Onyewuenyi I**, Popovska A, de Wit H (2008). Cannabinoid modulation of amygdala reactivity to social signals of threat in humans. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 28, 2313-2319.

Onyewuenyi I (2006). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions: Linear versus nonlinear relationship. *Howard University Ronald E. McNair Journal of Research*, 11, 43-50.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Gianaros P, **Onyewuenyi I**, Sheu L, Christie I, & Critchley H (2010). Stressor-evoked suppression of the baroreflex covaries with functional activity in a distributed corticolimbic circuitry. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 72, A-15.

Christie IC, Sheu LK, **Onyewuenyi I**, & Gianaros PJ (2010, March). Effective connectivity between corticolimbic brain areas during stress predicts magnitude of baroreflex suppression. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 72, A-23.

Onyewuenyi IC, Muldoon MF, Hariri AR, Manuck SB, & Gianaros PJ (2010). Metabolic syndrome covaries with reduced gray matter volume in the hippocampus. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 72, A-135.

Onyewuenyi IC, Muldoon MF, Hariri AR, Manuck SB, & Gianaros PJ (2009). Meeting more criteria of the metabolic syndrome associates with reduced gray matter volume. *Psychophysiology*, 46, S149.

Onyewuenyi I, Campbell, AL, Harrell, JP, Clark, E, Callender, CO (2006). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions. *Psychophysiology*, 43, S74.

POSTER AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Sheu LK, **Onyewuenyi IC**, Synder SE, & Gianaros PJ (submitted). Test-retest reliability of a neuroimaging stress battery. Organization for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting.

Christie IC, Sheu LK, **Onyewuenyi I**, & Gianaros PJ (2010, March). Effective connectivity between corticolimbic brain areas during stress predicts magnitude of baroreflex suppression. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society, Portland, Oregon.

Onyewuenyi IC, Muldoon MF, Hariri AR, Manuck SB, & Gianaros PJ (2010, March). Metabolic syndrome covaries with reduced gray matter volume in the hippocampus. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society, Portland, Oregon.

Onyewuenyi IC, Muldoon MF, Hariri AR, Manuck SB, & Gianaros PJ (2009, October). Meeting more criteria of the metabolic syndrome associates with reduced gray matter volume. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Berlin, Germany.

Onyewuenyi I, Campbell AL, Harrell JP, Joseph TR (2007, April). Serum lipid profile and cardiovascular reactivity in African American community sample. Paper presented at the 26th Annual NIMH Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training Colloquium, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Onyewuenyi I, Campbell AL, Harrell JP, Joseph TR (2007, April). Serum lipid profile and cardiovascular reactivity in African American community sample. Poster presented at the Conference for the Dissemination of Research on Addiction, Infectious Disease and Public Health at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD.

Onyewuenyi I, Harrell JP, Campbell AL, Clark E, Callender CO (2006, November). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions: linear and nonlinear relationship. Poster presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, Anaheim, CA.

Onyewuenyi I, Emmons CL (2006, November). How race and gender affects students' school experiences and outcomes. Paper presented at the 25th Annual NIMH Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training Colloquium, Washington, DC.

Onyewuenyi I, Harrell JP, Campbell AL, Clark E, Callender CO (2006, November). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions: linear and nonlinear relationships. Poster presented at the 25th Annual NIMH Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training Colloquium, Washington, DC.

Onyewuenyi I, Campbell AL, Harrell JP, Clark E, Callender CO (2006, October). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions. Poster presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Onyewuenyi I, Harrell JP, Campbell AL, Clark E, Callender CO (2006, September). Systolic blood pressure and executive functions: linear versus nonlinear relationship. Poster presented at the 14th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD.

Onyewuenyi I, Emmons CL (2006, July). How race and gender affects students' school experiences and outcomes. Paper presented at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium 2006, Chantilly, VA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychosomatic Society	2009 - Present
Psi Chi – National Honors Society of Psychology	2007 - Present
Society for Psychophysiological Research	2006 - Present

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Ad hoc reviewer, *Neuropsychologica*

REFERENCES

Alphonso L. Campbell, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Psychology
Howard University
525 Bryant Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
+00 (1) 202 806 9455
acampbell@howard.edu

Peter J. Gianaros, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
+00 (1) 412 383 5078
gianpj@upmc.edu

Jules P. Harrell, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Psychology
Howard University
525 Bryant Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
+00 (1) 202 806 9458
jharrell@howard.edu

K. Luan Phan, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Psychiatric Affective Neuroimaging Laboratory
Trauma, Stress and Anxiety Research Group
Department of Psychiatry
University of Michigan
Rachel Upjohn Building
4250 Plymouth Road, Box 5765
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
+00 (1) 734 936 9275
luan@umich.edu

J. Richard Jennings, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
+00 (1) 412 383 5078
jenningsjr@upmc.edu