

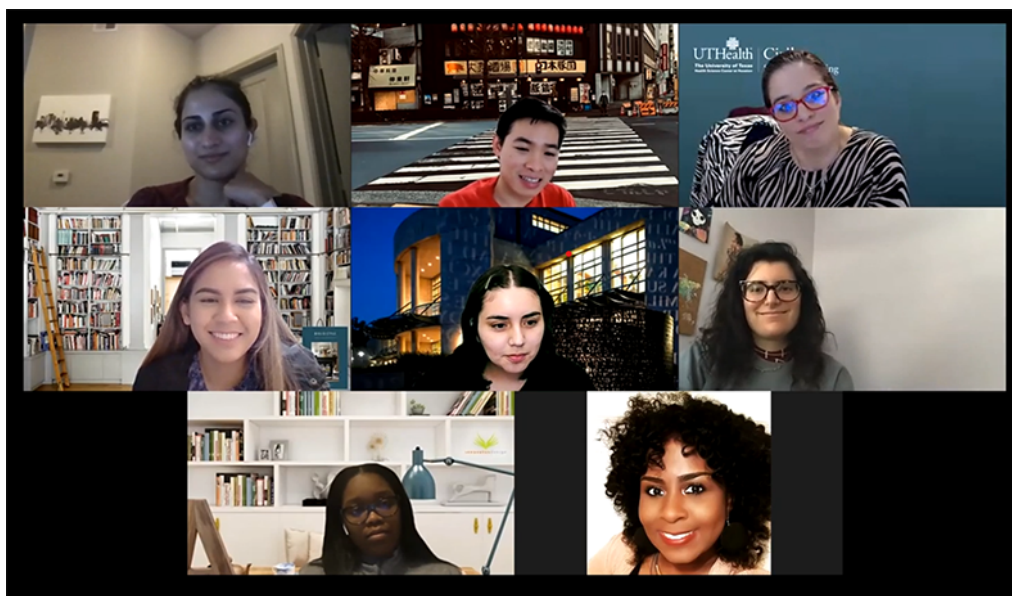
The UHAND Program is a long-term, collaborative partnership between the University of Houston and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center funded by the National Cancer Institute that supports and stimulates excellence in educational programming and innovation in research designed to affect health equity among racial/ethnic groups disproportionately affected by cancer disparities.

UHAND General Updates

In Spring 2021, [UHAND Scholars](#) and [Early Stage Investigators](#) continued to work with their mentors to advance their research to eliminate the cancer inequities. UHAND continued to offer seminars and workshops, where experienced faculty members presented on a variety of topics to enhance scholars' professional development and advance their research knowledge.

Education

Our recent Cancer Disparities Seminar Series events have featured presentations by [Dr. Daphne Hernandez](#) (UHAND Pilot PI) on her community based research examining food insecurity, [Dr. Dalnim Cho](#) (UHAND pilot PI) on her couples-based work with prostate cancer patients, and [Drs. Hilary Ma](#) and [Stephanie Williams](#) on enhancing minority group participation in clinical trials.



Dr. Daphne Hernandez (top row, rightmost image) describes her research on food insecurity and how it impacts minority communities. Scholars also learned about qualitative research methods, including photo elicitation, and their application in health disparities research.

UHAND Scholars attended POWER Studio Writing sessions with [Dr. Kayce Solari Williams](#) (UH's UHAND Education Core Director) and [Dr. Kamisha Escoto](#) (UHAND Education Core), where they focused on improving their writing skills and exploring the most effective writing strategies. They also attended a workshop with [Dr. Lorna McNeill](#) (MD Anderson's

UHAND PI) to discuss how to effectively and appropriately use plain language in scientific writing and presentations.

UHAND Mentors



Congratulations to [Dr. Rosenda Murillo](#), Associate Professor of Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences, UHAND Administrative Supplement PI, and UHAND mentor, who was recently awarded the University of Houston [2021 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award](#).

Congratulations to [Dr. Ezemenari Obasi](#), Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education, UH's UHAND [Internal Advisory Committee Chair](#), and UHAND mentor, on his [University of Houston Award for Research Excellence](#) as a Professor. This award recognizes faculty who have a substantial continuing record of outstanding research, scholarship, and creative activities.

Our Scholars

Scholar Achievements

[UHAND Scholars](#) continued to work diligently on their academic training and professional development goals, as well as [community engagement initiatives](#), which is reflected in some of their great achievements – a selection of which are presented below:



Our undergraduate UHAND scholar, [Karina Serrano](#), was accepted to the [Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University](#) where she will be pursuing an MPH degree focused on Health Policy and Management in the Fall of 2021.

[Danielle H. Llana](#), a graduate UHAND Scholar, received a pilot research award from the Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP) Region 3 for her proposal entitled *Self-Report Study to Understand Adequacy of and Barriers to*



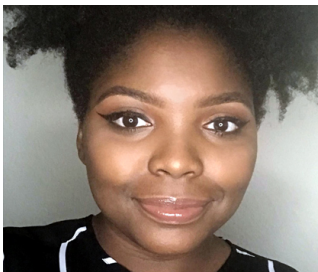
Psychosocial Support for Adult Cancer Patients and Survivors of Color During COVID-19. Danielle's goal is to understand psychosocial support as it relates to the cancer community and the impact COVID-19 has had on this community's wellbeing. She hopes to establish community connections through this project and to conceptualize systems-level change. She will use this pilot research award to inform her next steps in community health care and health care access. Danielle is immensely grateful to her UHAND and doctoral mentor, [Dr. Virmarie Correa-Fernández](#), whose support and feedback on developing this project helped it come to fruition, as well as to UHAND for the opportunity to put this project together.



[Krystal Christopher](#), UHAND graduate scholar alumna and doctoral student in [Counseling Psychology at UH](#), was matched with the [University of Florida Health Science Center](#) for a 1-year internship in their clinical neuropsychology program. Congratulations to Krystal for progressing to the capstone of her doctoral degree!



[Paulina Linares-Abrego](#), UHAND undergraduate scholar alumna, was accepted into her top choice clinical psychology doctoral program at [UNC-Chapel Hill](#), working with Dr. Stacey Daughters in the [BRANE lab](#), where she will begin in the Fall of 2021.



[Christine Smith](#), UHAND undergraduate scholar alumna, has recently accepted position as a Practice Manager at [Avenue 360 Health and Wellness](#), a center in Houston serving medically underserved communities.



[Sean Reuven](#), UHAND undergraduate scholar alumnus, was accepted into the [University of Houston's College of Medicine](#). He is going to start his program in the Fall of 2021.

Congratulations to our scholars on their accomplishments and wish them the very best for these next phases of their training and careers!

Scholar Spotlight

This quarter we spoke with Sean Reuven about his acceptance to the University of

Houston's College of Medicine and his future career plans.



What have you enjoyed most about your time at UHAND?

Definitely learning about research. I had no prior research experience and knew next to nothing about the process. UHAND introduced me to research. I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet experts in their field and have one-on-one conversations with them and talk about their career journey.

Name one thing you've learned from working with your mentor?

Working with [Dr. Reitzel](#) was amazing! She taught me how to ask research questions and answer them. I learned how to search the literature for gaps, write scientifically for publications, and how to present research to the community.

Why have you chosen [UH's College of Medicine](#)? What are your career plans after medical school?

I chose UH's College of Medicine because of its mission for social justice, emphasis on compassionate care, and the focus on improving the health of those living in underserved communities. I am from Houston and I want to be able to give back to my community. I plan on becoming a physician-scientist where I will spend a percentage of my time providing patient care and also focusing on translational research projects.

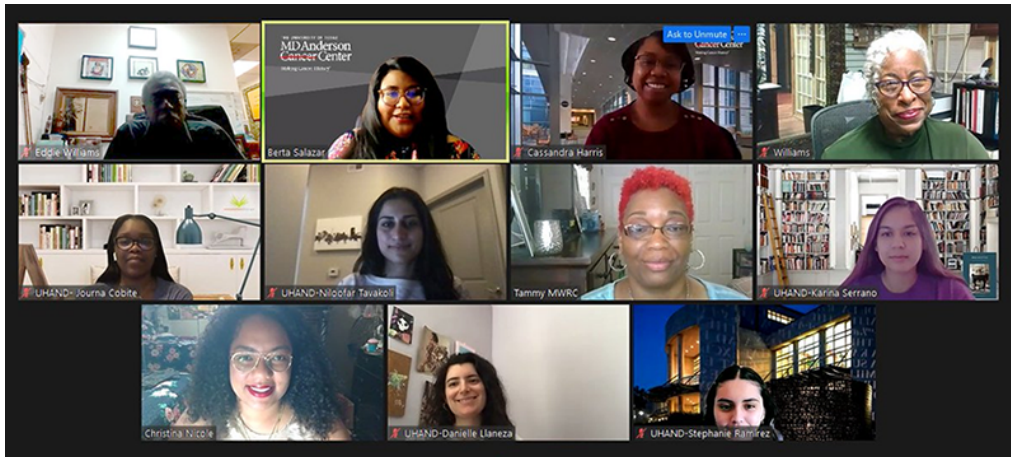
How did UHAND training prepare you for this next chapter of your life?

UHAND has exposed me to research in a variety of ways, namely the writing and publication process. Through my experience in UHAND I have become a better academic writer and my interest in research has expanded. UHAND has prepared me to think critically and to recognize that everyone has a story to tell that is often impacted by their ecological context. I hope to use these lessons throughout my career.

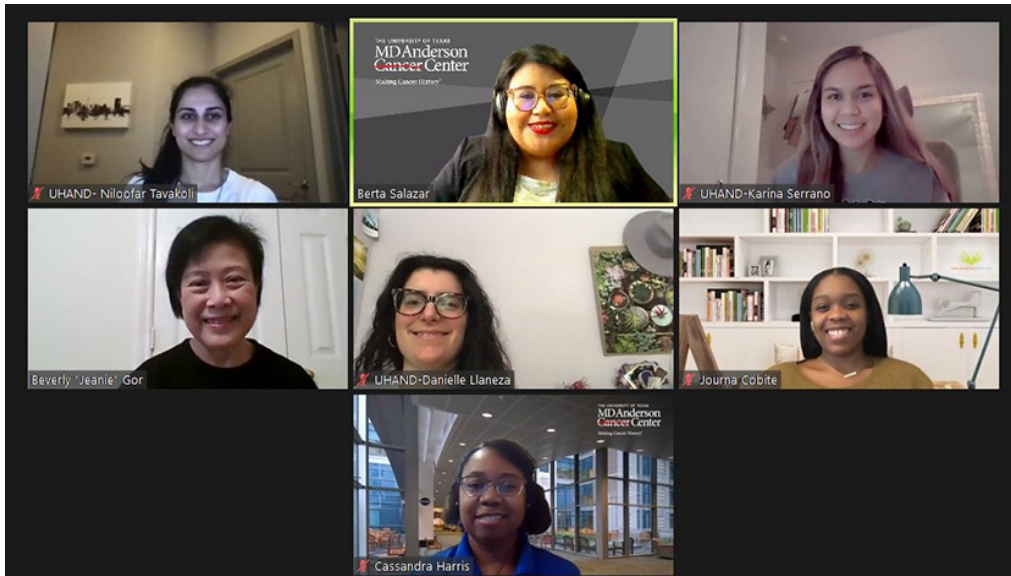
Community

UHAND Scholars continued to engage with communities through the Community Outreach Lecture Series. In February, [Dr. Beverly Gor](#), UHAND Community Mentor, talked to the Scholars about her previous work in underserved communities to reduce obesity and increase access to healthy food. In March, the Community Outreach Lecture was with the

Talent Yield Coalition, [Marcelous-Williams Resource Center](#), which serves as a one-stop-shop for social services, resource assistance, and education in East Harris County and Chambers County.



Earlier in March, our scholars were able to speak with members of the Talent Yield Coalition, Marcelous-Williams Resource Center. An awesome talk with great people!



We would like to extend a BIG thank you to Dr. Beverly Gor for taking the time to talk to our UHAND scholars about her previous work in underserved communities to reduce obesity and increase access to nutritionally dense, healthy foods!

The [Community Mentors](#) and [UHAND scholars](#) were brought together to meet each other on several occasions. The scholars shared their research interests and were provided an opportunity to learn more about the Mentors. Scholars asked Mentors about health disparities in the community, working with the community, and about the Mentors' educational and professional experiences. At another meeting, the Mentors learned more about the scholars' research and education.

Scholars also had an opportunity to participate in several virtual events, including the [American Heart Association's Research Goes Red Live](#); the [Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living's](#) *From Data to Driving Systems Change for Health Equity in Texas: Findings from the Health Opportunity & Equity (HOPE) Initiative*; and the [Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's](#) *Advancing Equity Through Shared Measurement: Lessons from Connecting Virtually with Communities during COVID-19*.

UHAND Publications

For the full list of UHAND-supported publications and presentations, please visit
<https://www.uhandpartnership.com/publications>.



UHAND

A partnership to address cancer disparities

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A partnership to address cancer disparities

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