

# Race, Racism, and Risk Clusters: An Intersectionality Approach to Health Disparities Among African Americans



**Vickie Mays**, Professor of Psychology and Health Policy Management at University of California, Los Angeles

**March 2, 3:30–5:00**

**Jesse Wrench Auditorium, S107**

**Memorial Union, University Ave. & Hitt St.**

*Free and open to the public*

**A** growing body of research examines how race and racism influence health disparities. Much of this work has focused on the role of race-related external factors in the stress process, with more recent work examining allostatic load in the dysregulation of physiological processes and long-term negative consequences on physical and mental health outcomes. Mays will discuss how risk clusters as a function of different social statuses (race, gender, etc.) result in African Americans experiencing greater physiological wear and tear accounting for worse physical and mental health outcomes. Recommendations for an intersectionality approach in research to account for how risk clusters can result in differential outcomes will be discussed as the next pathway in disparities research.

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[events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/](https://events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/)

Mays is a professor of psychology and director of the UCLA Center on Bridging Research Innovation, Training, and Education on Minority Health Disparities Solutions. She holds a PhD in clinical psychology and an MSPH in health policy and management from RAND and the UCLA School of Public Health. Her research focuses on elucidating mental and physical health disparities affecting racial/ethnic minority and other underserved populations, and on developing health-care models to address these disparities. Mays has served in numerous governance roles for the American Psychological Association, the American College of Epidemiology, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Public Health Association. She has provided testimony to Congressional committees and federal agencies on her HIV, health, and disparities research. Her research and service has been recognized by awards from the American Medical Foundation on AIDS Research, the APA, and others.

