



TMA WOC



May Special Edition

NEWSLETTER

2024

Vision Statement

To champion and advocate for all Women of Color living with, or caregiving for, any form of myositis. WOC promotes awareness through the 3E's: Encouragement, Education, and Empowerment.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to unite and empower women of color affected by myositis and to advocate for their health and well-being. By providing education, support, resources, and the backing of TMA's expertise, we are determined to reduce the disparity gap in myositis outcomes for people of color. As we foster a community of strength, resiliency, and inspiration; together, we will break barriers, challenge inequalities, and create a future where every woman, caregiver, and loved one affected by myositis, regardless of their race, can thrive.

OUR HISTORY

2018- There were discussions about the importance of women of color being highlighted due to the high mortality rate.

2018- *Elisa Glass* speaks on Dermatomyositis in Women of Color (Video available on TMA YouTube Channel)

2019- TMA Patient Advisory Committee Women of Color Campaign Panel (Annual Patient Conference-Minneapolis, MN) (Video available on TMA YouTube Channel) (Panel photos and names listed in this newsletter)

2019- Winter Outlook Newsletter: Page 8, TMA Patient Advisory Committee Women of Color Campaign Photo- *Holly Jones and LaDonna Johnson, Elisa Glass*

2020- After the conference there was no conversation about the continuance of having education or a support group in place for women or people of color at TMA. After months of phone calls by Holly Jones, a session was open for the Women of Color to present at the Virtual Annual Patient Conference in late August. The conference would take place within two weeks of notification.

2020- TMA Women of Color Council Panel (Annual Patient Conference-Virtual) (Video available on TMA YouTube Channel as [#MYOMatinee](#): Women of Color Council Panel) *Holly Jones, Elisa Glass, Kaniah Gunter, Cynthia Imana, Donna Barr, Laurie Boyer (moderator)*

2020- Fall Outlook Newsletter- *Elisa Glass*, Page 11



OUR HISTORY



May Special Edition

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2020 - Winter Outlook Newsletter: Women of Color Council, Page 13
(Holly Jones, Page 11 and Kaniah Gunter, Page 14)

2020 - TMA Women of Color Council Panel became Maven Ambassadors thanks to Khaleelah Cohen who believed in the importance and mission of the panel. (This is documented in the #MYOMatinee: Women of Color Council Panel Video on TMA YouTube Channel)

2020 - Holly Jones decided to create a Support Group. Where she defined the vision, mission, and 3 E's. Because she saw a need for women of color wanting to find a space to connect and build a community of shared experiences. *Myositis Women of Color Facebook Page, Private Support Group, and YouTube Channel were created.*

TMA also created a post in November 2020 asking for people to list their advocacy projects. Holly Jones responded with her advocacy and listed Myositis Women of Color Support Group. A public "Thank You" was given to Holly Jones for her advocacy work.

2020 - Holly Jones and Kaniah Gunter were introduced to Chrissy Thornton. After discussing the direction and vision for the Myositis Women of Color Support Group. Holly and Kaniah became the co-leaders of TMA's first affinity group program. Women of Color Affinity Group.

2021 - The Myositis Association Women of Color Affinity Group webinar launch. Since the launch TMAWOCAG has completed several meaningful projects as a group and individuals.



TMA Myositis Women of Color



This May we are celebrating 5 years that the Women Of Color Affinity Group has been established as a group under TMA.

We are honoring the women that paved the way, set the foundation, and supported the cause of WOC.

May we celebrate and honor the women that paved the way for us to elevate our voices

Always

For the sisters we loss over the years we remember their cause and cherish their memory.



Heroes In The Fight Awards Dinner, September 2024: TMA IAPC
Left to Right: Clarissa Epps, Dale Scott, Aisha Hall, Holly Jones, Kimberly Branche, Monika Davis

Honoring Myositis Women of Color



HONORING THE GROUND BREAKERS 5 YEARS ESTABLISHED



HOLLY JONES



KANIAH GUNTER



LADONNA JOHNSON



LASHAN DAVIS



DONNA BARR



LAURIE BOYER



REGINA DAVIS



DR. IAZSMIN VENTURA

Honoring Myositis Women of Color



HONORING THE PATIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL IAPC PANEL OF 2019



YVONNE BERNARD



DARLENE SHELTON



ELISA GLASS



PORTIA WILSON



SHARON MILLS



DALE SCOTT



LINDA SHAW

*Honoring Myositis
Women of Color*



HONORING THE STAFF BEHIND THE MISSION



AISHA MORROW



KHALEELAH COHEN



CHRISSY THORNTON



RHONDA BUCKLEY-BISHOP



RACHEL BROMLEY

TMA WOC 2022: THIS IS US: ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TMA WEBINARS

- Maternity in Myositis- *Dr. Edens, Dr. Ventura, Holly Jones, Crystal Cunningham*
- Empowerment Clinic: Overlapping Diseases- *Kimberly Branche*
- Empowerment Clinic: Managing Mental Health Through the Holidays- *Holly Jones*
- Empowerment Clinic: Navigating TMA website- *Elisa Glass*

WOC WEBINARS

- Unique Guidance presents Living with Myositis with TMA WOC Panel
- Meet The Staff
- Benefits of an Affinity Group
- Presented by WOC: Ticket to Work Social Security Benefits

PRESENTATION

- TMA APC: *Elisa Glass*- Finding Inspiration
- TMA APC: *Kaniah Gunter*- Better Choices
- TMA APC: *Kaniah Gunter*- Getting Acquainted- DM
- TMA APC: *Elisa Glass*- PFAC- Legislation
- TMA APC: *Omni McCluney*- Skincare



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Myositis Journey in 3 Words Flyer
- Myositis Journey in 3 Words Video
- Sisterhood, Support, and Smile Myositis Awareness Video
- Women of Color Affinity Group Welcome Video (2021)
- Virtual Summit Testimonials- *Kimberly Branche, Omni McCluney, Kim Wade*
- Facebook and Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts- 2023 plan is to expand social media platforms and transfer all videos to one new account

INTERVIEWS

- Open My Heart Foundation My New Normal- *Elisa Glass, Holly Jones*
- TMA Family Podcast- *Elisa Glass*
- Someone I love has Myositis- *Holly Jones and Kaniah Gunter with Jen Inspiring Coach*
- Myositis Awareness Month- *KrazyNChristian: Kaniah Gunter, Rhonda Rodgers, Laurie Boyer, Christine Peart*

MENTIONS

- Book: *Kaniah Gunter*- Grace and Mercy



TMA WOC 2022: THIS IS US: ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Fun Fit Flex- WOC named National Ambassador, *WOC Chair Philly - Monika Davis, WOC Houston Chair - Holly Jones*

- TMA Annual Patient Conference
- “I Got You” “Never Solo” Accompanied Doctor Appointments
- Encouragement Calls and Zooms
- Not Your Average Kidney Awareness Paint Night
- Women’s Tea Conference- *Kaniah Gunter*
- First Annual Pretty Girls Get Sick Brunch
- WOC T-shirts
- Heroes In The Fight Awards Dinner

FUNDRAISING

- Sisterhood Fundraiser
- Fun Fit Flex
- Host of personal fundraisers

TMA WOCAG 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TMA WEBINARS

- Diversity in Clinical Trials- Corporate Advisory Panel, *Holly Jones*
- Diversity in Clinical Trials- Virtual Summit, *Holly Jones, Veronica Fatura*
- Empowerment Clinic- Working While Managing Chronic Illness, *Yashira Cruz*

WOC WEBINARS

- Meet The Staff (March)
- Power in Sharing Your Story, *Melissa Gilbert* (May)
- Grace and Gratitude- *Chip Galloway* (November)
- Ticket To Work Program- *Brown & Brown Insurance*

PRESENTATION

- TMA APC: Uplifting Myositis Voices through Diversity Panel (MWOCAG Presents)
- TMA APC: *Kaniah Gunter*- Better Choices
- TMA APC: *Kaniah Gunter*- Getting Acquainted- DM
- TMA APC: Diversity in Clinical Trials- *Holly Jones*
- TMA APC: Celebration of Rhonda Rodgers
“Myositis Warrior Superhero”



TMA WOCAG 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Beyond Limits Flyer
- Beyond Limits Video
- Facebook and Instagram Reels, YouTube
- #TMAWOC #MYOSITISWOC
- MWOC Merchandise Storefront Created

INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Impact Church SoNo- Kaniah Gunter- Healthy Lifestyle with an Autoimmune Disease
- TMA Family Podcast Host- Kim Gray
- HERstory In Color Presents: Couples in Myositis Interviews (MAM)
- I AM NOT My Hair Panel- Kaniah Gunter

MENTIONS

- Outlook Newsletter
- HERstory In Color Webinar: Imposter Syndrome, *Kimberly Branche*
- HERstory In Color Webinar: Summer Self Care Series- Skin Care, *Omni McCluney*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Creation of Myositis Africa Support Group
- Paint and Sip Meet and Greet- TMA Annual Patient Conference
- MyoSis Empowerment Accompanied Doctor Appointments
- Encouragement Calls and Zooms
- Heros In The Fighter Awards Dinner
- TMA WOCAG Women with Myositis Self Care Day Meet and Greet, Dallas, TX
- HERstory In Color Pink Out Women with Myositis Brunch- Dallas, TX

FUNDRAISING

Myosis Candle,
Branche Basu Boutique



The best is yet to come!!!



RESEARCH

Priovant
FDA EL-PFDD

FUNDRAISING

Double Good Fundraiser
MWOC Merchandise

MENTIONS

Awaken Your Inner Warrior
Outlook Newsletter
Herstory In Color Interview
MSU: Authors Showcase

ADVOCACY

Rare Disease Week

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rock The Block

EDUCATION

3 Part Series: Women's Health

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Creation of Myositis Men of Color



In Loving Memory...



LASHAN DAVIS
2018



MICHELLE HALL
2022



DONNA BARR
2021



MEREDITH THOMAS
2023



CARON SCOTT
2024



MARIANNE MOYER
2024