Faculty Narrative Example (Research Track)

**Major Research Accomplishments:** My long-term career goal is to reduce reproductive health disparities between the global south and global north, and between American women with and without means by empowering women and their healthcare providers to utilize health services efficiently and effectively. To reach this goal, I have secured funding from both the National Institutes of Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among other sources. I have served as Principal Investigator on a Grand Challenges grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, an R21 grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, and an R01-equivalent grant from the Office of Population Affairs. I have been extremely productive in terms of publications, with 75 total publications, 38 of which I am first or last author (24 as first, 14 as last). Since my position began in 2016, I have published 43 manuscripts, with 26 of them as first or last author (15 as first, 11 as last). I have published in a variety of high-impact journals (including *Contraception, JAMA Open Network, PLOS One, the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Perspectives on Family Planning* and others). While most of my publications to date focus on my global work, my domestic research agenda (which effectively began at the start of the pandemic) is reflected in abstract presentations at 2021 American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Meeting, and 3 papers under review.

One focus of my research has been to study reasons for contraceptive discontinuation among Ghanaian women. I received a pilot grant from the University of Michigan Institute for Research on Women and Gender which laid the foundation for my Grand Challenges grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (PI). Key contributions of this work include demonstrating that Ghanaian women hold strong preferences with regard to attributes of contraceptive methods, but their preferences are not well-matched with the methods adopted, which often leads to discontinuation. The Grand Challenges grant led to my institutional K award (PI), which adapted and pilot-tested an interactive, app-based contraceptive decision support tool to help Ghanaian women better understand their family planning options. The app has shown to be effective at improving women’s knowledge about and attitudes towards contraception is the basis for an R01 to be submitted in October 2023 (PI).

A second focus of my research is on the unprecedented changes to Title X, the federal grant program created in 1970 to provide comprehensive and confidential family planning services and preventive health services, prioritizing serving people and families with low incomes. I currently lead two projects investigating the impacts of these recent changes. The first, an R21 (*New Title X Regulations: Assessing the Impact on Reproductive Health*, M-PI), is creating a novel measure to assess the changes to community health in Michigan due to the changes to the Title X program. The second, an R01-equivalent grant from the Office of Population Affairs, is documenting the resilience of the program, nation-wide (*Mission Interrupted: A mixed methods, multi-state assessment of the impact of Title X regulation changes between 2018 and 2025* (M-PI) Office of Population Affairs).

**Teaching and Mentoring:** I have had the pleasure of working with, and mentoring, numerous learners including undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty. I believe strongly in experiential research training, and have helped many of these learners at all stages of their research projects. I encourage them to carve out projects that are feasible to complete over a relatively short period of time, so they gain experience in the many stages of research (idea generation, research question refinement, tool development, data collection, analysis, writing, and publishing papers). Most importantly, I make sure that all research projects on which I work with students are a value-add to everyone involved. I strive to ensure that my African colleagues work with me to co-create research opportunities that will benefit their own research interests and work. Many of the learners I have worked with and mentored continue to
seek me out, even when their official time with me has ended, which I find gratifying. I enjoy seeing where
their careers take them, and am glad to be a resource.

**Departmental and University Service:** In terms of service, I am a regular reviewer for both Medical School
and University-wide scholarships, fellowships, and grants. I am a standing reviewer for faculty grants offered
through Global REACH at the Medical School, and I am an ad hoc reviewer for the Center for the Education
of Women, the African Studies Center, and the African Social Research Initiative. I also review for the
Fogarty International Center-funded Northern Pacific Global Health Research Training Consortium. I have
recently become a reviewer and interviewer for the department’s Complex Family Planning and Global
Health Fellowships.

In addition, I serve as a mentor in the Medical School’s Global Health and Disparities path of excellence. In
that capacity, I mentor 2-4 students in each class who are interested in global health or health disparities. My
students and I have meetings as needed, but at least quarterly. I also serve as a mentor to Master’s students
from the School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and for the Minority Health International Training
program. I serve as a reviewer for multiple journals, and I have served on the editorial board of two
international journals (*BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, African Journal of Emergency Medicine*).

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** In my work, I seek to empower trainees and junior faculty from low- and
middle-income countries to conduct high-quality research which will benefit their career, and the health of
those they serve. I have long sought to “work myself out of a job”, by mentoring new scientists, and
encouraging them to mentor those coming behind them. While I also seek to improve the health and lives of
traditionally marginalized people through my own research, I realize the potential of having a much larger
impact working with individuals from those communities. I fully reject the model of global health research
derisively termed “hoovering” (for sucking up all the data and then retreating to the US to conduct the
analyses and writing). In all of my projects, I aim to spend considerable time in-country to understand the
context in which I am conducting this research and always collaborate with individuals from the
communities. These collaborators and I share leadership roles on all projects.

My more recent work, studying the impacts of changes to the Title X program on community health, has
brought much of the work I have done to empower individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds home.
While the contexts appear vastly different, the challenges accessing high quality reproductive health care are
often similar. I have long studied abortion access in legally restrictive settings in sub-Saharan Africa. That
experience is now sadly relevant to the United States, as the recently awarded R01, on which I serve as a Co-
I, studying the peripartum mental health effects of state-level abortion restrictions demonstrates. When access
to abortion services is restricted, wealthy and connected people are spared from negative repercussions. It is
the marginalized who will bear the brunt of these restrictions.

As someone who was born into great privilege (both of my parents matriculated from Ivy League
institutions. It was never a question of if, but where, I would go to college. It was never a question of if, but
in what field, I would pursue an advanced degree), but also to parents who instilled in me the necessity of
working to level the playing field for everyone, I seek to recognize my privilege and work to deconstruct
many of the systems which perpetuate traditional power structures.

**Going forward,** I plan to continue the work I am currently engaged in, while seeking to expand to include
intervention research in both global and domestic reproductive health. I look forward to strengthening my
current collaborations as well as establishing new ones, and provide guidance and mentoring for students,
faculty and staff, within my department and across the Medical School and the University.