

RISING STARS SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Raymond Samuel – Hampton University Men’s Health Initiative

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The *International Journal of Ethnic College Health* is proud to spotlight the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of Dr. Raymond Samuel in Rising Stars for its inaugural issue. Let his commitment to excellence in academic rigors, training and health and wellness programming inspire you to accomplish the same in your community and areas of influence.



Minority Men’s Health Initiative

Samuel, MD, Ph.D. is the principal investigator for the [Hampton University Minority Men's Health Initiative](#), a five-year, \$13.5 million grant funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and

“I’m a Rising Star because the stars aligned. I came to America at the right time. I came at a time when the doors of education were open. I came at a time when Affirmative Action gave me some opportunity. I stood on the shoulders of those who came before me. My life in America has been a blessed one.”

—Dr. Raymond Samuel

Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Under Samuel’s direction, Hampton University serves as the lead institution in partnership with several other historically black colleges and universities, among them: Jackson State, Clark Atlanta, Howard, North Carolina A&T and St. Augustine’s University. The goal of the grant is to reduce health disparities among minority men, with an overarching goal to improve the health of all Americans. Through the collaborative efforts of the partnership, six health concerns will be addressed: prostate cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, melanoma in Hispanics and violence prevention. Hampton University President William

Harvey announced the grant award in July 2013.

As lead institution for the grant, Samuel and his Hampton University colleagues are responsible for the vision of the grant and the university serves as its fiscal officer, said Samuel. “The vision was originally articulated by Dr. Harvey,” he said. The idea was “we could propose a model where we engage across these disciplines, and increase NIH’s return on investment. We find like-minded institutions who want to work on the interests of these goals.

We become the fulcrum from which everything else springs.” The grant was designed to partner with more HBCU institutions that are interested in research, training, education, and outreach in the six health areas identified in the grant. “We hope to double and triple the number of HBCUs working with us,” Samuel said. “If we can encourage HBCUs to work together, we could have at least 50% of the faculty connected to institutions to receive funding from this project.

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