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About the McSilver Institute

The McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University Silver School of Social Work is committed to creating new knowledge about the root causes of poverty, developing evidence-based interventions to address its consequences, and rapidly translating research findings into action.

The McSilver Institute employs collaborative research methods via partnerships with policymakers, service organizations, consumers, and community stakeholders.

An understanding of the significant link between individuals, families, communities, and their external environments, as well as the interrelatedness of race and poverty guide the McSilver Institute’s research efforts.

About the Design

The design of this report reflects the ripple effect of the McSilver Institute’s translation of community-based, participatory research into action. Like a stone dropped in water, when evidence-based interventions to mitigate poverty are collaboratively developed and disseminated in real world settings, there is an expanding social impact.
Dear Friends,

Soon after I took office as Dean of the Silver School of Social Work in September 2009, I engaged the Silver School faculty in a collaborative strategic planning process in order to realize the potential of Connie and Martin Silver’s transformative gift, which renamed the school and established the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research within the school. The resulting strategic plan had five goals: 1) to become a scholarship leader in social work and related fields, including public health and poverty research; 2) to advance our reputation for superior BS, MSW, and PhD programs; 3) to be a full-fledged part of the NYU Global Network University and member of the global community; 4) to be more engaged with local agencies providing social services to New Yorkers, and 5) to rededicate ourselves to diversity and social justice.

In addition, I brought together a distinguished group of advisors—Larry Aber, Phyllis Barash, Alma Carten, Phil Coltoff, Robert Hawkins, Paul Light, Linda Mills, Deborah Padgett, Mary Pender Greene, Connie Silver, and Nancy Wackstein—to develop the mission of the McSilver Institute in alignment with the school’s strategic plan.

Over the past six years the McSilver Institute has stayed true to its mission and made significant contributions towards helping the Silver School achieve its goals. It has a robust, externally-funded research portfolio; it is developing outstanding poverty-focused social work scholars; it is highly engaged globally; it is helping local New York agencies evaluate their programs and build capacity to better serve poverty-impacted children, families and communities; and it is a beacon of dedication to social justice and diversity.

The McSilver Institute is an integral part of the Silver School, and I could not be more proud to share this annual report highlighting its recent significant achievements.

Sincerely,

Lynn Videka, PhD
Professor and Dean
NYU Silver School of Social Work
Director’s Greeting

Dear Friends,

Just four years ago, in September 2011, I became the inaugural Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University Silver School of Social Work, with its charge to further our understanding of poverty and advance actionable, evidence-based interventions to address its consequences. Today, at the close of the 2014-15 academic year, the institute has 50 full-time employees and has been awarded nearly $20 million to conduct research and leverage knowledge that translates directly into policies and practices assisting people living in poverty. The McSilver Institute’s growth accelerated dramatically over the past twelve months, and I am proud that it has been matched by our impact on the lives of poverty-impacted children and families in New York, across the U.S., and around the world.

One way the McSilver Institute improves the lives of those living in poverty is by creating evidence-informed training and tools that enable service providers to deploy highly effective research-based practice. This past year, the McSilver Institute-directed, New York State-funded Community Technical Assistance Center of New York (CTAC) and Managed Care Technical Assistance Center (MCTAC) expanded their reach to offer free training and resources to all of New York State’s mental health, substance abuse, and child welfare providers to help them maintain the health of their organizations and improve service delivery to their low-income, medically-underserved clients. To date, CTAC and MCTAC have each had more than 22,000 participants in their programs.

We scaled up our National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded VUKA Family Program study, which aims to address health and behavioral health needs of perinatally HIV-infected youth and their families in South Africa. The family-based intervention, which uses illustrated cartoons to convey information to families, is meant to promote overall physical and mental health, and reduce behavioral risk, and is now at full capacity, involving 360 children and their families at four sites in impoverished Durban neighborhoods in an experimental impact study.

Also in the past year, we were awarded a new $3 million, multi-year grant from the NIH to study the implementation, integration, and outcomes associated with a Multiple Family Group (MFG) service model for reducing disruptive behavior disorders among urban youth impacted by poverty.

In January, 2015, I was honored to be named to New York State’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Project Approval and Oversight Panel, giving the McSilver Institute a vital seat at the table as New
York restructures the healthcare delivery system for our most vulnerable residents. In this capacity, I am helping to ensure this $7.3 billion Medicaid reform initiative fulfills its promise of improving health outcomes for Medicaid recipients while creating a high quality, cost-efficient, sustainable Medicaid system.

The 2014-15 academic year also saw the expansion of Step-Up, the McSilver Institute’s multi-component youth development and mental health support program for teens experiencing significant environmental, academic, social, and emotional challenges. The New York City Department of Education joined the Robin Hood Foundation in funding the program, which was implemented in eight public high schools in East Harlem, Central Brooklyn and the South Bronx, up from just three schools in 2013-2014. The rigorously evaluated, evidence-based program has now served over 450 students, 56% Latino and 37% African American, and achieved a graduation rate of 84%, setting these students on a path out of poverty.

The McSilver Institute continued to collaborate with the Silver School of Social Work to provide an independent study program engaging students in community-based participatory research in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and developed the school’s first full-semester, graduate-level study abroad program—fusing education, research, and practice—in Buenos Aires starting in Fall 2015.

Furthermore, on April 27 and 28, 2015, hundreds of philanthropists, researchers, practitioners, advocates, and consumers came together at the Third Annual McSilver Symposium and Awards, which featured six thought-provoking panels, two poignant films, and five inspiring honorees emphasizing poverty, trauma, and resilience.

These are just some of the McSilver Institute’s many accomplishments over the past year. None of them would have been possible without the tremendous partnership of Silver School Dean Lynn Videka, our founding benefactors Constance and Martin Silver, and the entire McSilver Institute staff, Community Collaborative Board, Faculty Fellows, Advisory Board and our many policy and government colleagues, community partners, and funders. I am grateful for all of the support the institute has received in our effort to fulfill our critically important mission.

Sincerely,

Mary M. McKay

Mary McKernan McKay, PhD
Director
McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research
NYU Silver School of Social Work
Dear Friends,

The past year’s spate of videotaped police killings of unarmed Black men and boys, and the widely reported deaths of Black women in police custody, underscore the continued need to confront the insidious and deadly structural racism pervading our society.

I am grateful that the McSilver Institute’s founding board of advisors had the wisdom and commitment to develop a mission that explicitly states that, “An understanding of the links between individuals, families, and communities to their external environments, as well as the interrelatedness of race and poverty guide McSilver’s research efforts.”

Persistent structures of power and privilege contribute to racial disparities in areas including, but not limited to, health status, educational achievement, employment, exposure to violence, incarceration, and child welfare involvement, which themselves are both causes and consequences of poverty.

In keeping with our mission, in the 2014-15 academic year, the McSilver Institute released two special edition news briefs addressing structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity, and accumulated disadvantage at the macro level that contributes to chronic racial disparities. We built on that work to release a three-part report entitled, Facts Matter! Black Lives Matter! The Trauma of Racism, which includes a new section analyzing the cumulative negative impact racism has on the lives of people of color, and defining it as a collective as well as individual trauma. The Trauma of Racism was also a core theme running through our 2015 McSilver Symposium and Awards, and was the title of our keynote panel, which began with remarks from Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, who has been at the forefront of the discussion of structural racism in law enforcement and society as a whole.

Since our inception, the McSilver Institute has recognized the urgent need for policies and programs that immediately address social inequalities that
are driven by race, and make people of color more likely to live in poverty. To ensure that this commitment to combating structural oppression and racism infuses all aspects of our work, we launched an Anti-Oppressive Steering Committee that identifies opportunities for addressing systemic inequities in the institute’s public workings (research, trainings, service delivery, communications, and education) as well as our behind-the-scenes operations (organizational development, management, and administration). We are also grateful for the invaluable, ongoing counsel of Mary Pender Greene, a NYU Silver School of Social Work alumna, McSilver Institute Advisory Board Member, Anti-Racist Alliance Cofounder, and renowned expert on institutional racism and multiculturalism. Both internally and externally, the McSilver Institute will continue to shine an empirical light on the tyranny of racism and seek to dismantle the structures that perpetuate it.

Thank you for your support in this, and all of the McSilver Institute’s efforts to seek new knowledge about the root causes of poverty, develop evidence-based interventions to address its consequences, and rapidly translate research findings into action.

Sincerely,

Gary Parker
Deputy Director
McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research
NYU Silver School of Social Work
Community Collaborative Board-Directed Research

Community-level collaboration with policymakers, service organizations, and community stakeholders is an underpinning of all of the McSilver Institute's work.

The McSilver Institute's Community Collaborative Board (CCB) is an ongoing partnership between community members from neighborhoods impacted by poverty and researchers that guides the implementation of the institute's research projects concerned with evidence-based prevention and intervention services for youth and their families. The CCB, which meets twice monthly, ensures the cultural appropriateness and sustainability of the institute's initiatives in poverty-impacted communities and is active in disseminating knowledge gained through these efforts to parents, adolescents, and other community members.
Anti-Oppressive Research, Policy, and Practice

The McSilver Institute is defined by its commitment to anti-oppressive research, policy, and practice. For each of the past two years, the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond has conducted a two-day Undoing Racism® training for the entire staff. The McSilver Institute also offers scholarships to its student interns to attend Undoing Racism® trainings and has invited facilitators from the People’s Institute to provide onsite trainings specifically for interns.

After the institute’s 2013 Undoing Racism® training, the Anti-Oppressive Steering Committee (AOSC) was established to ensure anti-oppressive practices, policies, and procedures are incorporated in every aspect of the McSilver Institute’s operations, both internal and external. The AOSC, which has members from every corner of the institute, meets biweekly and plays an integral role in the institute’s governance.

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Anti-Oppressive Steering Committee Members

Zoila A. Del-Villar, CASAC, LMHC-permit, Co-Chair
Jayson K. Jones, LMSW, Co-Chair
Amanda Alcantara, Co-Administrator
Briana Gonçalves, Co-Administrator

Andrew F. Cleek, PsyD
Kara Dean-Assael, LMSW
Richard Embry, PhD
Dan Ferris, MPA
Lydia M. Franco, LMSW
Ammu D. Kowolik, LMSW
Dottie Lebron, MPA
Morgan McGuire
Mary McKernan McKay, PhD
Micaela Mercado, PhD
Laura Morrison, MA
Aida Ortiz
Hadiza Ladidi Osuji, PhD
Gary Parker, MSW
Ozge Sensoy Bahar, MSW, PhD
Ervin Torres
Janet Watson
McSilver Institute Values Statement

This statement of values was collaboratively developed and ratified by every member of the McSilver Institute staff.

We are inclusive
We honor, appreciate, and encourage diversity, inclusion, and a culture of respect and open communication.
We are committed to a workplace culture where diversity is celebrated and a flexible, comfortable, and safe environment is provided for people of all backgrounds and histories.

We are collaborative
We are fueled through collaborative decision-making processes.
We value input both internal and external in all that we do and believe that all voices must be heard.

We are invested in individuals and communities impacted by poverty
We are dedicated to working with and empowering communities and organizations that are directly affected by or are working to address the root causes and consequences of poverty in a form that is respectful, consensual, and bi-directional.

We are translating knowledge into action
We are motivated by a commitment to social justice and equality and therefore continuously strive towards implementation of evidence-informed systems, practices, and policies that acknowledge all and oppress no one.

We are rising together
We strive towards a world where the basic human needs of all people are met and communities are able to participate in the decision-making processes that affect them.
We pledge to dismantle structural oppression in all of its manifestations, including but not limited to racism, classism, sexism, ageism, ableism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and religious intolerance.
Applied Research

The McSilver Institute conducts original research that furthers understanding of poverty’s root causes and establishes evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations to address its consequences. At every stage of the process, the McSilver Institute’s studies are defined by collaboration with stakeholders, including community members, public policy makers, and organizations providing direct services to poverty-impacted individuals and communities. Research projects range from large, multi-year initiatives funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to small, pilot studies funded directly by the institute.

The McSilver Institute currently has been awarded five multi-year, NIH-funded research projects:

**VUKA Family Program: Supporting HIV-Infected Youth in South Africa**

**R01HD074052** Principal Investigator: Mary M. McKay, PhD

The study uses a culturally tailored, cartoon-based curriculum to meet the urgent need for theory-driven, empirically informed, effective, and sustainable HIV prevention and care approaches for the unprecedented numbers of perinatally HIV-infected youth in South Africa.

**Improving Child Behavior Using Task-Shifting to Implement MFGs in Child Welfare**

**R21MH102544-01** Principal Investigator: Geetha Gopalan, PhD

The purpose of this study is to refine and pilot-test task-shifting strategies to support the implementation of a family-focused, Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) to reduce child behavioral difficulties in low-resourced child welfare settings.

**Mobile Health Solutions for Behavioral Skill Implementation through Homework**

**R34MH100407** Principal Investigator: Anil Chacko, PhD

This study involves creating and testing a phone application (“app”) to supplement treatment individuals are receiving for mental health issues. The new app provides educational, interactive games that patients can do between treatments in order to promote skill acquisition.

**CHAMP+Asia: Supporting HIV-infected Youth in Thailand**

**3R01HD074052-03S1** Principal Investigator: Mary M. McKay, PhD

This study, which aims to determine comparative effectiveness of adolescent treatment services in increasing adherence, retention, and acceptability among perinatally HIV-infected youth, as well as to develop effective models to scale-up and test strategies for training of non-physicians, extends the work of the VUKA Family Program from South Africa to Thailand.

**Family Groups for Urban Youth with Disruptive Behavior**

**R01MH106771-01** Principal Investigator: Mary M. McKay, PhD

The study is being conducted across New York City’s state-licensed child behavioral health clinic system to examine the short-term and longitudinal impact of Multiple Family Groups (MFG) on urban youth with Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder; family-level mediators of child outcomes; clinic and provider level moderators of MFG implementation and integration; and the impact of Core Implementation Teams on clinic and provider level moderators of MFG implementation and integration. See research spotlight on the next page.
In April 2015, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) awarded a four-year, $3 million grant to McSilver Institute Director Dr. Mary McKay to explore innovative family-centered approaches designed to strengthen the parenting skills of caregivers to effectively help youth with behavioral difficulties.

Co-investigators on the study are James Jaccard, PhD, Professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work; Anil Chacko, PhD, Professor at NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD, Professor at NYU School of Medicine; and Mary Acri, PhD, Senior Research Scientist at the McSilver Institute and Adjunct Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine.

Persisting behavioral difficulties in childhood often result in significant educational difficulties, substance use, criminal justice involvement, interpersonal challenges, and other functional difficulties associated with poverty. The risks for these negative outcomes are particularly profound among poverty-impacted urban youth and their caregivers, who confront numerous economic and social stressors that impede access to services that are in line with their life circumstances. Consequently, developing appropriate and effective services that strengthen families and enhance pro-social behavior in youth is critically important.

The new study builds on the McSilver Institute’s evidence-based “4Rs and 2Ss for Strengthening Families” intervention, which focuses on the key characteristics of strong families including Roles, Responsibilities, Respectful communication, Relationships, Stress management and Social support. New York State’s Office of Mental Health (OMH) is one of the key partners in the study, which will involve 268 providers and 2,688 adult caregivers of youth receiving care at 134 OMH-licensed child behavioral health clinics across New York City. The size of the study will enable the McSilver Institute to test the scalability of this intervention across a large publicly funded mental health system, and allow us to test modifications of the existing evidence-based model to align with the needs of children and caregivers in impoverished communities. Furthermore, because of our partnerships with OMH, as well as nationally focused research centers, the findings from this study will be immediately actionable.
Program Evaluation

The McSilver Institute leverages our analytic expertise to conduct program evaluation, performance monitoring, and outcome assessment for community-based organizations that provide support and care to children and families confronting poverty. Our goals are to help agencies use data and evaluation results to inform program decision-making and to use applied research to improve outcomes for the populations they serve. This work involves integrating validated survey tools with existing or new evaluation processes; analyzing quantitative and qualitative data; conducting focus groups and interviews with program participants and staff; and helping agencies build internal capacity for data collection and analysis.

Not-for-profit organizations for which the McSilver Institute has provided evaluation services in 2014-15 include BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Brooklyn Community Services, Educational Alliance, Institute for Family Health, National Alliance on Mental Illness-New York City Metro (NAMI-NYC Metro), National Council for Behavioral Health, Police Athletic League NYC, Sembrando Creatividad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Queens Library, and YMCA of Greater New York.

In 2014-2015, the McSilver Institute completed a year-long evaluation of NAMI-NYC Metro’s implementation of NAMI’s Family-to-Family (F2F) educational program for family, caregivers, and friends of people living with serious mental illness (SMI). The free, peer-led program was designed to help those close to people with SMI gain mental health knowledge and coping and stress management strategies that make them better able to support the recovery of their loved ones and improve their own self-care. Research has found a significant association between poverty and mental illness in the United States. The strain caused by caring for a person with SMI is also well documented.

Although several published studies had established the efficacy of the F2F program, it had never been tested in such a demographically diverse, high-poverty urban environment. The McSilver Institute developed a replication study for the distinct population served by NAMI-NYC Metro, deploying validated tools to measure participants’ mental health knowledge, emotional distress/displeasure, coping strategies, emotional self-care, family functioning, and family empowerment at baseline and completion of the program. Similar to prior findings, the McSilver Institute evaluation found improvement across all indicators, confirming the suitability of F2F without any revisions for NAMI-NYC Metro’s constituency.
Evidence-Informed Training and Technical Assistance

The McSilver Institute improves the lives of those impacted by poverty by developing and disseminating a unique array of trainings, tools, and other resources targeted to providers in service systems so that they can deploy highly effective, research-derived interventions. Each of our evidence-informed offerings is designed to deliver practitioners and organizations tools to enhance engaging, person-centered, and trauma-informed care. The McSilver Institute has partnered with various national, state, and local organizations over the past year, including the National Council for Behavioral Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Coalition for Supportive Housing, Services for the UnderServed, and The Bridge.

Training Spotlight

In Spring 2015, the McSilver Institute collaborated with the Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work to train mental health providers across the state of North Carolina on evidence-based child and family engagement practices. Child mental health professionals affiliated with nine North Carolina Managed Care Organizations participated in a series of webinars the McSilver Institute designed to explain the range of barriers socioeconomically disadvantaged families face in accessing mental health services and to provide strategies and resources for overcoming them.

Participants learned about the role of caregivers in service delivery and were taught straightforward steps to utilize from the first to the last contact with families. Supervisors were provided additional training in techniques needed to coach and mentor clinicians in applying the knowledge they have acquired, and to develop action plans for sustainable post-training implementation.

The McSilver Institute leveraged its tremendous body of research, spearheaded by Director Mary McKay, which shows that utilizing focused engagement strategies as early as the initial contact with help-seeking families can increase the involvement and reduce the dropout rates of youth who need mental health services. As a result of the trainings, hundreds of members of North Carolina’s child mental health workforce are now deploying evidence-based practices that improve patient outcomes and create a more efficient, cost-effective system.
The McSilver Institute is also the lead agency directing several New York State and New York City funded technical assistance centers to help maintain and build the public safety net serving those made vulnerable by poverty. These include the Community Technical Assistance Center of New York (CTAC), funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) to help the state’s mental health clinics address the challenges associated with the recent changes in clinic regulations, financing, and overall healthcare reforms; the Managed Care Technical Assistance Center (MCTAC), funded by OMH and the state’s Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to help the state’s behavioral health agencies successfully transition to Medicaid managed care; and Individualized Technical Assistance Consultations (ITAC), funded by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide customized, consultant-level services to fiscally distressed, community-based clinics that operate in geographic isolation, provide culturally and linguistically congruent services for underserved communities, and/or serve constituencies that have historically experienced serious service disparities.

At the end of June, the McSilver Institute produced CTAC and MCTAC’s 2015 New York State Children’s Summit—Embracing Change Together: Partnering for Successful Child & Family Outcomes. The full day event was held in both New York City and Albany for agencies providing mental health, child welfare, substance use, and physical health services to children and families. Nearly 800 providers from across the state attended to hear presenters including New York State government officials, family peer advocates, youth leaders, and national leaders of child-serving organizations demystify the forthcoming transformation of the state’s child-serving system and share innovative and successful approaches for adapting to an environment that demands greater accountability, increased efficiency in delivering services, and reduced variations in care.

The keynote address by Susan Dreyfus, President and CEO of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, gave a national perspective on the trends, issues, challenges, and opportunities confronting the human services sector. A panel of providers from other states which have already transformed their child systems presented innovative and successful service delivery models, and a panel of youth and family advocates and service providers discussed disruptive forces leading to opportunities in New York State. A series of ten workshops enabled participants to focus on topics related to aligning child and family needs with new service delivery models, gaining knowledge in successful integration of health and behavioral health systems, data-driven clinical decision-making, and fiscal strategies for long term sustainability. With the redesign of New York State’s entire child system underway, McSilver Institute Director and CTAC Co-Director Mary McKay concluded the event with a charge for providers to embrace the change ahead and partner with children and families to achieve successful outcomes.
Evidence-Informed Service Delivery: Step-Up

The McSilver Institute has harnessed its research findings and community collaborative approach to deliver Step-Up, a youth development and mental health support program funded by the Robin Hood Foundation and New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) that aims to promote social-emotional development, key life skills, academic achievement, high school graduation, and a positive transition to young adulthood. Step-Up is currently embedded within seven NYC DOE schools located in East Harlem, the Bronx, and East New York.

Developed by the McSilver Institute in collaboration with the Center for Collaborative Inner-City Child Mental Health Services Research (CCCR) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and grounded in evidence-based practices and stakeholder investment, Step-Up was designed for youth experiencing significant environmental, academic, social, and emotional challenges. It is a multi-component, youth informed program that offers in-school life skills groups, one-on-one mentoring, mental health supports, structured opportunities for community service, and leadership development.

Since its inception, Step-Up has worked in partnership with youth, parents, and staff of participating high schools. The program has served over 450 students, 56% Latino and 37% African American, and achieved a graduation rate of 84%, among many other positive educational and mental health outcomes.

Step-Up SPOTLIGHT

Support for Step-Up participants does not stop with the end of the school year. Over the summer, Step-Up offers youth development activities, field trips, and career exploration events three days a week, and convenes a Youth Board once a week to review and revise the curriculum.

One of the highlights in summer 2015 was a programming workshop hosted by the cloud computing company Salesforce.com at its New York headquarters. A team of Salesforce.com technical architects led an “Hour of Code,” a one-hour, web-based introduction to basic computer science, and company volunteers provided one-on-one assistance to facilitate participants’ development of video games using tools provided by Code.org. The workshop met its goal of getting Step-Up students interested in computer science and exposing them to the possibility of a career in the fast-growing sector, where people of color are underrepresented.

Another highlight of the 2015 summer program was Step-Up Career Day, at which the students met young professionals in 18 different fields. The professionals talked about the work they do, the career paths they took, and the obstacles they had to overcome to get where they are today. Many of the speakers had faced some of the same challenges Step-Up students experience in their lives and all provided positive, inspiring adult role models who demonstrated that goals can be achieved.
Education

Housed within NYU’s Silver School of Social Work, the McSilver Institute contributes to high quality, science-informed, and poverty- and social justice-focused social work education.

The McSilver Institute is dedicated to readying the next generation of social workers and public health professionals. To that end, in 2014-15, the institute provided meaningful volunteer opportunities and internships to 54 master’s and bachelor’s levels students, provided exciting and enriching research and work development opportunities for six Pre-Doctoral and seven Post-Doctoral Research Fellows. Likewise, McSilver Institute staff and faculty continued to create and teach courses at NYU’s Washington Square campus and around the globe.

In 2014-15, we were pleased to partner with the Silver School to launch a five-module, 80-hour Advanced Certificate in Integrated Primary and Behavioral Health specifically designed for physicians, social workers, peer specialists, and related healthcare professionals; teach a new January elective in Washington, DC on Social Work and Legislative Advocacy; and design the school’s first full semester study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As part of the Silver School, the McSilver Institute also created a Global Learning Opportunity, a program that fuses education, research, and practice in a hands-on learning experience open to juniors and seniors in the BSW program as well as first-year MSW candidates.

Education

SPOTLIGHT

Developing a pipeline of diverse poverty scholars infused with the McSilver Institute’s commitment to anti-oppressive research, policy, and practice is an institute priority. This year, three of our finest Pre- and Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, Dr. Latoya Small, Dr. Samira Ali, and Dr. Tricia Stephens, joined the faculties of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, and Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work, respectively. Other members of the McSilver Institute staff who earned their doctorate this year include Pre-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Stacey Alicea and Chief Program Officer Dr. Hadiza Osuji, both of whom will be Post-Doctoral Fellows in the coming academic year. Not including our Fellows, five members of the institute staff are currently pursuing a doctorate, and three are pursuing a master’s degree while they work full-time to advance the institute’s mission.

From Left: Dr. Latoya Small, Director Mary McKay, Dr. Tricia Stephens, and Dr. Samira Ali
Policy and Research Dissemination

Through means including reports, policy briefs, journal articles, lectures, and legislative testimony, the McSilver Institute translates research findings into strong policy recommendations that will improve the lives of poverty-impacted populations.

In 2014-15, the McSilver Institute published four issues of its peer-reviewed academic journal, *Global Social Welfare: Research, Policy, and Practice*, including a special issue on adolescent health and economic strengthening in low resource communities that drew from lessons learned by researchers working in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade. The institute also published 14 Poverty Policy News Briefs, two special issue briefs entitled, *Facts Matter! Black Lives Matter! Research Supports Immediate Action to End Systemic Racial Oppression!* and *Facts Matter! Black Lives Matter! Place Matters!*, and a report entitled, *Facts Matter! Black Lives Matter! The Trauma of Racism*. The latter included a new analysis of the cumulative negative impact racism has on the lives of people of color, and built upon the institute’s earlier work addressing structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity, and accumulated disadvantage at the community level that contributes to racial disparities in areas including health, educational achievement, exposure to violence, and economic prosperity.

In addition, the institute released a report entitled, *Harnessing the Learning Community Model to Integrate Trauma-Informed Care Principles in Service Organizations*, which defined Trauma-Informed Care, explained why it is important in service settings, and presented promising results from a yearlong Learning Community the McSilver Institute and National Council for Behavioral Health conducted to help organizations adopt and sustain trauma-informed practice.

The institute also hosted numerous lectures as well as the daylong 2015 McSilver Symposium, submitted testimony at New York City Council hearings on Ending Veteran Homelessness and Hunger, and Hunger in New York City, and held a round-table for Silver School faculty with Simon Tsike-Sossah, Project Coordinator of Disaster and Emergency Relief Services-West Africa, to discuss potential research partnerships to support long-term sustainability in West African communities in Ebola’s wake.
The 2015 McSilver Symposium—a full day of inspirational and informative sessions—took place at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) on April 27th. The free event, emphasizing poverty, trauma, and resilience, featured six provocative panels and two documentary films, including the world premiere of Under the Mango Tree, about Tamale, Ghana’s Shekhinah Clinic Food Program, which feeds over 150 homeless people with mental illnesses each day.

More than 200 researchers, practitioners, advocates, and consumers turned out for sessions on topics including “The Trauma of LGBTQ Displacement in the US and Abroad,” “The Power of Trauma-Informed Care,” “Step-Up: Fostering Resilience, Life Skills and Academic Success,” and “Place Matters: A Community Based Approach to Understanding and Addressing Structural Poverty.”

The centerpiece of the day’s event was the panel on “The Trauma of Racism,” which explored the cumulative negative impact of racial oppression on people of color individually and collectively. Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams’ opening remarks set the stage for a thoughtful and lively discussion that underscored the urgent need to dismantle structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and have damaging effects on the emotional, psychological, health, economic, and social well-being of people of color (see photo).
Human Capital

Employees and Other Contributors
2014-15

48.5 Full-Time Equivalent Employees
42 full-time staff
13 part-time staff

6 Full-Time Equivalent Employees
shared across institutions

58 Interns and Volunteers

100+ Individuals working to support the McSilver Institute’s mission
Revenue
Sources of Income

- **Fund 25**: Government grants and/or contracts
- **Fund 20**: Miscellaneous income
- **Fund 24**: Non-governmental agency or organizational grants and/or contracts

![Graph showing revenue sources over academic years 2011-2015]

$19,762,081
Total funding committed to McSilver Institute projects
Staff

Mary McKay, PhD, Director and Professor
Gary Parker, MSW, Deputy Director
Mary Acri, PhD
Amanda Alcantara
Samira Ali, LMSW, PhD
Stacey Alicea, MPH, PhD
Angel Algarin
Patricia Batista, MPA
Lindsay A. Bornheimer, MS, LMSW
Geraldine “Jerry” Burton
Peter C. Campanelli, PsyD
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Events

**NOVEMBER 10, 2014**
Lunchtime Lecture: Do Social Workers Really Try to Influence Social Welfare Policy?
Dr. John Gal, professor and Dean at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Dr. Idit Weiss-Gal, Associate Professor at the Bob Shapell School of Social Work at Tel Aviv University

**NOVEMBER 18, 2014**
Lunchtime Lecture: Food Insecurity and Risky Behavior
Dr. Susan Popkin, Senior Fellow and Director of the Neighborhoods and Youth Development Initiative in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute

**DECEMBER 14, 2014**
Lunchtime Lecture: Exploring Shame and Dignity in a Norwegian Context
Carolina Ohls, McSilver Institute, Visiting Lecturer enrolled in the PhD program in Social Work and Social Policy at Oslo University College

**DECEMBER 17, 2014**
Joint College of Global Public Health and McSilver Institute Lecture: Mental Health Issues in Ghana
Dr. Abdallah Ibrahim, Lecturer at University of Ghana School of Public Health

**FEBRUARY 19, 2015**
Researcher Round Table
Simon Tsike-Sossah, Project Coordinator of Disaster and Emergency Relief Services West Africa

**FEBRUARY 19, 2015**
Lunchtime Lecture: In Ebola’s Wake: The Case for Social Workers Without Borders
Simon Tsike-Sossah, Project Coordinator of Disaster and Emergency Relief Services West Africa

**MARCH 24, 2015**
Lunchtime Lecture: Poverty as a Collective Trauma
Dr. Michal Shamai, Associate Professor at the University of Haifa School of Social Work

**APRIL 14, 2015**
Lunchtime Lecture: “Bringing the Political Back into Social Work”
Dr. Michal Krumrer-Nevo, Associate Professor at the Spitzer Department of Social Work, and Director of the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**APRIL 27, 2015**
2015 McSilver Symposium
(See page 20 for more details)

**APRIL 28, 2015**
2015 McSilver Awards
Honorees: Carolina Cordero Dyer, Associate Executive Director, The Osborne Association; Tracie M. Gardner, Assistant Secretary of Health, New York State Executive Chamber, Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Reverend Dr. Jacquie Lewis, Senior Minister, Middle Collegiate Church and Executive Director, The Middle Project; Margarette Purvis, President and CEO, Food Bank For New York City; and Carlton Whitmore, Director, Office of Consumer Affairs, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**MAY 11, 2015**
Lunchtime Lecture: Exile to Poverty: Exploring Poverty among Refugees in Poland
Dr. Karolina Łukasiewicz, McSilver Institute Visiting Scholar, and Researcher and Lecturer at the Center for Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis at the Jagiellonian University

**MAY 28, 2015**
Joint McSilver Institute and Community Technical Assistance Center of New York Webinar on Race and Trauma: Race-based Traumatic Stress and Psychological Injury
Dr. Robert T. Carter, Professor of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University


Publications continued


Select Presentations


**Presentations continued**


Williams, D., Jarrett, R. L., & Sensory Bahar, O. (2015, May). It was men, it was women... Exploring race and gender in community gardens. Poster session presented at the 11th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.