



UCLA H³ / BGRG

SUMMIT

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE
AFRICAN DIASPORA FOR BLACK
SAME GENDER PRACTICING MEN

January 14, 2015
Atlanta, GA USA

For Immediate
Release:
May 21, 2014

Leo Wilton, Ph.D.,
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Summit Chair

Craig Hutchinson,
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Organizers



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THE BLACK GAY RESEARCH GROUP (BGRG) ANNOUNCES 2015 BGRG RESEARCH SUMMIT AND UCLA HEALTH, HOPE, AND HEALING (H3) CONFERENCE THEME, KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, CALL FOR PRESENTERS, & DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

ATLANTA, GA - The Black Gay Research Group (BGRG) announced that the 2015 BGRG Research Summit will be held together with the UCLA Health, Hope, and Healing (H3) Conference on January 14, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Renaissance Airport Hotel. This program will coincide with the 2015 National African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and Other Health Disparities set for January 15-18, 2015 in Atlanta, GA.

The theme for the upcoming Summit is **Building Strong Families and Communities across the African Diaspora for Black Same Gender Practicing Men**. The Summit will highlight the scholarly and creative/artistic contributions of those who study the lives of Black same gender practicing men from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives.

The Summit will feature two keynote speakers: Dr. Gail Wyatt, Professor in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, and Mr. Francis Boakye, Executive Director of Priorities on Rights and Sexual Health (PORSH) in Ghana.

"There is a critical need for Black same gender practicing men's communities to engage transformative and culturally congruent scholarly research that speaks to the integrity of our experiences," said Dr. Leo Wilton, BGRG Summit Chair and Associate Professor of Human Development at Binghamton University. According to Dr. LaRon E. Nelson, BGRG Chair and Assistant Professor of Nursing and Dean's Endowed Fellow in Health Disparities Research at the University of Rochester, "This is the only place in the world where, in the same venue, people will be able to hear from African Diasporic cultural scholars, as well as researchers in education, gender and sexuality studies, public health, performing arts, and politics. The Summit attracts people from across the African Diaspora because this type of diverse intellectual offering, focused on the lives of Black same gender practicing men, just isn't available anywhere else."

The 2015 Summit and H3 Conference will feature seven (7) innovative interdisciplinary tracks and panels, including:

- Advances in HIV Prevention Research
- Black Queer Studies and Performing and Visual Arts
- Education and Agency
- International Contexts, African Diasporic Inquiry, and Human Rights
- Policy, Advocacy, and Social Justice
- Religion and Spirituality
- Theoretical Approaches & Innovative Methodological Directions
- Round Table Discussions



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The BGRG will also recognize Black gay researchers and leaders who have demonstrated outstanding contributions in the areas of scholarly research and community empowerment. The awards that will be presented include:

- BGRG Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions & Leadership
- BGRG Emerging Scholar and Leadership Award
- BGRG Founders Spirit and Soul Award for Outstanding Contributions in Service to Black Gay Men's Communities

"My hope for this collaboration is to bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines to engage in the highest level of individual research while facilitating creative scholarly interaction" said Craig Hutchinson, BGRG Vice-Chair and H3 Conference Chair.

For submission of abstracts, registration, sponsorship, and information, please contact the Craig Hutchinson, H3 Conference Chair at Press@BGRGSummit.com

The BGRG was founded in 2001 in an effort to strengthen, empower, and provide a network for Black gay researchers and community workers/activists. Its mission is to advance an agenda of research, policy, and service in the interests of Black gay men.

The aim for Health, Hope and Healing (H3) is to bring together local and national investigators who are conducting HIV research, junior investigators aspiring to work in this area, and community and faith-based members who provide services. The H3 conference will allow them to share experiences and findings and to develop collaborative networks for future studies and community programs. Each annual conference will focus on different biopsychosocial issues contributing to the HIV epidemic, address the challenges faced and report on progress towards decreasing HIV/AIDS among Black MSM and MSMW.

About BGRG

The Black Gay Research Group (BGRG) is a diverse group of Black gay men committed to creating a platform for presenting, discussing, and analyzing scholarly work being produced by and on Black gay men. Inaugurated in the Spring of 2001, the BGRG has evolved from an informal discussion group to a structured group of professional Black gay men who create a sustainable research activity that continuously identifies, explores and promotes innovative program interventions within the Black gay community.

About UCLA Health, Hope and Healing (H3)

The mission of H3 which is to develop a national community collaborative to promote interdisciplinary research that examines and elucidates the behavioral, biological, psychosocial and cultural factors associated with HIV risks among Black men who have sex with men (MSM) and men who have sex with men and women (MSMW). This collaborative brings together the few local and national investigators who are conducting this research, as well as community and faith-based members who provide services to this population.

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