

## Grand Rounds in Population Science (GRIPS) Thursday, February 8, 2018

11:30am — 12:30pm SRB — Ferman Family Conference Room

## Darren Mays, PhD, MPH

Behavioral Scientist—Department of Oncology
Georgetown University Medical Center
Cancer Prevention & Control Program
Washington, DC

## "Communication Research to Guide Tobacco Regulation"



Darren Mays, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center and Member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Mays' research focuses on behavioral cancer prevention among adolescents and young adults, with specific interests in tobacco use, skin cancer risk behaviors, and other behavioral risk factors for cancer. As a public health scientist, his research seeks to develop and examine the effects of interventions (e.g., public health communications, behavioral intervention programs, policy/regulation) to reduce risk behaviors and promote healthy, cancer-preventive behaviors at the population level. Dr. Mays' work in this area seeks to inform behavioral intervention implementation and policy change. His research on tobacco use has a strong focus on regulatory science, conducting studies designed to guide federal regulation of tobacco products with specific interests in public education about potential risks of tobacco use and product packaging and warning labels. Dr. Mays also conducts bio behavioral investigations of how behavioral risk factors for cancer unfold from adolescence into young adulthood, including examining factors that influence tobacco use and skin cancer risk behaviors among adolescents and young adults, such as exposure to advertising/marketing and other psychosocial risks. Dr. Mays' ongoing research in these areas is supported through grants from the National Institutes of Health and private foundations. Dr. Mays is actively involved in graduate and undergraduate education and mentoring student research projects at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown's School of Medicine, and School of Nursing and Health Studies. He is Chair of the Medical Center's Committee on Faculty Development and member of the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center's Clinical Research Committee and Georgetown School of Medicine's Independent Scholarly Project (ISP) Oversight Committee.