There has been much discussion about health disparities among African Americans including increased risk of dying from heart disease, stroke, asthma, and HIV. Less often do we hear about the role of the community in defining, researching and addressing these issues.

Professor Grills will present community-based research designed in collaboration with communities, community designed prevention and early intervention efforts, and a community-based self-help model to reduce racial stress and trauma (Emotional Emancipation Circles). She will argue that active participation of the community in the research and intervention process promotes a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for restoration of health and that this is critical to sustainable outcomes. To not do so runs the risk of compounding inequities already present in the community.