

## Celebrating MLK and Black History Month

In 1986 the U.S. Congress, in a joint resolution of the House and Senate, designated the month of February as “National Black History.” The Presidential Proclamation 5443 noted that “the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity.” The theme for Black History Month this year is ‘Black Resistance.’ Black resistance strategies have served as a model for every other social movement in the country, thus, the legacy and importance of these actions cannot be understated.

**ASALH**

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

### 2023 Theme: Black Resistance



“By resisting, African Americans continue to mobilize resources and shape social movements to create a space for Black Americans to thrive. We invite everyone to join us in exploring the histories of Black freedom movements—from slavery and abolition to other ongoing struggles for civil and human rights.”

**Black History: A Journey to Equality**  
Smithsonian, NMAAHC



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.... We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*Letter from a Birmingham Jail (1963)*

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

In honor of MLK’s legacy, we highlight his mission to not only combat racism, but to fight for economic justice and equality.

- Read “[\*The Last March of Martin Luther King Jr.\*](#)”
- Listen to “[\*The Three Evils of Society \(1967\)\*](#)”

## Featured PIN Community Members



**Oluwatomiwa Oladunni**  
he/him/his

PIN MSTP student in the labs of Drs. Steffan Wolff and Brian Mathur



**Daniela Franco**  
she/her/hers

PIN student in Dr. Mary Kay Lobo’s lab & PIN IDEAS committee member



# Pointers to educate, promote diversity and inclusion, and combat racism

**Attend the Program in Neuroscience Diversity Seminar with Dr. Sherilynn Black:** Dr. Sherilynn Black, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Medical Education, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, Duke University will present “Examining Barriers and Identifying Solutions Towards Achieving Equity in STEM”  
**Thursday February 16th, 4 PM HSF II Auditorium**



**Reimage policing and criminal justice in America.** Facing the racial history of policing is critical for building a more just public safety system. Some books recommendations include “**Are Prisons Obsolete?**” by Angela Davis and “**Becoming Abolitionists**” by Derecka Purnell.

**Sign up for the Intercultural Center Newsletter:** Get updates on upcoming events at UMB that center on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Check out Black In Neuro (BIN) Report and Publications:** BIN has a variety of reports and written pieces with information detailing their progress and [success as an organization](#), [BIN member narratives](#), and [scientific articles](#). And the graphic design was contributed by PIN Student, **Daniela Franco!**

**Read “The Minority Scientists’ Experience: Challenging and Overcoming Barriers to Enhancing Diversity and Career Advancement”:** Dr. Tonya Webb and colleagues write about the barriers oftentimes experienced by minoritized scientists and the need for ‘increased dialogue and institutional awareness of the experience of scientists from underrepresented groups in research remain the best tools to ensure a healthy equity mindset and advancement of their careers.’

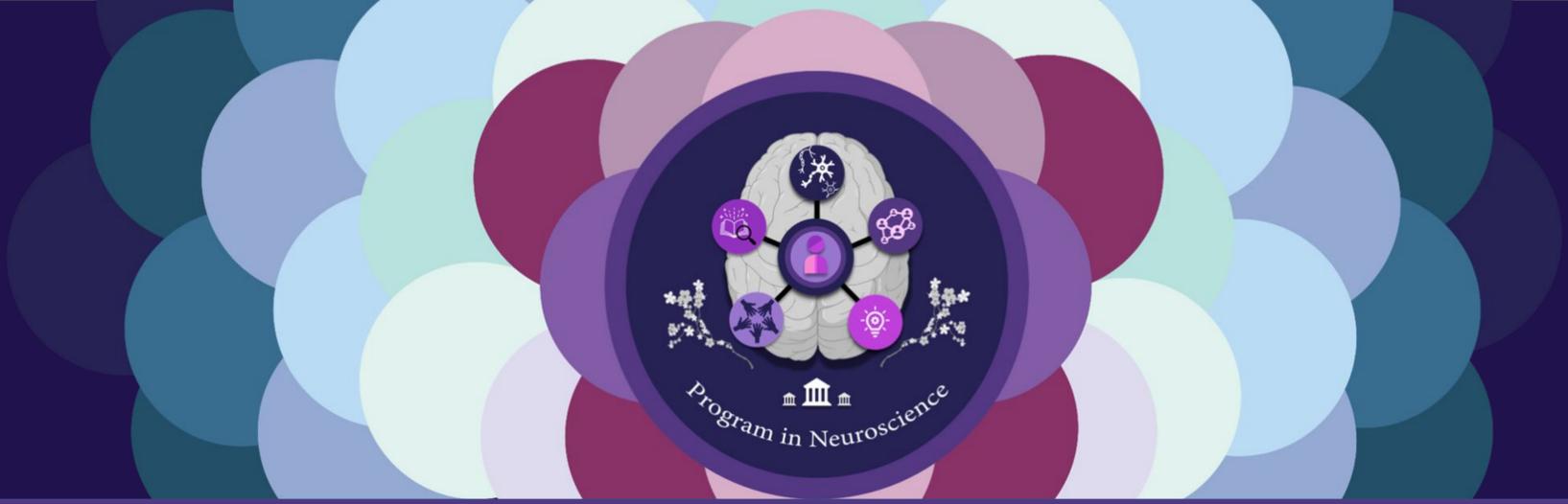
## Featured Members Contributing to Diversity and Inclusion



**Oluwatomiwa Oladunni** (he/him/his) is a PIN MSTP student in the labs of Steffan Wolff and Brian Mathur. He is an African immigrant, who was born and raised in Nigeria. Oluwatomiwa is a graduate of UMBC. Since starting at UMSOM, he has been involved in the Student National Medical Association and White Coats for Black Lives. Both organizations aim to increase diversity and representation within medicine. He hopes to become more involved in like-minded programs during graduate school. Oluwatomiwa’s favorite memory in his research journey has been winning a research presentation award at his first national conference, 2017 [ABRCMS- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists](#).



**Daniela Franco** is a PIN student in the Lobo Lab. Daniela has been contributing to IDEAS initiatives through her membership on the PIN IDEAS committee including her artwork and content contribution to the IDEAS Memo. Daniela also contributes her graphic design to Black In Neuro. She has mentored students from underrepresented background including the [Mid Atlantic Neuroscience Diversity Scholar \(MiNDS\) Program](#). Daniela’s contributions to her scientific community earned her the GPIILS 2022 [Elaine Miye Otani Award](#).

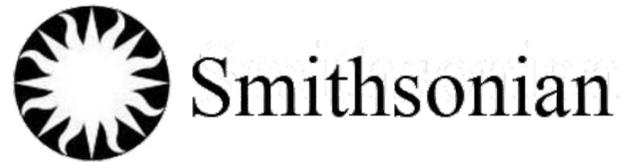
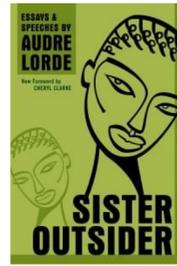
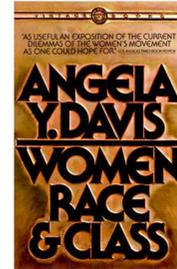
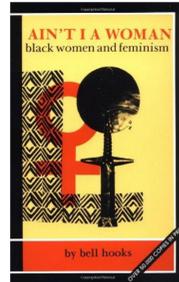


**Diversity ● Equity ● Inclusion: Events, Resources, Opportunities**



"Our persistence in examining the tensions within diversity encourages growth toward our common goal. So often we either ignore the past or romanticize it, render the reason for unity useless or mythic. We forget that the necessary ingredient needed to make the past work for the future is our energy in the present, metabolizing one into the other. Continuity does not happen automatically, nor is it a passive process"

— *Audre Lorde*



**Engage with Black History!** American history is incomplete without Black history.



Black-owned Bookstores in Baltimore

"History isn't something you look back at and say it was inevitable. It happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cumulative realities"

— *Marsha 'Pay it No Mind' Johnson*



**Marsha P. Johnson**