
Matthew C. Morris, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College



Dr. Morris' program of research is focused on understanding psychosocial and neuroendocrine markers of risk for trauma-related psychopathology and persistent pain. The primary goals of his K Award study are to identify (1) early markers of risk for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depressive disorder (MDD) in women who have recently experienced interpersonal violence and (2) to identify coping strategies associated with resilience. Anticipated results from this study will help to identify women at risk for developing trauma-related disorders who may benefit from secondary prevention programs. A second avenue of research has been the assessment of self-report and experimental pain responses in healthy youth, youth with tension-type headaches, and youth with functional abdominal pain. The primary goals of these studies are to (1) identifying early risk markers for – and racial differences in - chronic pain, (2) understand whether impaired pain inhibition influences the onset and course of functional abdominal pain, and (3) to assess whether a yoga intervention decreases functional disability and influences experimental pain responses in adolescents with tension-type headache.

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