

Bettina M. Beech, DrPH, MPH
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Dr. Beech is the Associate Vice Chancellor of Population Health, Executive Director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, and Professor of Pediatrics and Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Prior to her arrival in Mississippi (1/20/13), Dr. Beech was a tenured professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine. While at Wake Forest, Dr. Beech had several leadership roles including serving as the Co-Director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Associate Director of Cancer Health Disparities, Director of the Mentor Academy in the Translational Science Institute, and member of Executive Committee of the Cancer Research Base. Dr. Beech also served on the faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Tulane University School of Public Health, and at the University of Memphis, Department of Psychology. At Vanderbilt, Dr. Beech was an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Surgery, and had numerous leadership roles including serving as the Director of the Institute for Community Health, Co-Director of the Community Engagement Core of the Vanderbilt-Meharry CTSA, Director of Public Health Research and Evaluation for the Eskind Diabetes Center, Director of Workforce Development and Minority Recruitment for the Masters of Public Health Program, and Associate Director of Cancer Health Disparities at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

Dr. Beech has a unique interdisciplinary background that integrates public health, health disparities, diabetes, obesity prevention and treatment, cancer prevention and control, and pediatric/adolescent health issues. A native of Los Angeles, California, Dr. Beech holds a B.A. from Temple University, Master of Public Health from Temple University, and a Dr.P.H. in Community Health from University of Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral science at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and was 2011-2012 Fellow in the Hedwig van Amerigen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women (Drexel University).

Dr. Beech is passionate about research and her areas of scientific inquiry focus on the role of nutritional factors in the primary and secondary prevention of obesity and type 2 diabetes, with a particular focus on child health disparities. She has been principal investigator for multiple studies funded by NIH. Two studies of note include a randomized clinical trial translating the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) for African American families with 8-10 year old children and the Jackson Heart Kids Study; a pilot epidemiologic cardiovascular and obesity trial including children and grandchildren of JHS members. Dr. Beech has served as a standing member of the Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention (PRDP) study section, chaired several ad hoc study sections for NIH and CDC, and a reviewer of numerous ad hoc study sections for NIH. She is a reviewer for over 20 peer-reviewed journals and is a member of several editorial boards including *Ethnicity and Disease*, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, *Childhood Obesity*; she currently serves as the Editor for the *Journal Family and Community Health*.

Dr. Beech is involved in several national public-health related activities. She has recently been a member of several national committees including: the Advisory Board for the Primary Care Network for the Treatment of Adolescent Obesity, the Disparities Subcommittee of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Expert Panel to advise the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) on their future initiatives, and a 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Panel on Early Childhood Obesity Policies. Additionally, she served as an external reviewer for an Institute of Medicine report, "WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change", she is also a member of the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN), and is the lead editor of the book, "Race and Research in Focus: Perspectives on Minority Participation in Health Studies, published by the American Public Health Association.