Dionna Williams, Ph.D.

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology and the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her Ph.D. from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in neuroimmunology and neuropharmacology at JHU. Dr. Williams is the Co-Director of the Central Nervous System Scientific Working Group for the JHU Center for AIDS Research at JHU. Dr. Williams is involved in several research projects, including studies on drug-drug interactions between cocaine and HIV antiretroviral therapies (ART), studies on the role of substance abuse in exacerbating ART neurotoxicity, and the impact of substance abuse in the development of psychiatric and mood disorders in people living with HIV. In addition to her research endeavors, Dr. Williams is deeply committed to mentorship and serves as a research mentor to high school, undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, veterinary, and graduate students in her research laboratory– of whom 80% have belonged to a racial/ethnic minority group historically underrepresented in science and medicine. Dr. Williams also serves in a mentoring capacity to the greater JHU community through her involvement in the Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program, the Ingenuity Research Program, JHU Institute in Brain Sciences, the JHU Neuroscience Scholars Program, and the JHU Mentoring Family Program. Dr. Williams was recently recognized for her contributions to changing the culture of Hopkins to be more inclusive for students and fellows from underrepresented groups. Dr. Williams is a member of several professional societies, including the Society for NeuroImmune Pharmacology, International Society on NeuroVirology, International Brain Barriers Society, and the Society for Neuroscience. Dr. Williams has authored multiple publications in the fields of neuroHIV and neuroimmune signaling.