[](http://devwhri.at.northwestern.edu/)

# Leadership Council

The Women’s Health Research Institute recognizes the importance of connecting with professionals who have common interests. For example, a neuroscientist working in Evanston may not know a clinician who is treating women with epilepsy in Chicago. Our membership roster consists of faculty, health professionals, social science professionals and scientists who are working to advance women’s health across all disciplines. The following individuals have listed their professional interests in their profiles and we encourage our readers to reach out to these experts, as mentors, as collaborators, as team members.



Amy S. Paller, MD

Walter J. Hamlin Professor and  
Chair, Department of Dermatology  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Director, Skin Disease Research Center  
Contact:   [apaller@northwestern.edu](mailto:apaller@northwestern.edu)  
Research Interests:   Women's skin health, keratinocyte biology, spherical nucleic acids and gene modulation in skin, glycosphingolipids and signaling, diabetic ulcers, genodermatoses, inflammatory skin disorders.  She is interested in women as leaders and mentors.

[](http://www.preventivemedicine.northwestern.edu/faculty/index.html)

[Bonnie Spring, PhD](http://www.preventivemedicine.northwestern.edu/faculty/index.html" \t "_blank)

Professor of Preventive Medicine, Psychology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Health  
Director, Center for Behavior and Health  
Northwestern U. Feinberg School of Medicine  
[bspring@northwestern.edu](mailto:bspring@northwestern.edu)  
Research Interests:  Health behavior change interventons for obesity, smoking , physical inactivity, poor quality diet, treatment nonadherence.   Particular interest in optimizing treatment as a function of gender, technology literacy, motivation, and context.



Catherine S. Woolley, PhD

Professor of Neurobiology  
Director, Northwestern University Biological Imaging Facility  
Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences, Northwestern University  
Contact:  [cwoolley@northwestern.edu](mailto:cwoolley@northwestern.edu)  
Research Interests:  Sex differences in the brain and behavior, neuroendocrine regulation of seizures, neuroendocrine regulation of affective disorders, structural and functional plasticity of brain circuitry.



Elizabeth Gerard, MD

Assistant Professor of Neurology  
Co-Director, Women’s Neurology Center  
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Dept. of Neurology  
[e-gerard@northwestern.edu](mailto:e-gerard@northwestern.edu)  
312-926-1673  
Assistant: Irena Garic, MPH, [igaric@nmff.org](mailto:igaric@nmff.org); 312-926-1672  
Research Interests:  Reproductive health in women with epilepsy including contraception, fertility, pregnancy, and breastfeeding. Interactions between hormonal contraception and anti-epileptic drugs. Seizures and female hormones. Depression and anxiety in women with neurologic disease. Physician and patient awareness of reproductive health concerns for women with neurological disorders.



Katherine L. Wisner, MD, MS

Asher Professor of Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Director, Asher Center for Research and Treatment of Depressive disorders  
Northwestern U. Feinberg School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry  
[Katherine.Wisner@northwestern.edu](mailto:Katherine.Wisner@northwestern.edu)  
Assistant:  Emily Pinheiro, 312-503-3460  
Research Interests:  Identification and treatment of women with reproductive related mood disorders; randomized controlled trials, Pharmacology (pharmacokinetics in vulnerable population, teratology, decision support tools), Chronobiological interventions, Epidemiology and Phenomenology, Academic advancement of women.



Lauren S. Wakschlag, PhD

Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Vice-Chair for Scientific and Faculty Development  
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Psychology, Human Development & Social Policy and Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research  
Contact:  Assistant Melissa:   [melissagoldstein@northwetesrn.edu](mailto:melissagoldstein@northwetesrn.edu)  
Research Interests:   Developmental origins of disease, impact of prenatal environment on risk of psychopathology, maternal problem behavior and offspring risk, sex differences in disruptive behavior pathways, prenatal smoking, prenatal stress.  Particularly interested in transformative translational research collaboratives to develop preventive origins that can alter early chidhood disease susceptibility via developmentally specified approach.



Melina R. Kibbe, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine  
Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research  
Vice Chair for Research, Department of Surgery, Northwestern U.  
Co-chief of Vascular Surgery and Director of the Vascular Lab at the Jessie Brown VA Medical Center  
Contact:   312-503-6701  
Research Interests:   Nitric oxide vascular biology, developing novel nitric oxide-based therapies for vascular disease.



Mercedes R. Carnethon, PhD, FAHA

Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Mentoring and Faculty Development  
Director, Division of Epidemiology  
Department of Preventive Medicine  
[carnethon@northwestern.edu](mailto:carnethon@northwestern.edu)  
312-503-4479Assistant:  Joyce Tamanio ([j-tamanio@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-tamanio@northwestern.edu)), 312-908-1594  
Research Interests:  Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and metabolic disorders, population studies, public health, minority health and health disparities.  
 