

A. Oveta Fuller, Ph.D.

A. Oveta Fuller is an associate professor of Microbiology and Immunology in the Medical School and faculty in the STEM Initiative of the African Studies Center (ASC) at the University of Michigan (U-M). She is an adjunct professor at Payne Theological Seminary (PTS) and an ordained itinerant elder and former pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. As a scientist who studies and teaches about viruses (a virologist), Dr. Fuller's laboratory team published research on herpes simplex and influenza viruses. She teaches U-M medical, graduate, dental, and undergraduate students about human virus pathogens. Current implementation science with the *Trusted Messenger* intervention engages networks of religious leaders as gatekeepers in communities of Zambia, South Africa and sites in the USA for effective disease prevention. She teaches intensive courses at PTS "What Effective Clergy Should Know about HIV/AIDS" and "Health Matters: What Effective Leaders Should Know" to divinity graduate students from across the USA. Her study abroad course "Global Impact of Microbes: Fieldwork," immerses U-M participants in global research field sites to learn of effective partnership for advancing health.



Dr. Fuller earned a B.A. (biology) and a Ph.D. (microbiology and immunology) from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Chicago. Her research has been supported with grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. She is a fellow of the Ford Foundation (1986) and the J. William Fulbright (2012) programs. Sabbatical in 2015-16 in sociology at Duke University explored use of religious leader networks in disease prevention. She has received academic and numerous community awards in recognition of contributions. She is an inaugural alumna of the Ansbacher Women in Academic Leadership Program at the U-M Medical School. Dr. Fuller lived most of 2013 in the southern African country of Zambia conducting studies with the *Trusted Messenger* approach that she developed for HIV/AIDS and other diseases. She grew up in North Carolina, the daughter of Herbert R. and Deborah Woods Fuller. She and spouse Dr. Jerry Caldwell live in Dexter, Michigan and are parents of three young adults.

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Web links to Community Engagement scholarship of Professor Oveta Fuller (continued on page 2)

- Trusted Messenger research article: 'We can act different from what we used to': Findings from experiences of religious leader participants in an HIV-prevention intervention in Zambia. (2018) *Global Public Health*. DOI: [10.1080/17441692.2018.1524921](https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2018.1524921)

- <http://www.medicineatmichigan.org/feature/2019/summer/bringing-together-faith-and-science-fight-hiv>
Michigan Medicine feature article on *Trusted Messenger* intervention with HIV/AIDS. (UMHS) Summer 2019

- Content expert scientist. Episodes 5-6, CBS-42 television, Birmingham, Alabama. "Coronavirus House Calls," April 2020. <https://www.cbs42.com/news/health/coronavirus/watch-soon-doctors-answer-your-questions-on-coronavirus-house-calls-april-11-12/>

- "Getting to Zero" (G20) a weekly health column featured from 2012-16 in The Christian Recorder (TRC), the official global publication/blogsite of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. A Jan 10, 2016 column covers the end of active Ebola in Liberia (item #24). G20 contents from July 2012- 2016 include a range of health-related subjects. TCR archived access at: http://tcr-online.blogspot.com/2016_01_10_archive.html

- "AIDS, Fear and Hope" - a new on-line open access U-M course, Feb. 2015:

<http://www.coursera.org/course/aidsfearandhope>

This distance learning course, directed by U-M faculty member Richard Meisler, is intended for a general, nonscientific audience. Begun in February 2015 with initial enrollment of: 863 students from 99 countries; 38% from emerging economies; 6% from Africa, currently, over 2,000 persons enroll each semester.

You Tube videos of interview sessions with Prof. Fuller on the Trusted Messenger Intervention:

1. Working with African Ministers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbcMfs0ARuc>
2. Future Ministers Get Tested <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unoTR9frt6s>
3. Trusted Messengers in Zambia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KILDDIByDOQ>

- African Studies Center and International Institute host forum "Beyond Ebola", Oct. 2014:

Dr. Fuller coordinates interdisciplinary panel on Ebola virus at the University of Michigan

<http://www.michigandaily.com/news/panel-discusses-ebola-local-international-perspectives>

- *Alliances. Fall 2015 or Fall 2016 editions.* Annual publication of the African Studies Center, International Institute at the University of Michigan. A.O. Fuller, Editor. Access at:

http://issuu.com/umichasc/docs/asc_newsletter2015 or https://www.ii.umich.edu/content/dam/asc-assets/asc-documents/asc-publications/Alliance2016_sm.pdf

- Twitter chat hosted by #BlackSTEM and the National Society of Black Physicists on "Ebola Virus Disease—from Basic Science to Clinical Issues" occurred October 2, 2014. Archived and accessible at:

bit.ly/NSTNSchatEbola it discusses factors in the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic.

- Payne Theological Seminary and NAACP partner in HIV/AIDS course for clergypersons, Aug. 2014:

<https://www.naacp.org/latest/payne-theological-seminary-naacp-partner-to-fight-hiv-aids/>

- A Masters of Divinity student at Payne Theological Seminary blogs about impact of a course

"What Effective Clergy Should Know about HIV/AIDS" developed by Professor Oveta Fuller, Nov. 2012:

<http://patch.com/missouri/stcharles/bp--my-hiv-scare>

- Fulbright Scholar Research, Oct. 2012: <http://www.uofmhealth.org/news/archive/201210/university-michigan-researcher-earns-fulbright-scholar-grant>

- Understanding herpes simplex virus (HSV) entry and the search for cellular receptors, July 2005:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/07/050725065240.htm>

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/achilles-heel-of-the-herpes-virus-possibly-found>