

## **Karriem S. Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH**

Dr. Karriem S. Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH is a Community Health Scientist who serves as the Associate Executive Director of the Mile Square Health Center, a group of Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs) affiliated with the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System. He also serves as the Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement for the University of Illinois Cancer Center at UIC (UI Cancer Center) and has a faculty appointment in the UIC School of Public Health as Research Assistant Professor. Dr. Watson has a Doctorate in Health Science (Global Health), a Master of Science in Basic Medical Research, and a Master's in Public Health (Community Health Sciences).

His research is focused on cancer prevention and control and mitigating the impact of social determinants of health on chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. His research and publications are deeply rooted in community engagement and health equity and expanding diversity in clinical trials. He has NIH funding to address breast cancer disparities among African American women and cancer screening among racial/ethnic minorities. He also has funding from the Chicago Department of Public Health to support tobacco cessation and lung cancer screening and funding from Bristol Meyer Squibb Foundation to support colorectal and cervical cancer screening among underserved populations.

He serves as Board Chair of Community Campus Partnerships for Health and serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the UI Health Department of Medicine. In addition to his passion for health equity, Dr. Watson has a passion for mentoring and engaging youth underrepresented in science and biomedical research. His contributions earned him recognition by the Chicago Urban League as an "Innovator in STEM."