

Dr. Tené T. Lewis' primary area of research is in the area of health psychology/psychosocial epidemiology, with an emphasis on racial inequities in cardiovascular disease (CVD). She has a particular interest in understanding how psychological and social factors contribute to the disproportionately high rates of CVD morbidity and mortality observed in African-American women compared to women from other racial/ethnic groups. Her work examines how race and gender-related psychosocial constructs (including Superwoman Schema and Gendered Racial Microaggressions) impact indices of CVD across a range of cohorts featuring midlife women. Tené has been PI of three NIH R01-funded cohorts examining linkages between a range of race-and gender-related psychosocial constructs at the interpersonal level, psychosocial resilience, and CVD risk in midlife African- American women. Her research in this area has been published in several high impact Health Psychology and Public Health journals (e.g. Psychosomatic Medicine, Brain, Behavior and Immunity, Health Psychology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, American Journal of Epidemiology, American Journal of Public Health). Additionally, this work has also been featured in numerous media outlets, including USA Today, the Washington Post and National Public Radio (NPR). Her overall body of work was honored with a 2012 Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Health Psychology and a 2020 Dalmas Taylor Award for Outstanding Mid-Career Contributions to Research on Minority Health and Well Being from the Minority Fellowship Program, both from the American Psychological Association. She is also a fellow of the American Heart Association, the American Psychological Association, the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research and APS. In addition to her scholarship, Tené has devoted considerable time to the training and mentoring of others, as evidenced by her service to the Ford Fellowship Program as a Regional Liaison from 2011-present, and her role as a National Advisory Committee member for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Postdoctoral Fellows Program. She also serves as a mentor to junior faculty for the NHLBI-funded R25-Program to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) and the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)-funded Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality Training Program, focused on the intersection of Mental and Physical Health. In 2018, she (along with her PhD student) received the Gilliam Mentor-Mentee Award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). In 2022, she was awarded a K24 award to focus on mentoring postdoctoral fellows and early career scholars.

Tené has served APS as a member of the Program committee, Membership committee chair, and cochair, chair of the Diversity committee, and President of the society.