Shamiel McFarlane has been working primarily on the relationship between social isolation among older adults and adverse health outcomes, particularly cognitive decline, and the role of primary care physicians in alleviating this condition. Her work centers on older adults in rural Jamaica.

While Jamaica has developed a plan of action on aging, Shamiel believes that its implementation and research focusing on the correlation between social isolation and cognitive decline is lacking.

"A hallmark of an inclusive society is one in which the older population is integrated at all levels of the community, able to impart both knowledge and life experiences with younger generations. It is incumbent upon us to understand the value of socially inclusive relationships with older adults to reduce the deleterious effects of social isolation. In focusing on the impact social isolation and loneliness have on cognitive decline and impairment, I am bringing awareness, among my fellow physicians, to the difficulties this vulnerable population faces. As an Atlantic Fellow at GBHI, it is my intent to establish a telecommunications system in Jamaica that focuses on delivering healthcare to socially isolated older adults. I will also focus on a program that incentivizes physicians to participate in more home visits and community outreach among the isolated older population. In my spare time I love reading, experiencing cultures through food, and getting outdoors as much as possible."

Bio: Shamiel McFarlane received her medical training at the University of the West Indies Jamaica and has recently completed a Masters in Family Medicine at Mcgill University.

Links: [https://www.socialconnectedness.org/sauve-series-event-promotes-belonging-for-older-persons/](https://www.socialconnectedness.org/sauve-series-event-promotes-belonging-for-older-persons/)