



## Research Strategies to Optimize Healthcare for People with Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) from Populations Experiencing Health Disparities



**DAY 1**  
March 18, 2024



**TIME**  
10:00 a.m. ET



**DAY 2**  
March 19, 2024



**TIME**  
10:00 a.m. ET

# Speaker Biographies



**NIH**

National Institute  
on Minority Health  
and Health Disparities

## Michele Allen, M.D., M.S.



Dr. Allen is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Director of the Program in Health Disparities Research, and Endowed Chair of Health Equity Research at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She currently is MPI of the NIMHD P50 Center for Chronic Disease Reduction and Equity Promotion Across Minnesota (C2DREAM), and co-directs the community engagement and collaboration core of the University of Minnesota Clinical Translational Science Institute. Dr. Allen is a leader in the science of participatory research and in increasing capacity on both academic and community sides for research collaboration that addresses health inequities. Dr. Allen's research focuses on community-based participatory approaches to developing and implementing health promotion, and tobacco and other substance use prevention interventions for BIPOC adolescents including those from immigrant communities. As MPI on a NCI-funded T32 on Cancer Health Disparities, and a R25 designed to support the academic persistence of high school and undergraduate students underrepresented in science, Dr. Allen is committed to enhancing the diversity of the research and clinical workforce. Dr. Allen completed medical school at the University of Minnesota, and a Master's

Degree in sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Allen is a clinician at the Community University Health Care Center, an FQHC in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## Shilpa H. Amin, M.D., M.BSc., M.J., FAFAP



Dr. Shilpa H. Amin is a program official in the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research at NIMHD physician. She supports the extramural research program involving epidemiologic studies and clinical trials in health care quality, patient safety, care coordination, health communications, and health care service delivery.

Dr. Amin's clinical focus areas are in women's health, preventive care, care coordination, and medical issues across the lifespan, with an interest in Asian-American populations of Indian origin. More specifically, she is interested in care coordination (principles of patient safety, risk management, and quality assurance interventions), sex as a biological variable, gender-based medicine and sex differences, the intersection of menopause and multiple chronic conditions, culturally competent palliative care in aging populations, cardiovascular disease, and innovative models of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)-focused care (and its diffusion into health care). Trained in integrative care, Dr. Amin seeks new ways to integrate integrative and complementary medicine interventions to support women's resiliency and quality of life.

Prior to joining NIMHD, Dr. Amin has held a range of clinical, administrative leadership, and advisory work experiences and roles in various settings, including private family medicine practice, mobile health, virtual primary care/telemedicine, rural, retail health, urgent care, long-term care/hospice, sub-acute rehabilitation, assisted living, home care, community and school health, integrated health systems, and payor organizations. She has worked as a research physician for the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health and as a medical officer for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Effective Health Care Program for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) And has served on grant peer review panels for the Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute.

At The George Washington University (GW), Dr. Amin earned her bachelor's degree in biology with dual minors in sociology and religion and her medical doctorate from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She completed a family medicine residency at GW Holy Cross Hospital Health Center, followed by a geriatrics fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center - St. Margaret. At the Mayo Clinic, she earned a master's degree in biomedical sciences, focusing on clinical research, and completed the Women's Health Fellowship. She completed a certification in integrative medicine at the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine. More recently, Dr. Amin completed a Master of Jurisprudence degree with a certificate in health care compliance at Loyola University, Chicago. She is dual board-certified in family medicine and geriatrics, with a certificate of added qualifications in geriatrics, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

In 2023, Dr. Amin received the NIH Director's Award for her work promoting DEIA; in 2022, she received an NIH NHLBI Director's award for her contributions to the NHLBI Sex/Gender-Specific COVID-19 Outcomes and Management workshop; in 2012, she received the AHRQ Director's Award for Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice.

## Larissa Avilés-Santa, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Larissa Avilés-Santa is the director of the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research at National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health. In this capacity, she leads a multi-disciplinary team, and has led and/or supported the development of over 19 new scientific initiatives encompassing a wide range of topics on health disparities related to chronic conditions, health services, health systems and health policy.

Prior to joining NIMHD, she worked at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute as the project director (2006-2019) for the landmark Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos, the most comprehensive study on Hispanic/Latino health in the United States to date. In 2015, she founded the NIH Hispanic Health Research Scientific Interest Group.

In 2017, Dr. Avilés-Santa was the field coordinator of the post-hurricanes Irma and María recovery of the health and social services in Puerto Rico during the first six and a half months of work coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Avilés-Santa earned her medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, and completed a residency in internal medicine at the University Hospital in San Juan, and a fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She also earned a Master's degree at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

## Crystal L. Barksdale, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Crystal L. Barksdale is a program director in the Division of Community Health and Population Science at NIMHD, where she manages a diverse research portfolio related to community-, social-, and structural-level determinants and interventions.

Prior to joining NIMHD, Dr. Barksdale was the Acting Deputy Director and Chief of the Minority Mental Health Research Program in the National Institute of Mental Health, Office for Disparities Research and Workforce Diversity.

She has previously worked in federal and academic positions providing program evaluation leadership and subject matter expertise on children's mental health projects focused on depression and suicide, disparities in child-serving systems, and culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions for at-risk youth and their families.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Barksdale received her doctorate in clinical psychology from George Washington University, her master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and her bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## Arlene S. Bierman, M.D., M.S.



Arlene S. Bierman, M.D., M.S., is Chief Strategy Officer of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ). Previously she was director of AHRQ's Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement (CEPI) consisting of five divisions the Evidence-Based Practice Center Program; the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Program; Digital Healthcare Research; Practice Improvement; Healthcare Delivery and Systems Research; and the National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research. Dr. Bierman is a general internist, geriatrician, and health services researcher whose work has focused on improving access, quality, and outcomes of health care for older adults with chronic illness in disadvantaged populations and has published widely in these areas. Dr. Bierman has also developed strategies for using performance measurement as a tool for knowledge translation, as well as conducted research to increase policymakers' uptake of evidence. As tenured professor she held appointments Health Policy, Evaluation, and Management; Public Health; and Medicine; and Nursing at the University of Toronto, where she was the inaugural holder of the Ontario Women's Health Council Chair in Women's Health and a senior scientist in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital. She was principal investigator for the Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report Card (POWER) study, which provided actionable data to help policymakers and health care providers improve health and reduce health inequities in Ontario. Dr. Bierman has served on many advisory committees including the Geriatric Measurement Advisory Panel of the National

Committee for Quality Assurance, the board of Health Quality Ontario, and the Institutional Advisory Board of the CIHR Institute for Health Services and Policy Research. She received her MD degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill where she was a Morehead Fellow. She completed fellowships in Outcomes Research at Dartmouth Medical School, and Community and Preventive Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and also served as an Atlantic Philanthropies Health and Aging Policy Fellow/American Political Science Foundation Congressional Fellow.

## Jessica Y. Breland, Ph.D.



Jessica Breland, MS, PhD is a licensed psychologist and a Core Investigator at the Center for Innovation to Implementation in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor (affiliated) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Breland received her PhD in psychology from Rutgers and completed her clinical internship at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX.

Her work focuses on using quantitative and qualitative methods to: 1) identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health; 2) assess outcomes related to the implementation of evidenced-based treatments, especially through controlled trials in novel settings (e.g., primary care) or with novel methods (e.g., apps); and 3) enhance care for patients with chronic conditions, such as diabetes.

## Crystal Cené, M.D., M.P.H., FAHA



Chief Administrative Officer for Health Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion | UCSD Health  
 Associate Chief Medical Officer for Health Equity | UCSD Health  
 Professor of Clinical Medicine | UCSD School of Medicine

Dr. Cené is the Chief Administrative Officer for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the associate Chief Medical Officer for Health Equity at University of California San Diego Health. In this dual, complementary role, she's focused on creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive environment for students, trainees, faculty, staff and patients. She is also a Professor of Clinical Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine in the Department of Medicine (Division of General Medicine).

Dr. Cené is responsible for the vision, leadership, and strategic direction of UC San Diego Health's justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. She partners closely with leaders within the organization to ensure anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive strategies, programs and policies are implemented across the health system. She brings extensive leadership, research, teaching, and clinical experience to her position.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Cené was a tenured associate professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and the System Executive Director for Health Equity at UNC Health. In her health system role, Dr. Cené led efforts across UNC Health to plan, implement, and evaluate evidence-based strategies and interventions to address the structures, policies, and practices that perpetuate health inequities and impede health equity. She was also the Deputy Director of Research and the Director of the Program in Health Disparities Research (PriHD) at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.

Dr. Cené is an accomplished, nationally, and internationally recognized health services and health equity researcher. Her work has focused on the contribution of social and contextual factors-such as social networks and social support-to health and health inequities. Her observational and intervention research has been conducted in populations with or at risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD), including older women. Trained in implementation science, her research focuses on implementing and evaluating interventions to enhance patient- and family-centered care and interventions to reduce inequities in care and outcomes by race and socio-economic status. Her research draws on social science theories and methods (e.g., social network analysis) and uses stakeholder engagement as both an object of study and a methodological tool. She is active in and has held leadership roles in national and international organizations, including the American Heart Association, the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Women's Health Initiative. She has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles, including in high-impact journals. She has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on research project grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and other state and local funders.

Dr. Cené graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a BA in Psychology. She received her MD from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and she completed her internship and primary care residency in Internal Medicine at Yale University. She completed a 3-year General Internal Medicine research fellowship and her Master's Degree in Public Health in cardiovascular epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University.

## Andrea Cherrington, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Andrea Cherrington is a primary care physician trained in health services research and community-based participatory research methods. For the past 20 years, her research has focused on developing, implementing, and evaluating primary care and community-based interventions to promote cardiometabolic disease prevention and management in underserved communities, particularly in low-income communities. She is currently involved in multiple implementation projects that seek to create linkages between community-based interventions and health care facilities through multi-component, technology-assisted support systems for both diabetes and hypertension. Dr. Cherrington has significant experience in the use of mixed methods, including qualitative methods to elicit stakeholder input during intervention development and evaluation. Currently, she serves as the PI for two large HTN intervention trials, one focused at the individual level and the other focused at the clinic level. She also

serves as the contact PI for the Deep South Center to Reduce Disparities in Chronic Disease, a regional initiative working to improve cardiometabolic outcomes in the south. Dr. Cherrington has collaborated with Dr. Mehta as a co-investigator on multiple studies, including his ongoing FREEDOM trial. She has a demonstrated record of successful clinic recruitment and productive research projects in primary care and diabetes research.

## Marshall Chin, M.D., M.P.H.



Marshall H. Chin, M.D., M.P.H., Richard Parrillo Family Distinguished Service Professor of Healthcare Ethics at the University of Chicago, is a practicing general internist and health services researcher who has dedicated his career to advancing health equity through interventions at individual, organizational, community, and policy levels. Through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Advancing Health Equity: Leading Care, Payment, and Systems Transformation program, Dr. Chin collaborates with teams of state Medicaid agencies, Medicaid managed care organizations, frontline healthcare delivery organizations, and community-based organizations to implement payment reforms to support and incentivize care transformations that advance health equity within an anti-racist framework. He also co-chairs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network Health Equity Advisory Team.

Dr. Chin evaluates the value of the federally qualified health center program, improves diabetes outcomes in Chicago's South Side through healthcare and community interventions, and improves shared decision making among clinicians and LGBTQ persons of color. He also applies ethical principles to reforms to advance health equity, discussions about a culture of equity, and what it means for health professionals to care and advocate for their patients. Dr. Chin uses improv and standup comedy, storytelling, and theater to improve training of students in caring for diverse patients and engaging in constructive discussions around systemic racism and social privilege.

Dr. Chin is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine, and he completed residency and fellowship training in general internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He has received mentoring awards from the Society of General Internal Medicine and University of Chicago. He is a former President of the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Dr. Chin was a member of the National Advisory Council for NIMHD and the Health Disparities and Health Equity Working Group of the NIDDK. He was recently the Lead Subject Matter Expert advising AHRQ as it updated its health equity research agenda, and has advised PCORI on its Disparities Portfolio. Dr. Chin was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017, and is on the Steering Committee for the NAM paper series on structural racism and health and is a co-author of the Asian American paper and cross-cutting solutions paper.

## Rada K. Dagher, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Rada Dagher is a scientific program director at NIMHD. She manages a diverse portfolio of research, capacity building, and training grants, and is a project scientist on several cooperative agreement awards. Dr. Dagher is the program director for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Fellowships. In addition, she represents NIMHD on multiple NIH-wide committees, including National Research Mentoring Network/Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (NRMN/BUILD) and Interagency Modeling and Analysis Group (IMAG).

Prior to joining NIMHD, Dr. Dagher worked in academia, where she secured grant funding and conducted research in maternal and child health, mental health, occupational health, and health disparities. She also taught Health Policy and Management and Health Services Research Methods graduate courses. Her research focused on the risk and protective factors associated with postpartum depression and the impact of this disorder on health services use.

Her expertise also includes the impact of employment policies and psychosocial work organization on workers' mental and physical health, and gender and racial/ethnic disparities in mental health and mental health services.

Dr. Dagher's education in public health began at the American University of Beirut, where she received both her Bachelor of Science in environmental health and Master of Public Health degrees. She then obtained a Ph.D. in health services research, policy, and administration from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Dagher has earned numerous accolades throughout her career, including being inducted in the Delta Omega Honorary Society of Public Health and being selected for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. She also received the American Public Health Association's Young Professional Award for her contributions and leadership in science, program, and policy relating to the health of women, children, and families. Her doctoral advisee received the 2016 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award from AcademyHealth.

## Michelle Doose, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Michelle Doose, PhD, MPH, serves as a program director in the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Office of Cancer Survivorship and holds a secondary appointment in the Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch of the Behavioral Research Program at NCI. As a program director, Dr. Doose is responsible for advancing cancer survivorship research and supporting programs and initiatives to promote health equity and improve the health of populations that experience cancer disparities. She is particularly interested in advancing the science of care coordination within and across healthcare teams and health system boundaries to improve health outcomes and quality of care for cancer survivors with multiple chronic conditions. Dr. Doose has applied epidemiological methods to study the composition and complexity of multidisciplinary care teams, team effectiveness, and care fragmentation from a health system perspective using primary and secondary data sources, including surveys, interviews, medical records, claims data, and cancer registries.

## Bruce Finke, M.D.



Dr. Bruce Finke is a family physician and geriatrician serving as Elder Health Consultant in the Indian Health Service (IHS) and supporting the newly established IHS Alzheimer's Grant Program. From 1991-2003, as a primary care physician at the Zuni IHS hospital, he worked with Zuni Tribal programs in the development of clinical and community-based elder services. Since 1998, Dr. Finke has provided leadership in program and policy development in geriatrics and palliative care in the IHS and engaged with Tribes in improvement in geriatric clinical care and the development of long term services and supports. He co-led the IHS primary care transformation initiative, Improving Patient Care, and served in a number of leadership roles in the Nashville Area of the IHS. Since 2011 Dr. Finke's time has been shared with the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI) as a Senior Advisor in the Learning and Diffusion Group, supporting the development of new payment and care models through design of learning systems to foster innovation, accelerate performance, and generate insight care delivery. Dr. Finke remains clinically active and represents the IHS on the HHS Alzheimer's Advisory Council for Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services.

## Stephanie L. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.



Dr. Stephanie L. Fitzpatrick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine within the Zucker School of Medicine and in the Institute of Health System Science within the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research at Northwell Health. She is a clinical health psychologist, behavioral medicine researcher and implementation scientist with more than a decade of experience developing, implementing and evaluating behavioral interventions for chronic disease prevention and management in clinical and community-based settings. She has been principal or co-investigator on 13 federally and foundation funded grants and has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Fitzpatrick is the Interim Director and Director of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Implementation for the American Diabetes Association-recognized DECIDE Self-management Program. She has conducted studies, including randomized clinical trials and natural experiments, to determine the effectiveness of behavioral interventions on weight management, blood pressure and diabetes-related outcomes among racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse adult patient populations. In addition, she has conducted studies and program evaluations examining the integration of social care in healthcare settings, as well as the impact of health care and community-based organization partnerships on patient- and community-level outcomes. Dr. Fitzpatrick's current research is focused on implementing combined behavioral and social health interventions in clinical and community-based settings. She is Associate Editor for Diabetes Care, President-Elect of the Society for

Health Psychology (APA Division 38), Society of Behavioral Medicine Fellow, and serves as a member of the Oregon Health Authority's Metrics and Scoring Committee.

## Stuart A. Gansky, Dr.P.H.



Stuart A. Gansky is Professor and Lee Hysan Chair of Oral Epidemiology in the Division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health, as well as Associate Dean for Research of School of Dentistry at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He earned his DrPH degree in biostatistics at the (Gillings) School of (Global) Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and joined UCSF in 1996. He directs the UCSF Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health (known as CAN DO) and co-directs the NIMHD-funded Research Coordinating Center to Reduce Disparities in Multiple Chronic Diseases, part of the Health Equity Action Network (HEAN). Previously he directed NIDCR-funded cores and data coordinating centers in oral health disparities research consortia. Dr. Gansky's research has focused on oral health disparities studies, randomized prevention trials, tobacco initiation prevention and cessation research, and methodological issues related to clinical and translational research. His work, along with CAN DO team members, conceptualized a multi-level framework and researched factors related to - and ways to reduce - children's dental disease. He has published more than 150 papers and has been an active mentor for predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees as well as early stage career faculty, particularly people working in health disparities research and/or from groups historically under-represented in health research. He received the 2017 UCSF School of Dentistry Faculty Research Lecturer award as well as campuswide awards including a 2013 UCSF Great Manager award and the 2015 UCSF Academic Senate Mentoring Award for a senior faculty member.

## K. Allen Greiner, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. K. Allen Greiner, MD, MPH is the Nason Family Endowed Chair and Vice Chair for Research and Community in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He has extensive experience conducting clinical and community-based research on a number of disease topics in both urban and rural communities. He has directed multiple large clinical studies, specifically looking at interventions for improving cancer screening and advancing utilization of preventive services. He has served as a Co-Principal Investigator on multiple NIH-funded studies, most recently on a newly funded Heartland Consortium All of Us award and a recently completed RadX-Up grant intended to advance COVID-19 testing for vulnerable populations across Kansas. This two-year project involved partnerships with 5 rural and 5 urban county health departments across Kansas. Previously, he served as PI on a Community Networks Program Center (U54) grant from NCI (completed in 2017). This program targeted rural dwelling Latino and American Indian populations and required heavy involvement in statewide cancer control activities. These grants, along with NIH-funded R01s and supplements he has received to conduct work with rural and urban safety net clinic partners, helps as he leads the community engagement activities for the University of Kansas Clinical

and Translational Science Institute grant - Frontiers – where he directs the Community and Collaboration Core. He has established wide-ranging relationships and access to infrastructure via the KUMC NCI-funded Comprehensive Cancer Center to further translational research and promote health equity for under-resourced communities. Dr. Greiner also has experience providing clinical and public health service to many communities across Kansas and the broader region. He has served as the County Health Officer for the Kansas City, KS, Wyandotte County Public Health Department since 2004. His public health and community engagement roles expanded significantly with the COVID-19 pandemic and he helped found the Wyandotte County Health Equity Taskforce in March of 2020. This community led taskforce helped inform COVID response across urban Kansas City and served as a model in the Kansas RADx-Up grant and a subsequent CDC-funded COPE grant disseminating the model to 20 counties. Since 2002, I has served as a Co-founder and Medical Director of the Kansas Patients and Providers Engaged in Prevention Research (KPPEPR) practice-based research network. This network of mostly rural primary care practices has hosted multiple NIH-funded R01 studies and produced numerous publications. The network recently completed a large PCORI funded pragmatic trial testing weight loss strategies for obese adults in 20 practices (Re-Power) and is currently hosting an NCI-funded R01 trial to improve cancer survivorship care (Kansurive, Co-PIs Greiner and Klemp).

## Cary P. Gross, M.D.



Dr. Cary Gross is a Professor of Medicine and Public Health, and Director of the National Clinician Scholars Program at Yale University. Dr. Gross completed his residency in Internal Medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and served as chief medical resident at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center the following year. His research addresses comparative effectiveness, quality, and health equity, with a focus on equitable access to cancer care. He aims to use real-world research to generate knowledge that will inform change in clinical care and health policy. He also has a long-standing interest in research ethics and integrity, and is a founding Director of Yale's Cancer Outcomes Public Policy and Effectiveness Research Center (COPPER), and an Associate Editor at JAMA Internal Medicine.

## John Heintzman, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. John Heintzman is a board-certified family physician, health equity researcher, and practicing community health center clinician. He received his MD from Temple University in 2002 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and completed his residency in Family Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) in 2005. His first job was in an Oregon community health center, which prompted a career of asking questions about how to deliver quality and equitable care to his Latino patients, and joining others asking those same questions. He received his Masters in Public Health from Portland State University in 2011 and Masters in Clinical research from OHSU in 2017. He directed the OHSU Family Medicine Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Family Medicine from 2017-2020. He has published over 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He started his research career formally with a Career Development Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2012 on delivering preventive services to Latino immigrants in Oregon community health centers, and this portfolio has continued as he has partnered with Dr. Miguel Marino on multiple NIH-funded projects in Latino primary care equity in the health

center setting. He has served as an Affiliate Investigator and in the scientific leadership at OCHIN, Inc., a non-profit health IT and equity organization serving community health centers and Latino patients nationwide. He is currently a dual-PI of the ADVANCE Clinical Research Network and co-chair of the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Network Research Committee. He currently co-directs the PRIMER (Primary Care Equity in Latinos) Center with Dr. Marino.

## Elbert S. Huang, M.D., M.P.H., FACP

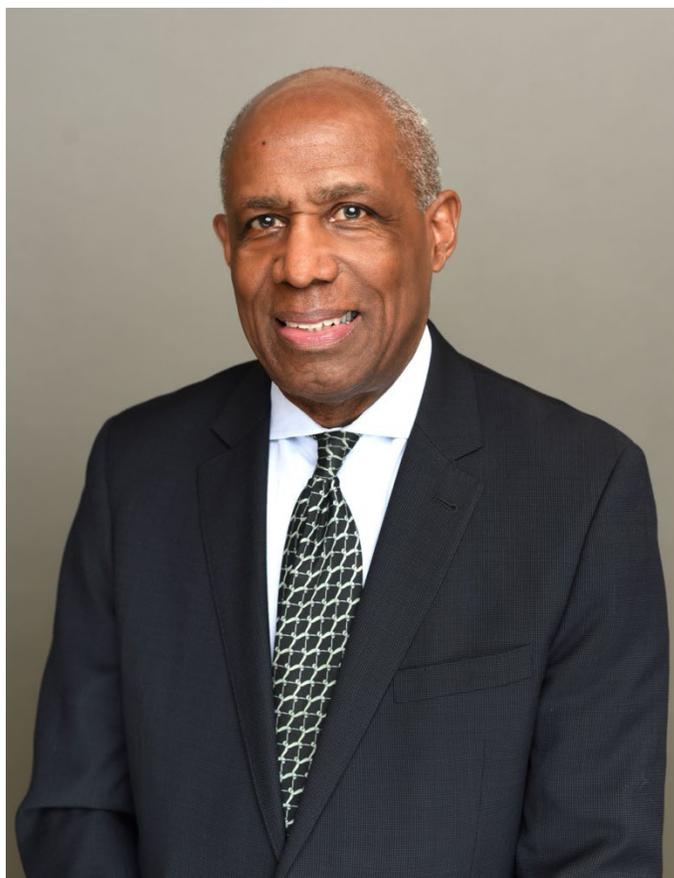


Dr. Elbert Huang is Professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Director of the Center for Chronic Disease Research and Policy at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Huang is a practicing primary care doctor who studies clinical and health care policy issues at the intersection of diabetes, aging, and health economics. He is an international leader in diabetes whose pioneering research has transformed care for older people and influenced health policies addressing the rising costs of diabetes care. Using techniques from health economics, simulation modeling, and analysis of real-world data, he has characterized the heterogeneity of the older diabetes population, the modern natural history of disease, and illustrated the impact of patient health status on the benefits of glycemic control.

Dr. Huang also co-directs the Chicago Chronic Condition Equity Network (C3EN) with Dr. Elizabeth Lynch of Rush University. The overall goal of the C3EN is address disparities in multiple chronic conditions by strengthening and building collaborations across community-based organizations, practice networks, and academic researchers, by promoting a comprehensive approach to the prevention and management of multiple chronic conditions that accounts for mental health, functional health and social life, and by supporting interventions that actively seek to cross boundaries of disease-specific management, professional training, community and practice.

## Mark S. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.



Mark S. Johnson, MD MPH is Professor and Chair of the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Howard University. He has previously been the Dean of the College of Medicine at Howard University. He is a graduate of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where he earned a degree in Black Literature. He went to medical school at UMD (now Rutgers)-New Jersey Medical School (NJMS). He did his residency training at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to moving to Washington DC, he was Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at NJMS.

Dr. Johnson has been the President of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine. He was a member of the United States Preventive Services Task Force, the NJ Task Force for the Prevention of Obesity and the Committee on Law and Justice of the National Academy of Sciences. He has been a reviewer for NIH, HRSA, PCORI and AHRQ. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine. He is a member of the Board on Health Care Services the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Health Information Technology Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT). He is the PI of the Howard University Clinical Research Network for Health Equity. His research interests include obesity, health disparities, and family violence.

## Nancy L. Jones, Ph.D., M.A.



Dr. Nancy Jones' research interests include the ethical, legal, and social ramifications that research, medicine, and healthcare have on underserved populations. Examples include making explicit underlying norms, values, and philosophies to improve cultural congruence and lessen group harms. Another interest is to support research to improve the ability of theoretical constructs and conceptual models to explain the causes of health disparities.

Dr. Jones' background spans basic and translational biomedical research; medical ethics; legal and social implications of research, healthcare, and policy; and design of curricula and scientific programs. She developed a code of ethics for life sciences and a curriculum to teach ethics and professionalism for biomedical science and engineering graduate students. Dr. Jones lectures on the ethics of health disparities and serves as an adjunct professor of bioethics at Trinity International University.

Dr. Jones graduated with a B.S. in biochemistry in 1981 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1987 before receiving an M.A. in bioethics from Trinity International University in 2003. Jones joined NIMHD in 2012 and served as co-chair on the Etiology of Health Disparities for the Science Visioning as well as several trans-NIH committees on bioethics.

## Marleen Kunneman, Ph.D.



Dr. Marleen Kunneman is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Leiden University Medical Center (NL) and Mayo Clinic (US). She trained as a Clinical Linguist and obtained her PhD in Medical Decision Making. She is a researcher and university teacher with a focus on (how to improve) patient-clinician communication and collaboration to design care plans that fit for each person. She has a special interest in the diverse approaches to collaboration and in technical vs humanistic approaches to shared decision making. She is experienced in several quantitative and qualitative research methods, including e.g. the use of video-observations of clinical encounters, patient narratives and photovoice.

Marleen founded and leads the international and interdisciplinary 'Making care fit Collaborative' and initiated the 'Making care fit Manifesto'. Her work is funded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and two personal career awards by the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) and the Dutch Diabetes Foundation. In addition, Marleen is Associate Editor at BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine, where she collaborates with patients to share their care experiences in the 'Patient Voice' section.

### Links to academic profiles:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marleenkunneman/>
- <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5334-1085>

## Matthew L. Maciejewski, Ph.D.



Matt Maciejewski, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences and Core Faculty in the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy. He is also a Senior Research Career Scientist in the Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Transformation at the Durham VA Medical Center. Matt holds Adjunct Professor appointments in the Schools of Public Health and Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

With funding from AHRQ, he led projects to understand outcomes of fragmented medication management of Medicaid, Medicare and VA enrollees with multiple chronic conditions. With NIA funding, he collaborated on the OPTIMIZE trial that sought to deprescribe medications for older adults with dementia or cognitive impairment and other chronic conditions. Over the past 20 years, he has also led studies funded by VA HSR&D, NIDDK and NIDA to understand the long-term clinical and economic outcomes of bariatric surgery. Matt is also interested in methods for addressing unobserved confounding in quasi-experimental studies. He evaluated the first-ever population-based implementation of value-based insurance design and led the first-ever linkage of lab results and Medicare FFS claims. He has published over 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals such as JAMA,

JAMA Internal Medicine, JAMA Surgery, Annals of Internal Medicine, Health Economics, and Health Services Research. He got his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1998.

## Carol M. Mangione, M.D., M.S.P.H.



Carol M. Mangione, M.D., M.S.P.H. is the Division Chief of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research and Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Public Health. She holds the Barbara A. Levey, MD, and Gerald S. Levey, MD, endowed chair in medicine and serves as Executive Vice Chair for Health Equity and Health Services Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, co-director of the UCLA Resource Center for Minority Aging Research/Center for Health Improvement of Minority Elderly, and director of the workforce development program for UCLA Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI). Her research focuses on the influence of health insurance benefit design and health system interventions on diabetes outcomes, diabetes prevention, and health disparities. In addition to authoring over 385 peer-reviewed articles, Dr. Mangione is practicing primary care physician in the UCLA Faculty Practice Group, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and is the past Chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

## Vanessa Marshall, Ph.D.



Dr. Vanessa Marshall is a Social Behavioral Scientist Administrator (Program Officer) in the Division of Community Health and Population Science at NIMHD. She manages and conducts research to advance public health prevention science. Her research focuses on improving health outcomes and promoting research to understand and address the multilevel determinants of factors that play a role in health disparities. She provides expertise in key research areas including minority health, health disparities, health services research, community engaged research, clinical trials, public health, quality improvement, implementation, dissemination and evaluation. She has fostered innovative collaborations and partnerships to promote and support evidence-based research to inform clinical practice and policy. Dr. Marshall's experiences have allowed her to work at local, regional, national and international levels to investigate differences in health status and risk factors among populations to address health disparities.

Prior to joining NIMHD, she worked at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, and Howard University School of Medicine. Dr. Marshall has held federal, academic, clinical instructor, research scientist, and training coordinator positions providing leadership and subject matter expertise. She has organized and conducted numerous public health initiatives designed to promote and advance prevention including those that engage patients through various screening programs and improve access to care. She has conducted research and evaluation projects across the life span of various populations and in the fields of infectious diseases and chronic diseases. She has served and volunteered on many community advisory boards, committees, professional organizations, and agencies. Dr. Marshall received her Ph.D. in public health from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

## David Meltzer, M.D., Ph.D.



David Meltzer, MD, PhD, is Chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine, Director of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences and the UChicago Urban Health Lab, and Chair of the Committee on Clinical and Translational Science at The University of Chicago, where he is The Fanny L. Pritzker Professor in the Department of Medicine, the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and the Department of Economics. Meltzer's research explores problems in health economics and public policy with a focus on the theoretical foundations of medical cost-effectiveness analysis and the cost and quality of hospital care. He currently leads CMMI and PCORI-funded studies of the effects of improved continuity in the doctor-patient relationship between the inpatient and outpatient setting on the costs and outcomes of care for frequently hospitalized Medicare patients. He helped lead the CTSA-funded Chicago Learning Effectiveness Advancement Research Network (Chicago LEARN) and the PCORI-funded Chicago Area Patient Centered Outcomes Research Network (CAPriCORN) and has a long history of leading research training grants supporting trainees ranging from high-school students through junior faculty. Meltzer completed his MD and PhD in economics at the University of Chicago and his residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. His awards include the Garfield Award from Research America, the AHRQ Eisenberg Excellence in Mentoring Award, and the AAMC Learning Healthcare System Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

## April F. Mohanty, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Mohanty is an epidemiologist and health services researcher. Her research interests include addressing health and healthcare inequities, primarily in cardiometabolic and other chronic health conditions by applying her expertise in epidemiology and training in biomedical informatics and implementation science methods. Her primary research position is at the Salt Lake City VA-Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center as a Research Health Scientist. Dr. Mohanty recently completed a VA Career Development Award and currently leads as PI or corresponding PI two VA Investigator Initiated Research (R01 level) grants. She also has been successfully funded by industry, NIH, and the FDA-Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. Her current VA research spans identifying and addressing health inequities in blood pressure control, in defining and treating acute and long COVID-19, and evaluating and improving care for military environmental exposures. Dr. Mohanty previously taught the University of Utah epidemiology introductory course and serves as a mentor for several early-stage investigators. Since 2020, she has served as Co-Director of the Utah Health Equity Leadership and Mentoring Program (U-HELM). In 2022, Dr. Mohanty was appointed as inaugural Vice Chair for Inclusion in the Department of Internal Medicine for the University of Utah (UU) Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine. She is also a Research Assistant Professor in the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Mohanty is engaged in inclusion efforts through the UU, professional societies, including the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Mohanty completed the 2023 Healthcare Executive Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program of the AAMC.

## Priscah Mujuru, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., RN, COHN-S



Dr. Priscah Mujuru manages a diverse research portfolio that includes clinical trials and community-based participatory research involving populations across the lifespan. Her interests include health disparities in women and child health; cognitive function and mobility in older adults; adherence to treatments and medication; and occupational and environmental health concerns. Dr. Mujuru is also interested in capacity building and training projects.

Prior to joining the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Dr. Mujuru was a scientific review administrator at the Center for Scientific Review and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development from 2010 to 2017, where she managed large and varied scientific review panels. Before 2010, Dr. Mujuru spent more than 17 years at West Virginia University, where she conducted clinical and community-based research addressing health disparities in asthma, obesity, and occupational and environmental exposures in rural populations. She also led projects in a biomedical pipeline program that introduced high school students from underserved and disadvantaged communities to health sciences careers. Internationally, Dr. Mujuru has guided projects that evaluated public health programs for health professionals and medical students in Africa. Dr. Mujuru collaborated on many projects with the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics to develop physical assessment tools for occupational health nurses.

Dr. Mujuru earned a Dr.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.P.H in environmental health from Boston University, a B.S. in occupational hygiene from London South Bank University, and a B.S.N. from West Virginia University. She also earned a State Registered Nurse (SRN) and State Certified Midwifery (SCM) in England. She is a board-certified occupational health nurse specialist (COHN-S).

## Denalee M. O'Malley, Ph.D., M.S.W.



Denalee M. O'Malley, Ph.D., M.S.W., is an Assistant Professor in the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), Department of Family Medicine and Community Health's Research Division and an Associate Member of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. She is an oncology social worker with 10 years of clinical and 15 years of research administration and program development experience. Dr. O'Malley's research uses implementation science methodologies to optimize cancer care delivery and promote health equity in priority populations managing chronic illness(es). She is the principal investigator of an NCI-funded study, "Optimizing Colorectal Cancer Screening among Patients with Diabetes in Safety-net Primary Care Settings: Targeting Implementation Approaches" (K99 CA256043/R00CA256043). She recently completed the Institute for Implementation Science Scholars Program at Washington University in Saint Louis. Dr. O'Malley has participated in the design and delivery of individual and small group interventions (e.g., eHealth, small group facilitation, and psychosocial care) across several primary care and cancer survivorship focused research projects. She has collaborated on several NIH-funded (e.g., NCI, NIDA, NHLBI) implementation science projects to assess and intervene at multiple levels (i.e., patient, health care teams, and clinic systems) to translate evidence-based practices into real-world care delivery settings.

## Yewande A. Oladeinde, Ph.D.



Dr. Yewande Oladeinde is a Program Director at the National Institute of Health in the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research. Her research focuses on maternal and child health, patient and family engagement in research, and the role of culture in shaping people's perceptions of health. She has spent much of her academic career developing knowledge that delves deep into understanding human sexuality from a socio-cultural perspective; specifically, as they relate to the health and well-being of populations experiencing health disparities.

Prior to joining NIH, she worked at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration. Her research training has broadened her perspective on understanding patient-centered health-seeking behaviors from prevention to treatment, and this allows her to bring an integrated, interdisciplinary perspective to her work. Her work has been published in several academic journals and presented at national conferences.

Dr. Oladeinde earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from East Stroudsburg University, her Masters and PhD in Biobehavioral Health from Pennsylvania State University and completed a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Health Services Research post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

## Mukoso N. Ozieh, M.D., M.S.C.R.



Dr. Mukoso N. Ozieh MD MSCR is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and the Center for Advancing Population Science at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. She completed her internal medicine residency training at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) degree at the Medical University of South Carolina during her nephrology fellowship under a T32 grant. Her research is focused on the interplay of social risk factors, lifestyle, and genetic risk factors in African American Adults with chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes. She is funded by the National Institutes of Health – National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. She has served as a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and is currently a member of the Scientific Merit Review Board Subcommittee on Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health Behavioral, Social and Cultural Determinants of Health and Care for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service (HSRD). She is the Co-Chair for the CTSI KL2 Program Advisory Committee at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

## Lynne S. Padgett, Ph.D., FAPOS



Dr. Lynne Padgett is a program director in the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research at NIMHD and a licensed psychologist. Her research interests include delivery of care in palliative and end-of-life care, aging and older adults including cognitive impairment and maintaining independence, caregiving, disparities in cancer survivorship, rehabilitation and care delivery, and decision-making by patients, clinicians, and health care systems.

Previously, Dr. Padgett was a health science officer for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Office of Health Services Research & Development and a program director in the National Cancer Institute Office of Cancer Survivorship and the Basic, Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Clinically, she has worked as a health and rehabilitation psychologist, primarily in oncology and hospital medicine with the VA Washington DC Healthcare System, and Kaiser Permanente - Georgia.

Dr. Padgett earned her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Memphis with special emphasis in behavioral medicine and research design and statistics. She completed postdoctoral training in rehabilitation psychology at Emory University School of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

## Manali I. Patel, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., FASCO



Dr. Manali Patel is an Associate Professor at Stanford in the Division of Oncology and a Staff Oncologist at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. She is a health services researcher and directs a research program, Partnerships to Advance Cancer Care, that focuses on improving equitable delivery of value-based cancer care. She uses principles of community-based participatory research in her work and is the principal investigator of multiple externally funded awards such as the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine, the Patient Centered outcomes Research Institute, and the National Institutes of Health. She is the Director and Founder of a Veteran Patient-Centered Care Program for the Veterans Affairs National Oncology Program focused on improving supportive cancer care for Veterans across the United States. Dr. Patel serves on several national committees. She was the past chair of the American Society of Clinical Oncology Health Equity Committee, serves on the American Society of Clinical Oncology Government Relations Committee, is a Cancer.Net Associate Editor for Health Equity, and the Editor-Elect for the State of Cancer Care in America. She earned her MD and Masters in Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, followed by Internal Medicine Residency, Hematology and Oncology Fellowship and several research fellowships in addition to obtaining a Masters in Health Services Research at Stanford University School of Medicine.

## Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.



Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable is Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He earned his B.A. in chemistry in 1974 and M.D. in 1978 from the University of Miami. He then completed his primary care internal medicine residency and a research fellowship in general internal medicine at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) before joining the faculty as an assistant professor in 1983. Dr. Pérez-Stable practiced primary care internal medicine for 37 years at UCSF. His research interests have centered on improving the health of individuals from racial and ethnic minority communities through effective prevention interventions, understanding underlying causes of health disparities, and advancing patient-centered care for underserved populations. Recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research, he spent 32 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America. Dr. Pérez-Stable has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers.

## Laura C. Pinheiro, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Laura C. Pinheiro, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. She also has a secondary appointment in the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Population Health Sciences and is the Assistant Director of Community Outreach and Engagement for the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Pinheiro's research applies quantitative and qualitative methods to develop and evaluate real-world interventions to improve health outcomes, equity, and care delivery for patients with cancer. Dr. Pinheiro's research program is funded by the National Cancer Institute, the National, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, The New York State Department of Health, and ASCO's Conquer Cancer Foundation.

## Alexandra Rivera-González, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Rivera-González is an Assistant Professor of Public Health at University of California, Merced and a faculty member of the Health Sciences Research Institute (UCM-HSRI). She studies Latino health disparities with a goal of advancing health equity through community-rooted work. As a health services and policy researcher, her work aims to disentangle how local and federal health policies, like Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, disproportionately impact Latino and immigrant communities across the United States (US). Born and raised in Puerto Rico, much of her research centers around the archipelago's health system, the impact of recent public health emergencies, and how its current political status as a US territory affects the implementation of health policies, access to quality care, and utilization of health services. She has worked on multiple projects studying system, provider, and patient-level influences on health and health care outcomes in Puerto Rico and how these dynamics change given external exposures like environmental disasters (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes), infectious disease outbreaks, and financial restraints for local programs (E.g., Medicaid, Medicare).

## Daniel F. Sarpong, Ph.D.



Daniel F. Sarpong, a trained biostatistician, is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of General Internal Medicine and Executive Director of the Office of Health Equity Research at Yale University. His research focuses on translational research exploring innovative approaches to mitigating biological and social determinants of health disparities in chronic diseases. He is an MPI of the RCMI Coordinating Center, leading Program Evaluation, and Director of the Community Engagement Consortium. Before joining Yale School of Medicine, He was a Tenured Professor of Biostatistics, Endowed Chair of Health Disparities, and Director of the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the Xavier University of Louisiana. Additionally, he served as the Director of the Community Engagement Cores of Xavier RCMI Cancer Center and the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center. He was also MPI of the NHLBI-NIMHD Funded Louisiana Community-Engagement Research Alliance Against COVID-19 in Disproportionately Affected Communities (CEAL). During 2000 and 2010, he was Director, Co-Principal Investigator, and Senior Biostatistician of the Jackson Heart Study Coordinating Center at

Jackson State University. As a faculty/mentor in several nationally and internationally funded career development programs, he trains the next generation of researchers.

## Joseph Scalea, M.D.



Dr. Scalea is an energetic NIH-funded Professor of Surgery and Health System Executive. As a practicing transplant surgeon, he is the Vice Chair of Surgery for Innovation and he works as Executive Medical Director for Health Solutions in the Medical University of South Carolina's health system. He attended medical school at the University of Maryland, fellowships at Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin, and is completing his MBA at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Clinically, Dr. Scalea has led some of the largest transplant programs in the United States resulting in awards for quality, outcomes, teaching, and innovation. His research in immunology and healthcare access + logistics have led to novel technologies upon which he founded several companies.

Dr. Scalea achieved significant notoriety for conceptualizing, designing, and successfully implementing the first-ever system for moving human organs by drone, culminating in the first transplant of an organ moved by drone in 2019 (New York Times, BBC, etc.). This led to Dr. Scalea's induction into the American Helicopter Museum and recognition as Inventor of the Year, Innovator of the Year, and Entrepreneur of the Year.

Dr. Scalea's research team is now focused on the 110M Americans with limited healthcare access. His team devised a system of AI-enabled self-service medicine which leverages POC blood testing and other complex diagnostics to reduce the time to diagnosis by 8 months, thus driving savings for payors and individuals. His vision is a nationwide network of stations that enhance longevity, and which preserve the depleted healthcare workforce.

## Vallabh (Raj) Shah, Ph.D., M.S., FASN



Vallabh (Raj) Shah, PhD, MS, FASN - Distinguished and Regents' Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine and Biochemistry, School of Medicine, University of New Mexico HSC.

Raj is an established Health Services Researcher with experience in clinical translational and community-based participatory research studies in minorities including American Indians and Hispanics. Raj has worked for more than 33 years toward establishing / promoting the community-partnered research as a way to address many of the health disparity issues in order to deepen the scientific base of knowledge in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, and health disparities for chronic diseases with special emphasis in diabetes, heart and kidney disease. The

pre-eminent contribution by Raj is in home-based health care services that are sensitive to the culture and traditions of American Indian communities being served.

Raj Shah is currently working with many American Indian communities in NM with funding from Patient Center Outcome Research Institute (2013-2017 and 2017-2024) to conduct comparative effectiveness clinical trials using home-based diabetes and Kidney care involving patient preference, telemedicine, lay community healthcare workers and point of care technologies related to chronic kidney and cardiovascular disease. In 2019, Raj received funding of an RO1 grant to create American Indian chronic renal insufficiency cohort. The study is to better understand the natural history of CKD/CVD in high-risk population of southwest American Indians. Recently May 2021, Raj received RO1 funding from NIMHD to study the feasibility of implementing home-based program in Zuni to address lack of access to home-delivered physical therapy as well as empower elders to address fall risk, avert injury, and preserve aging in place within their community.

NIH, recently appointed Raj as site PI on the ongoing "diabetes prevention program (DPP)" of 25 years to work with Navajo and Zuni participants with diabetes. DPP is now working for next 5 years on the complex questions in Alzheimer's disease (AD)/Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD) research. Raj will help bring Navajo participants with diabetes to UNMHSC for MRI and Amyloid PET scanning.

## Carolina Solis Sanabria, M.D., M.P.H., FACS



Dr. Carolina Solis Sanabria is a program official in the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research and a board-certified general surgeon. As a PO at NIMHD, her areas of focus include surgical disparities, healthcare worker burnout/well-being, diversity/training, rural health, and disasters. Prior to NIH, she has done work in Nicaragua, evaluating surgical capacity in Ministry of Health hospitals, as well as surgical outcomes research in emergency and general surgery. Dr. Solis Sanabria also has interests in immigrant and Hispanic health. She earned her BS in biology and French from Yale College, and her MD from Harvard Medical School in 2009. She then trained in general surgery at Duke University Medical Center and Inova Fairfax Hospital. During her residency, she earned an MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health with a concentration in global health in 2012 and spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Nicaragua conducting surgical research. Since completing her residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in 2017, she has practiced as a general surgeon in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as in rural settings in Oklahoma, Montana, North Carolina, and Virginia. She is a

Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and currently practices as a community surgeon with the Holy Cross Health Center in Gaithersburg, MD.

## Sivan Spitzer, Ph.D., M.A.



Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Dr. Spitzer is the Principal Investigator of HEAL- Health Equity Advancement Lab and Head of Population Health Education at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar Ilan University, Israel.

Dr. Spitzer, conceived, designed, and founded The Russell Berrie Galilee Diabetes SPHERE and serves as its Deputy Director.

Dr. Spitzer's interests lie in the study of health inequities, and more specifically, in identifying, designing, and evaluating organizational strategies aimed at reducing health care inequities through the prism of organizational change and implementation science. Research projects carried out by Dr. Spitzer and her team focus on translating equity from value to action through complex organization-wide change efforts in both community and hospital settings in a wide range of health and healthcare topics including chronic disease management and integration of care.

In November 2021, Dr. Spitzer launched The Russell Berrie Galilee Diabetes SPHERE – Social Precision-medicine Health Equity Research Endeavour. SPHERE, a ten-year 75 million Dollar initiative, aims to reduce inequities in Israel's northern social-geographic periphery. SPHERE transforms diabetes care through an integrated, inter-organizational model, in which academia, healthcare providers, and communities work together. In June 2023, Dr. Spitzer's model was adopted by Israel's Ministry of Health, to implement the SPHERE platform nationally.

As head of Population Health Education at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Spitzer developed a unique curriculum for educating and training future doctors on the influence of social factors on health outcomes. A central course in this curriculum is ETGAR (the Hebrew word for challenge). Recognized as Bar Ilan University's flagship community project and funded by Israel's Council for Higher Education, ETGAR offers a medical student run service to assist disadvantaged patients in their transition from hospital to home to prevent readmission. ETGAR is incorporated into students' clinical rotations at seven hospitals affiliated with the medical school.

Dr. Spitzer completed her masters degree in sociology and her doctorate in the Interdisciplinary Track, both at the University of Haifa. She conducted her postdoctoral training at the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHeSS) at the University of Chicago. She also participated in prestigious fellowships at the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

## Dolly P. White, M.D., M.S.C.R.



Dr. Dolly White is a program official in the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research at NIMHD and a board-certified public health and general preventive medicine physician. Her interests include high-quality and equitable care in safety net and low resource practice settings, cancer health disparities, patient-centered health care delivery, and evidence-based and guideline-concordant care.

Dr. White has worked in adult primary care and held leadership roles in various outpatient safety net practice settings. Prior to joining NIMHD, she was medical director of a mobile medical clinic providing free community-based medical services. Before that, she was quality director of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Previously, Dr. White was a Medical Officer in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In her role at NCI, she was the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and scientific lead for the congressionally mandated Patterns of Care Study.

Dr. White earned her Medical Doctorate from Florida State University College of Medicine. She also holds a Master of Science in Clinical Research degree from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. White completed the Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Health Disparities at the University of North Carolina. She has also participated in NIH-funded programs as a Fogarty Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Scholar and National Research Service Award (NRSA) Fellow.

## Kelly Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Kelly Williams is the Director of Research Design and Implementation at the UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care (Center), where she combines scientific expertise with administrative acumen to drive transformative projects. Dr. Williams oversees the development and execution of multiple funded contracts and internal quality improvement initiatives. Her work spans a diverse range of health and healthcare delivery topics, including digital health, chronic condition management, health/wellness, behavioral and physical health integration model scaling, and shared decision making. Dr. Williams participates as a co-investigator in two Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute funded trials. One of these trials investigates the effects of in-home and digitally driven care management for publicly insured adults with multiple chronic conditions. The second trial compares five different approaches to remotely monitor the health and well-being of patients after hospitalization for sepsis or lower respiratory tract infection. In addition to her work in comparative effectiveness research, Dr. Williams collaborates with multidisciplinary teams throughout UPMC and local universities on two vital externally funded maternal health initiatives. The first creates and implements a machine learning algorithm that identifies pregnant individuals at

risk of developing depression. The second initiative facilitates discussions among local and state experts and stakeholders to shape a comprehensive research agenda for rural maternal health. Additionally, Dr. Williams spearheads the development of comprehensive evaluation frameworks for specific UPMC Health Plan services/clinical initiatives and co-leads the Center's portfolio of qualitative research and engagement initiatives. Dr. Williams holds an MPH and PhD in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

## Sundania J. W. Wonnum, Ph.D., BCD, LCSW



Dr. Sundania Wonnum is a Social and Behavioral Sciences Administrator (Program Official) in the Division of Clinical and Health Services Research at NIMHD. She oversees and conducts research to advance the science of health and advocates for social justice people with disabilities, women, and children across domains – from biological to healthcare system levels.

Prior to joining NIMHD, Dr. Wonnum was the Child Mental Health Policy Consultant at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where she collaborated with leaders and stakeholders and provided technical assistance on policies, programs, and research to enhance children's wellbeing statewide, to include school-based health centers, systems of care networks, and mental health workforce development. She was a Scholar in Residence for Society of Research in Child Development, during which she examined state and federal health policies' provision of comprehensive health and mental health care for children. Dr. Wonnum also serves as a U.S. Air Force Reserves officer in the areas of healthcare policy and strategy for the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General.

Dr. Wonnum leverages her multilevel experiences in health care practice, research, administration, and education to highlight healthcare access inequities and to elevate healthcare quality for vulnerable populations. As such, she applies an intersectional lens to the study of health disparities and care delivery, modalities, curricula, policies, and systems using quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

Dr. Wonnum holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as a postgraduate Certificate of Health Professions Education from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. She earned a Master of Social Work from Valdosta State University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Biological Sciences from Pennsylvania State University. She maintains a License of Clinical Social Work in both Virginia and North Carolina.