NIH Rural Health Day
November 18, 2021
Virtual Seminar

Structural-Level Determinants of Rural Health Disparities

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Alex Adams, MD, PhD, Montana State University

Alex Adams, MD, PhD, is director and PI of the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE), a position she has held since 2016. Previously she was the founding director of the Collaborative Center for Health Equity, an NIH P60 center at the University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health. The foundation for all of her leadership and research has been community-based participatory research (CBPR), working in partnership with communities to understand and solve health challenges using both scientific rigor and crucial community knowledge. She has directed multiple clinical trials, including the Healthy Children Strong Families 2 trial in five Native communities nationally, and has more than 60 peer-reviewed publications. She has held K23, U01, R01, P60, and P20 funding from the NIH, as well as more than $10 million in foundation funding. Her mentoring experience includes launching the UW Health Equity Leadership Institute, now in its second decade. This highly successful leadership institute has trained more than 125 under-represented junior faculty and others working in communities in leadership and career advancement, NIH grant writing, CBPR, and health equity research. Dr. Adams was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine in October 2021.

Paloma Beamer, PhD, University of Arizona

Paloma I. Beamer, PhD, is a professor in the College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She holds joint appointments as a professor of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, American Indian Studies, and as a research scientist in the Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center. She is the Community Engagement Core Director for the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center (NIEHS P30). An environmental engineer by training, she earned her BS from the University of California, Berkeley and her MS and PhD from Stanford University. Her research focuses on understanding how individuals are exposed to environmental contaminants and the health risks of these exposures with a special focus on vulnerable populations, including children, low-wage immigrant workers, Native Americans and those in the US-Mexico Border Region. The ultimate goal of her work is to develop more effective interventions and policies for prevention of certain diseases. Dr. Beamer is an associate editor for Environmental Health Perspectives and the past president of the International Society of Exposure Science. She has served on the Boards of Scientific Counselors for US EPA and ATSDR.

Arleen F. Brown, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Arleen Brown, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research (GIM and HSR) at the University of California, Los Angeles. She serves as chief of GIM and HSR at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Brown's research focuses on improving health outcomes, enhancing health care quality, and reducing disparities for adults with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke, particularly those with complex medical and social needs. She has been PI or co-PI on studies to improve diabetes care for older adults and minority patients and research to understand clinical, socioeconomic, and health system influences on chronic disease management in under-resourced communities. Dr. Brown also co-directs the NCATS-funded Community Engagement and Research Program (CERP) of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). In this role, she works with teams of community and university partners to ensure that community and research priorities are aligned, to promote research in community settings, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between all stakeholders. She is currently a PI on the Healing Our Hearts, Minds, and Bodies (HHMB) study, to address clinic and patient-level readiness to address cardiovascular risk in African American and Latino patients with HIV/AIDS. She also serves as a PI on an NHLBI-funded study to reduce racial ethnic blood pressure disparities among multi-ethnic patients in the safety net using community engagement strategies and behavioral economics. Dr. Brown leads the NHLBI-funded "Share, Trust, Organize, Partner: the COVID-19 California Alliance"

(STOP COVID-19 CA), a coalition of 11 academic institutions and their networks of community partners across California. She also serves as the co-PI of the state-funded California Get Out The Vaccine (GOTV) campaign, in which community based organizations canvass door to door, providing information from trusted messengers and assistance with vaccine registration.

Behrous Davani, PhD, National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Behrous Davani, PhD is a program director in the Division for Research Capacity Building, NIGMS, where he oversees the IDeA Regional Entrepreneurship Development (I-RED) Program, and manages grants for the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA), and the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) Programs. Before joining NIGMS, he was a program director at NCI. In this capacity, he led the development, implementation, and management of various programs that address cancer health disparities. Prior to his appointment at NCI, Behrous served as a scientific review manager in the Peer Review Science and Management Division of SRA International. While at SRA, he oversaw and managed the scientific review process for multiple research programs, including breast, ovarian, and lung cancer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). Behrous is committed to developing innovative research and educational programs to advance health equity and promote diversity in biomedical research. Dr. Davani graduated with his BSc and PhD in molecular endocrinology from Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

Melody Goodman, PhD, New York University School of Global Public Health

Melody received her BS summa cum laude in applied mathematics-statistics and economics (double major) from Stony Brook University. She received her MS in biostatistics from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and her PhD from the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard University with minors in theoretical statistics and the social determinants of health disparities. She is the associate dean for research and associate professor of biostatistics, in the School of Global Public Health at New York University. The National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Verizon Foundation, Long Island Community Foundation, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure have funded her work. She has over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and two books (2018 Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group); 1) Public Health Research Methods for Partnerships and Practice and 2) Biostatistics for Clinical and Public Health Research. Dr. Goodman is a biostatistician and research methodologist with a large statistical toolbox. Her research interest is on identifying origins of health disparities and developing, as necessary,

evidence-based primary prevention strategies to reduce these health disparities.
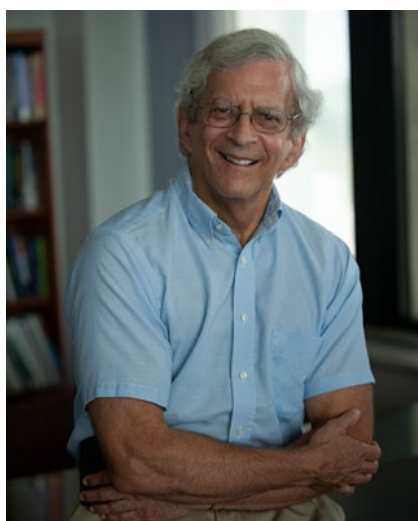
Melissa C. Green Parker, PhD, NIH Office of Disease Prevention

Dr. Melissa Green Parker joined the NIH Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) in June 2020 to provide leadership to the trans-NIH Prevention Scientific Interest Groups, as well as scientific guidance for the ODP's Pathways to Prevention Program. Before joining the ODP, Dr. Green Parker was a program director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). In this capacity, she led scientific initiatives in community-based implementation science that addressed health inequities. She also advanced training and mentoring activities for the next generation of biomedical researchers who showed interest in delivering evidence-based strategies to improve overall health and prevent disease. Prior to the NHLBI, Dr. Green Parker served as a health sciences program manager for the Department of Defense where she supported efforts to fund innovative, high risk high reward research. She also spent seven years as a division director for the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation where she oversaw several government-funded programs aimed at recruiting and retaining talented scholars who are traditionally under-represented in the federal workforce. Dr. Green Parker earned her PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Indiana University School of Medicine (Indianapolis, IN) and graduated summa cum laude from Claflin University (Orangeburg, SC).

Richard J. Hodes, MD, Director, National Institute on Aging

Richard J. Hodes, MD, is the director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Hodes, a leading researcher in the field of immunology, was named to head the NIA in 1993. The NIA leads the Federal effort supporting and conducting research on the biological, clinical, behavioral and social aspects of aging. Dr. Hodes has devoted his tenure to the development of a strong, diverse and balanced research program. This has led to new and innovative ways to conduct research, share data and translate findings into practice. Basic biologic research is examining genetic and other factors influencing aging, how they affect longevity and the development of age related diseases. Research in geriatrics is uncovering new ways to combat frailty and improve function with age. Behavioral and social research is deepening understanding of the individual behaviors and societal decisions that affect well-being. Dr. Hodes also directs the Federal effort to find effective ways to treat or prevent Alzheimer's disease, as the NIA is the lead NIH institute for this mission. Cutting edge research conducted and supported by the NIA, often in collaboration across institutes at the NIH, has helped to revolutionize the way we think about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Studies in genetics, basic mechanisms, imaging and biomarkers have spurred

the development of potential therapies aimed at a variety of targets and the testing of interventions at the earliest signs of disease. Dr. Hode s'sresearch laboratory in the National Cancer Institute focuses on the cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate the immune response. Additional background is available at the lab's website. A graduate of Yale University, Dr. Hodes received his MD from Harvard Medical School. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, a member of The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the National Academy of Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

Jani C. Ingram, PhD, Northern Arizona University

Jani C. Ingram, PhD is a Regents' Professor in the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department at Northern Arizona University. Her research focuses on investigating environmental contaminants with respect to their impact on health in at risk populations. A critical aspect of her research is to foster collaborations with the Native American community and leaders to build trust and gain insights into their health concerns. She works with a diverse group of students in her research. This diversity represents students with different ethnic backgrounds, academic disciplines, and sexual orientations as well as where they are in their academic careers (middle school to graduate students). She is a member of the Navajo Nation (born to the Náneesht' ézhi clan) and has been involved in outreach activities for Native American students in K-12, undergraduate, and graduate research. She is the principal investigator of the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention and the director of the Bridges to Baccalaureate program. She was named the 2018 recipient of the American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She received an associate degree from Yavapai College, a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from New Mexico State University, and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Arizona. She was a staff scientist at the Idaho National Laboratory for twelve years before joining the faculty at Northern Arizona University in 2002.

Leif Jensen, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Leif Jensen is Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography at The Pennsylvania State University, where he also serves as associate director of the Social Science Research Institute. He received a BA in sociology from the University of Vermont and an MS and PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His areas of specialization include demography, social stratification, and the sociology of economic change. He has published three books and more than 90 journal articles and book chapters on a range of topics including poverty and inequality, underemployment, informal work and household economic strategies, immigration, and international development. A past president of the Rural Sociological Society, much of his scholarship focuses on rural people and places. He currently leads the NIA-funded Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging. His research program has also been supported by grants from NSF, NICHD, USDA, and USAID, as well as the Ford, Spencer, and Russell Sage foundations.

Amelia Karraker, PhD, National Institute on Aging

Dr. Amelia Karraker, PhD (she/her/hers) is a health scientist administrator in the Population and Social Processes (PSP) Branch of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) Division of Behavioral and Social Research (DBSR). Amelia manages a scientific portfolio on educational cohort studies including Add Health and High School and Beyond, family demography, health and place, and social genomics. Before coming to NIA in 2016, she was an assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University. Prior to that, she was an NIA postdoctoral fellow at the Population Studies Center, University of Michigan. Her PhD in Sociology was awarded by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was an NIA pre-doctoral trainee. She completed a BA in sociology with honors at the University of Chicago and served as an undergraduate research assistant on an NIA-funded R01. Her research focused on describing and explaining social inequalities at the crossroads of health, socioeconomic status, family, and gender in the later life course.

Georgia Kayser, PhD, University of California, San Diego

Georgia Kayser, PhD is an assistant professor of Global Health in the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and on the steering committee of the University of California, Planetary Health Center. Her environmental health research focuses on adolescent and children's environmental health, water quality, environmental determinants of risk, and environmental health disparities. In her research she has explored the factors that limit access to safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) services, globally; identified environmental determinants of risk, including pesticide and microbiological contaminants in drinking water; and examined environmental health disparities that result from gender, racial/ethnic, and geographic inequalities. Her methodological expertise is in the use of cross-sectional studies to explore WaSH risk factors for disease across countries, formative research to identify interventions, experimental and quasi-experimental methods to test specific interventions, and geospatial analysis to understand patterns of exposure. She has conducted research in over 20 countries across the Americas, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia with funding from government, international organizations, and private sector sources. She is currently working on a NIEHS funded K01 career award that explores pesticide exposures, mental health and endocrine disruption among children growing up near pesticide spray sites in Ecuador.

Chesleigh N. Keene, PhD, Northern Arizona University

Dr. Keene is an interdisciplinary researcher with research interests in population health; mobile and sensing technologies as tools to reduce health disparities; cultural models and predictors of wellness; and psychosocial factors that improve health outcomes. Dr. Keene works with Native American communities and other populations that face greater obstacles to health due to social/economic disadvantages and those who have been historically excluded from large-scale prevention and intervention studies. Her current funded projects are examining mental wellness and cultural resilience in Native American communities; using mobile technologies in combination with dynamic risk prediction models and machine learning to create a model of understanding the role of affective experiences in the quit process for Native American smokers; developing a graduate certificate program to improve training in culturally informed addiction research; and integrating Native American cultural factors into tele-behavioral interventions for addiction treatment in Native American communities.

William C. Knowler, MD, DrPH, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Intramural Research Program

William C. Knowler's professional work is devoted to advancing knowledge about prevention and treatment of diabetes, obesity, and their complications through research using the disciplines of epidemiology, genetics, and randomized clinical trials. He was educated in mathematics at the University of Iowa and in medicine, public health, and epidemiology at Harvard University. Most of his professional work has been at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) in Phoenix, AZ, where most of his research was among American Indians in the southwestern US. He has been a leader of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and its successor the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS) since formal planning began in 1994. He was principal investigator of three clinical centers in the southwestern US that enrolled primarily American Indians – both rural and urban. He was chair of the Publications and Presentations Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the DPPOS, while also serving as principal or associate investigator on several other NIDDK clinical research protocols that enrolled primarily American Indians. He became a scientist emeritus at NIDDK in 2021.

Jonathan London, PhD, University of California, Davis

Jonathan K. London is an educator, researcher, and community-builder with over 30 years of experience in participatory research, rural community development, and community engaged planning. He is associate professor in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of California, Davis. Dr. London holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Brown University; a master's degree in City and Regional Planning; and a PhD in Environmental Science Policy and Management from UC Berkeley. His research addresses conflicts and collaboration over natural resource and environmental management, with a particular emphasis on environmental justice in rural communities. He has conducted studies on the environmental justice dimensions of water pollution, air pollution, pesticides, transportation and land use. He is co-director of the Community Engagement Core of the NIEHS-funded UC Davis Environmental Health Science Core Center where he supports collaboration between scientists and community organizations addressing issues of environmental health disparities. He was the founding director of the UC Davis Center for Regional Change which serves as a catalyst for multi-disciplinary research that informs efforts to build healthy, prosperous, equitable, and sustainable regions in California and beyond.

Lindsey Ann Martin, PhD, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Lindsey Ann Martin, PhD, is a health scientist administrator in the Population Health Branch at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Lindsey is a medical anthropologist and supports a broad portfolio focused on environmental health disparities that includes the intersection of social determinants of health with environmental exposures, behavioral and social sciences, rural health, intervention and implementation science, qualitative and mixed methods, and community engaged research. Lindsey joined NIEHS in January 2020 from the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety (IQuESt) at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. She served as the lead qualitative methodologist in IQuESt's Methodology & Analytics Core for five years and was faculty advisor to IQuESt's Veteran Community Engagement Committee. Lindsey also had an active role in the VA's National Workgroup on Veteran Engagement. Lindsey graduated with her BA, MA, and PhD in anthropology from Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, Michigan. She also earned a graduate certificate in Public Health Practice from the WSU School of Medicine and participated in the NIH Training Institute for Dissemination & Implementation Research in Health program in 2017.

Shannon M. Monnat, PhD, Syracuse University

Shannon Monnat is associate professor of sociology, director of the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion, and co-director of the Policy, Place, and Population Health Lab in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Monnat's research examines trends and geographic differences in health and mortality, with a particular focus on rural-urban and within-rural health disparities. She is a national expert on structural and spatial determinants of drug overdose, particularly related to understanding why overdose rates are higher in some places than others. Her most recent research has focused on rural-urban differences in COVID-19 experiences and impacts. She has over 60 journal articles and book chapters and has presented to numerous public, academic, and policy audiences, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Sciences, the Aspen Institute, the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, and at Congressional briefings. Monnat was a member of a NAS Consensus Committee that recently released the report: High and Rising Mortality Rates among Working-Age Adults. She is a co-PI on the NIA-funded Interdisciplinary Network for Rural Population Health and Aging, and she has been a PI or co-PI on several federal agency and foundation grants, including through NIH, USDA, US Dept of Justice, RWJF, and Institute for New Economic Thinking.

Tom Morris, Health Resources and Services Administration

Tom Morris serves as the associate administrator for rural health policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the Secretary on rural health issues. The Office, which has an annual budget of $317 million, administers a range of research and capacity building grant programs that serve rural communities. In 2015, Tom received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. A North Carolina native, Tom came into government as a presidential management intern and has work experience in the US Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS.

Priscah Mujuru, DrPH, MPH, RN, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Dr. Priscah Mujuru is a program director at NIMHD, where she 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 and rural health. In 2019, she published a blog on rural health. Dr. Mujuru is also interested in capacity building and training projects. Prior to joining the NIMHD, Dr. Mujuru was a scientific review officer/administrator (SRO) at the Center for Scientific Review and subsequently at 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 joining the NIH, Dr. Mujuru spent several years (1993-2010) 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 received a DrPH in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh, an MPH in environmental health from Boston University, a BSc in occupational hygiene from South Bank University, London, England, UK, and a BSN from West Virginia University.

Anna María Nápoles, PhD, MPH, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Dr. Anna María Nápoles is the scientific director of NIMHD's Division of Intramural Research (DIR). As the first Latina named to the position at the National Institutes of Health, she oversees the executive direction and scientific leadership for the entire intramural research program at NIMHD with a focus on population health with an emphasis on social, behavioral, and clinical research while utilizing the robust basic science environment at NIH. Prior to joining NIMHD in late 2017, Dr. Nápoles served as a professor and behavioral epidemiologist in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) since 2001. She has over 30 years of experience in research on patient-clinician communication, cancer control health disparities, psycho-oncology, and community-based models of research in racially and ethnically diverse populations, as well as socioeconomically diverse groups. She has built community-academic research partnerships to develop and test evidence-based behavioral interventions for ethnically diverse adults in community-based settings. This work has included community-based RCTs of peer-delivered cognitive-behavioral stress management interventions for urban and rural Latinas with breast cancer called Nuevo Amanecer that improved quality of life and reduced depression and anxiety symptoms. She is also developing and testing mHealth interventions to improve symptom management among ethnically diverse, low-income cancer survivors through cognitive-behavioral stress management and/or walking. She has a particular interest in development of scientifically sound research methods for conducting health disparities research, i.e., recruitment and retention, health measurement, and translation methods that are appropriate for diverse populations. At NIH, she is working to increase multi-disciplinary trans-NIH intramural research focused on minority health and health disparities research.

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD is director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He oversees NIMHD's annual budget to advance the science of minority health and health disparities research. NIMHD conducts and supports research programs to advance knowledge and understanding of health disparities, identify mechanisms to improve minority health, and develop effective interventions to reduce health disparities in community and clinical settings. NIMHD is the lead organization at NIH for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and evaluating minority health and health disparities research activities conducted by NIH. NIMHD also promotes diversity in the biomedical workforce, supports research capacity at institutions training underrepresented students and serving populations with health disparities, and promotes information dissemination through regular electronic communications,

public education outreach, and scientific presentations. Since joining NIMHD in September 2015, Dr. Pérez-Stable has been cultivating the Institute's position on the cutting edge of the science of minority health and health disparities. Through this effort, the Institute has produced a collection of resources that guide and facilitate the conduct of research to promote health equity. These include the [NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#), the [NIMHD Research Framework,](#) the [PhenX Social Determinants of Health Assessments Collection](#) (a research toolkit), a collection of 30 science visioning [Strategies to Promote the Advancement of Health Disparities Science](#), special journal supplements [Structural Racism and Discrimination: Impact on Minority Health and Health Disparities and Addressing Health Disparities through the Utilization of Health Information Technology,](#) and [The Science of Health Disparities Research](#) textbook, among other resources. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Pérez-Stable has positioned NIMHD at the forefront of the research response to COVID-19 health disparities by establishing new research programs and collaborating with other NIH institutes and centers. He also serves as co-chair for two prominent NIH-wide programs that have been established to promote health equity by reducing COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality disparities experienced by underserved and vulnerable communities: the [Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities](#) and the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiatives](#). Prior to becoming NIMHD director, Dr. Pérez-Stable was a professor of medicine and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Pérez-Stable's research interests have centered on improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities 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, Dr. Pérez-Stable spent 32 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America, addressing clinical and prevention issues in cancer control research, supporting early career scientists in research on minority aging in clinical and community settings, and addressing research questions in clinical conditions such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes and dementia. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers and was continuously funded by NIH grants for 30 years prior to becoming NIMHD director. Dr. Pérez-Stable was also director of the UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities, which is funded by NIH's National Institute on Aging, and director of the UCSF Medical Effectiveness Research Center for Diverse Populations. He was a career mentor for many students, residents, and faculty, and a research mentor for over 70 minority investigators. Dr. Pérez-Stable was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Science in 2001 and the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 1996. He earned his BA in chemistry in 1974 and MD 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 UCSF before joining the faculty as an assistant professor in 1983. Dr. Pérez-Stable practiced primary care internal medicine for 37 years at UCSF following a panel of about 200 patients, and supervised and taught students and residents in the ambulatory care and hospital settings.

Brian Rivers, PhD, MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Rivers is professor and director of the Cancer Health Equity Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Dr. Rivers is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in health disparities research and a retired member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD). Dr. Rivers is an active member in the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) community and serves in several leadership capacities. Dr. Rivers is a behavioral scientist with a broad background in dissemination and implementation science and public health, with specific training and expertise in methodologies commonly used to address health disparities. Dr. Rivers's research portfolio has endeavored to expand the application of population-based intervention science to understand how to address cancer health disparities in clinical and community-based settings, utilizing multi-level approaches, such as medical mobile apps and/or Community Health Workers/Patient Navigators. Dr. Rivers has and is leading several large randomized controlled trials, funded by Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) (R01), to evaluate and characterize the impact of multi-level, digital health interventions, targeting African American men diagnosed with prostate cancer. Dr. Rivers is lead multiple principal investigator (MPI) for the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE) U54 Cancer Research Partnership between MSM, Tuskegee University, and the University of Alabama-Birmingham O'Neil Comprehensive Cancer Center (UAB OCCC). Dr. Rivers is the Director of the Integrating Special Populations Core of the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) funded Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance. Dr. Rivers is also MPI of the Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation Coordination and Evaluation Center (FIRST CEC).

Madhumita Sinha, MD, MHSM, FAAP, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Dr. Madhumita Sinha is an associate research physician at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), Phoenix Epidemiology and Clinical Research Branch (PECRB) in Phoenix, AZ. She is board certified in General Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine and holds an academic rank of adjunct clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, and at the Creighton University School of Medicine, Phoenix Campus. Dr. Sinha's current research focus is childhood obesity and metabolic risk in minority and underserved populations. As an associate research physician at NIDDK's Intramural Research Program, she is the principal investigator (PI) of a life-course study aimed at establishing a longitudinal cohort of Hispanic and American Indian maternal/child dyads to study the role of biological and environmental risk factors that lead to childhood obesity, and obesity induced metabolic complications such as diabetes and fatty liver disease. She is also the site PI of a lifestyle intervention study of American Indian children with overweight or obesity. In addition, Dr. Sinha serves as an associate investigator in multiple ongoing studies on diabetes and its associated conditions at NIDDK, PECRB. As a pediatrician dedicated to child health, Dr. Sinha continues to provide voluntary clinical care to pediatric patients at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. During her long career as a clinical researcher, Dr. Sinha has continued to mentor medical students, residents, fellows, and junior colleagues in both clinical practice and research.

Brittany L. Smalls, PhD, MHSA, University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Dr. Smalls earned her Bachelor of Science in Anthropology, a Master of Health Services Administration, and a PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science with a concentration in Health Services Research. In addition, she has completed scholar programs through the American Psychological Association Leadership and Education Advancement Program (APA LEAP), as well as the Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) via the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for training in advanced health disparities. Dr. Small s's research interests include health disparities, rural health, aging research, and social determinants of health within the confines of complex chronic illnesses. Most of her work has assessed the role of social determinants of health on type 2 diabetes health outcomes, specifically social environment factors (e.g., social support, social networks). However, more recently Dr. Smalls has embarked on learning how implementation science can be leveraged for community-based interventions. To this end, she was accepted to and is a current scholar of the Brown Institute for Implementation Scholars at Washington University in St. Louis. At present, Dr. Smalls is focused on designing and employing evidence-based

behavioral interventions to improve self-management of complex chronic disease in geographically isolated older adults.

Andreas Thorsen, PhD, Montana State University

Andreas Thorsen is an associate professor of management at Montana State University (MSU). He is also an investigator in the MSU Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE), and an affiliate faculty of the MSU Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department. He earned a dual-degree PhD in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from Pennsylvania State University. His research involves developing mathematical models for planning and managing health services and supply chain operations and has been published in leading journals such as Journal of Rural Health, Social Science and Medicine, and European Journal of Operational Research. Recently, he has focused on studying public-sector problems related to health service operations. Dr. Thorsen's current CAIRHE project aims to elucidate the spatial variation in perinatal health outcomes and perinatal care access across the state of Montana. Additionally, Dr. Thorsen evaluates efficiency, access, and patient health outcomes at community health centers (CHCs) in both national studies and Montana-focused studies. Much of Dr. Thorsen's research is deeply interdisciplinary. A secondary research stream applies mathematical optimization to solve supply chain and transportation problems involving uncertainty.

Tony Ward, PhD, University of Montana

Tony Ward is a Professor and Chair of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences at the University of Montana. In addition to teaching environmental health classes, his research involves working with schools and rural communities on air pollution (forest fires and wood stoves) and respiratory / cardiovascular health issues. He serves as the Director of the Mountain West Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network's (CTR-IN) Community Engagement and Outreach Core, as well as the Director of the NIH CoBRE Center for Population Health's Intervention Support Core. He is also the PI on a NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) project working with students in rural areas of the western US and Alaska.
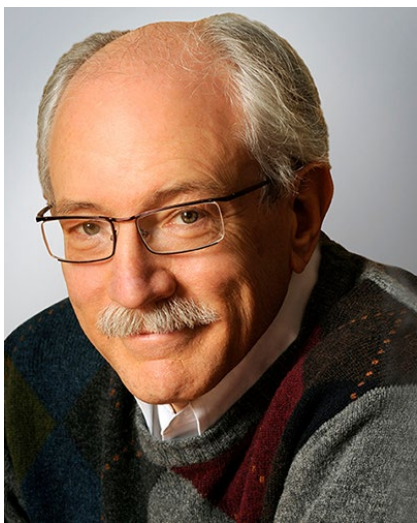
Karen M. Winkfield, MD, PhD, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

Dr. Karen Winkfield is a radiation oncologist specializing in the treatment of hematologic and breast malignancies. As the executive director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, she leverages her expertise as an implementation scientist to focus on improving health outcomes for underserved populations through community-engaged research and community-based initiatives designed to improve access to healthcare including clinical trials. Dr. Winkfield obtained her MD and PhD degrees at Duke University and completed residency at Harvard. Her leadership roles have focused on developing bi-directional communication between researchers and community to ensure equitable access to care regardless of race/ethnicity, geographic location or socioeconomic states. She is a thought leader espousing the importance of workforce diversity to improve health equity. Dr. Winkfield was recently appointed by President Biden to the National Cancer Advisory Board.

Rick Woychik, PhD, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Richard Woychik, PhD became the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) on June 7, 2020. In these roles, Woychik oversees federal funding for biomedical research to discover how the environment influences human health and disease. Woychik and NIEHS/NTP staff receive input from several advisory boards and councils to accomplish this significant task. Prior to becoming director and since 2011, Woychik served as deputy director of NIEHS. In this role, he assisted the former NIEHS director, Linda Birnbaum, PhD in the formulation and implementation of plans and policies necessary to carry out the NIEHS missions and the administrative management of NIEHS. As a mammalian geneticist, Woychik has had a number of noteworthy accomplishments. His laboratory was the first to clone and characterize the gene called agouti, which provided molecular insights into obesity and the satiety response in the brain. Additionally, his laboratory was the first to identify a gene mutation associated with polycystic kidney disease, which provided insights into this molecular biology of this important human disease. Also, his laboratory was the first to determine that a member of the protocadherin family was associated with the hearing loss in a mouse model that was ultimately paved the way to better understanding the molecular basis of Usher syndrome type 1F in humans. More recently his research program has been focused on investigating the molecular mechanisms associated with how environmental agents influence the epigenetic control of gene expression. Woychik previously served as president and CEO of Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, and also functioned as the director of the laboratory's NCI designated Cancer Center. Prior to leading The Jackson Laboratory, Woychik's professional history also included positions in both academia and industry: chief scientific officer for Lynx Therapeutics, Hayward, CA; head of the Parke-

Davis Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, Alameda, CA; professor within the Departments of Pediatrics, Genetics and Pharmacology at the Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH; and senior research scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN. Woychik completed his BS and MS at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and earned his PhD in molecular biology at Case Western Reserve University in 1984. He received his postdoctoral training in the Laboratory of Philip Leder at Harvard Medical School with fellowship support from the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund and from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Whitney Zahnd, PhD, University of Iowa

Dr. Whitney Zahnd is an assistant professor in Department of Health Management and Policy and full member of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa. Her research employs health services research, social epidemiological, and spatial methods to address rural cancer disparities across the continuum and to evaluate access to healthcare services. She currently is the co-chair of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network's Rural Cancer Workgroup. Dr. Zahnd is a 2021 National Rural Health Association Rural Health Fellow and serves on the board of the Iowa Rural Health Association. Before joining the University of Iowa faculty, Dr. Zahnd completed postdoctoral training and served as research faculty at the Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina. Prior to earning her doctorate in community health from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2018, she worked for eleven years as a master's-trained researcher at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine supporting rural health and cancer disparities research.

Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, FACE, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, FACE, is the chief of Health Inequities and Global Health Branch at the Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Zhang has broad research interests that include clinical epidemiology, health services research, data science, health informatics, and their applications to promote health equity nationally and globally. He is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, an elite group of public health leaders who respond to national health crises. Dr. Zhang is one of the editors of the 2021 textbook on The Science of Health Disparities Research. Currently, he also serves as interim Editor-in-Chief of Health Equity. Dr. Zhang co-chairs the NIH Rural Health Interest Group.