

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EQUITY VIRTUAL SUMMIT

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Allison S. Bryant, MD, MPH** is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Harvard Medical School. She received degrees in biology, public health and medicine from Harvard University, where she also completed training in Obstetrics and Gynecology and fellowships in Maternal/Fetal Medicine and the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy. She was a member of the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco from 2005 to 2010 and served on the advisory board of California's Black Infant Health Program and the San Francisco Department of Health Women's Health Advisory Board. She returned to Massachusetts General Hospital in 2010 where she is now the Vice Chair for Quality, Equity and Safety in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology a role she has

designed to underscore the critical role of equity in care quality for all patients served by the department and the hospital more broadly. She currently serves as a member of several regional and national women's health and equity improvement efforts such as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, which she chairs, ACOG's Committee on Obstetric Practice, the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine's Disparities and Workforce Diversity Task Force and the CDC-MMRIA Bias Working Group. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine. Dr. Bryant was the lead author on the revision of ACOG's Committee Opinion on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and was a co-author on the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health's Reducing Peripartum Disparities Safety Bundle. Her research and policy work has explored disparities in obstetric care and outcomes in low-income and minority women, including those in interconception care, birth spacing, uptake of prenatal screening and testing and cesarean delivery, among others.



**Deborah Campbell, MD, FAAP**, is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Program Director for the fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, and Director of the Division of Neonatology at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. She conducts the Low birth weight infant Evaluation and Assessment Program (LEAP). Her research interests include regionalization of perinatal care and health services delivery, psychosocial support interventions for mothers of premature babies, perinatal ethics and collaborative decision-making, outcomes for very low birth weight infants, and newborn hearing screening. Dr. Campbell is a member of the Academic Pediatric Society and a fellow at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She has served as a member of Montefiore's Infant

Bioethics Review Committee and is working closely with members of the Neonatology Division who are creating a formal Neonatal Palliative Care Program at Montefiore. Dr. Campbell plays an active role in perinatal activities at the city, state and national levels, having served various leadership roles at the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New York State Association of Regional Perinatal Programs and Networks, the NYC Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council and the Greater New York March of Dimes Health Professionals Advisory Board and National March of Dimes. She has worked with the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the AAP on several initiatives and has served on three quality of care collaboratives, the Greater New York Hospital Association Perinatal Safety

Collaborative Advisory Group and the National Quality Forum Perinatal Collaborative and is an active member of the ongoing New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Neonatology Expert Workgroup. She also serves on the NYS Palliative Care Education and Training Council, an expert panel on palliative care that has developed guidance and advice for the New York State Department of Health on best practices in pain management and end-of-life care.



**Mary E. D'Alton, MD**, is Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and the Willard C. Rappleye Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She also serves as Director of Services at the Sloane Hospital for Women at NewYork-Presbyterian. Specializing in maternal fetal medicine, the majority of Dr. D'Alton's practice focuses on patients with high-risk pregnancies due to complex maternal or fetal conditions. At NYP/Columbia, she has implemented a multidisciplinary, coordinated approach to manage the highest risk pregnancies at the Carmen and John Thain Center for Prenatal Pediatrics, which opened in 2010, and the Mothers Center, which opened in May 2018. Her work to advance education, research, clinical practice, and policy development in women's health has won national

recognition. In 2013, Dr. D'Alton was elected as a member to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine). As co-chair of ACOG District II's Safe Motherhood Initiative, Dr. D'Alton has played a pivotal role in the effort to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in New York State and in the national conversation about how to improve maternal health. Honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 by the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, she has served as its president and has held key positions in several professional organizations, including the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society (AGOS) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The author or contributor to over 200 publications, Dr. D'Alton is co-editor of Seminars in Perinatology and has served on the editorial board of ACOG's Obstetrics and Gynecology.



**Natalie D. Hernandez, PhD, MPH** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Interim Director of Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Hernandez's research interests are sexual and reproductive health disparities among ethnoracial minority women, social determinants of health, and health policy. Dr. Hernandez is also a former Satcher Health Policy Leadership Fellow. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Hernandez conducted CBPR and held leadership positions in a number of coalitions dedicated to advancing health equity. In addition to supporting community health promotion, education, and advocacy; she also provided technical assistance to support the provision of high quality culturally relevant, sensitive, and linguistically appropriate health care and prevention services. Dr. Hernandez's

expertise includes the health status and health needs of Latinos, promotores de salud (community lay health educators), HPV and cervical cancer among Latinas and other ethnoracial minorities, family planning, and health advocacy. She has published and presented her work at various international, national, state, and local conferences and published in peer-review journals. Dr. Hernandez holds a BA from Stonybrook University, an MPH from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health from the University of South Florida and pursues postdoctoral training at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine.



**Jeffrey Horbar, MD** is a neonatologist and Jerold F. Lucey Professor of Newborn Medicine at the Larner College of Medicine at University of Vermont. He serves as president, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of Vermont Oxford, a collaboration of newborn care teams around the world dedicated to improving the quality, safety and equity of medical care for newborn infants and their families.



**Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP** is the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously she was a Professor of Population Health Science & Policy and Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science and the Founding Director of the Blavatnik Family Women's Health Research Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She is a NIH-funded ob/gyn health services researcher and her major research interests are the intersection between quality of care and disparities in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and postpartum depression and its impact on underserved communities. She has served on several expert committees including for the Institute of Medicine, NIH, the Joint

Commission, ACOG, and international external scientific advisory boards. She co-chaired the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Working Group on Reduction of Peripartum Racial Disparities, served on the Governor's Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes for New York State, and served on the New York City Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Steering Committee for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She has testified to the US Congress for maternal healthcare legislation and currently co-chairs the National Quality Forum Committee on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality. Dr. Howell has been featured by NPR, ProPublica, NBC Nightly News, The Today Show, New York Times, and Essence Magazine. She recently shared her research on quality of care, maternal mortality and morbidity, and racial and ethnic disparities in a [TEDMED](#) talk which has garnered over 1.85 million views. Dr. Howell received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and received her medical and public policy degrees at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She received her residency training at Cornell /New York Hospital and her post-doctoral training in clinical epidemiology as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Yale Medical School.



**Sascha James-Conterelli, DNP, CNM, LM, FACNM** received her bachelor's in nursing from Howard University and her masters in midwifery and doctorate from New York University. She has been practicing midwife since 2002, and is a lecturer at Yale School of Nursing. Dr. James-Conterelli's professional journey has been unique and broad reaching with practice settings in both the public and private sector. In 2005, she added political advocacy and policy to her clinical work opening the door to many exciting opportunities for advocacy of midwives to be recognized as invaluable stakeholders in perinatal care. These experiences cemented her idea of the importance of education which led to her transition to full-time professor in 2014 while maintaining clinical

practice. Dr. James-Conterelli is the president of ACNM's New York State affiliate; New York Midwives [NYM/NYSALM]. She is also honored to continue to have opportunities to provide my knowledge and expertise to many national and local policies such as the development of perinatal regionalization for New York State, serving as co-chair on Governor Andrew Cuomo's Maternal Mortality and Racial Disparities Task Force as well as a member of New York State's Maternal Mortality Steering Committee and New York State Maternal Mortality Review Board.

Most recently Dr. James-Conterelli served as a member of Governor Andrew Cuomo's COVID-19 Maternity Task Force. Dr. James-Conterelli recognizes the importance of global outreach and have dedicated efforts towards assisting the midwives and the perinatal community in her home of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Dr. James-Conterelli scholarly areas of interest include diversity, equity and inclusion as well as maternal mortality and racial disparities.



**Teresa Janevic, PhD, MPH**, is perinatal epidemiologist with a focus on health disparities and social determinants of population health. She is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, and of Population Health Science and Policy and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Her research examines why social exposures, such as neighborhood context, racial discrimination, migration, and stress, influence perinatal and reproductive health outcomes and the role of quality of health care in these relationships. Dr. Janevic also studies the impact of programs and policies on perinatal outcomes and implementation science to reduce maternal and child health inequalities. She has expertise in study design and advanced analytic methods, as well as the use of large administrative databases for research.



**Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP** joined The New York Academy of Medicine as a Senior Scholar-in-Residence in 2019. She is President and Professor Emerita of SUNY Upstate Medical University, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, Columbia University and Associate Director of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, a national program modelled after the Nova award-winning program, the Harlem Hospital Injury Prevention program. Dr. Laraque-Arena completed her medical studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, earning a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Her internship and residency were completed at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow in General Academic Pediatrics (1984-86). Driven to address the health needs of disadvantaged

communities, she accepted her first academic position at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University and Harlem Hospital Center where she rose to the rank of Associate Professor. She then accepted a position as Chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. During that period she was promoted to the position of tenured Professor of Pediatrics and received the endowed chair as the Debra & Leon Black Professor of Pediatrics and became Vice-Chair for Public Policy and Advocacy. Subsequently, she accepted the position of Chair and Vice President of the Maimonides Children's Hospital of Brooklyn—the first woman and first African-American to hold that position in the 100 year history of the hospital, and was Professor of Pediatrics (Investigator Track, 2010-2015) at Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY. She was appointed the seventh President of SUNY Upstate Medical and held the positions of tenured Professor of Pediatrics with additional appointments in Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Public Health & Preventive Medicine. She completed her tenure at the university in 2019. She was the first woman and the first African-American to hold the position of President at SUNY, Upstate Medical University. Dr. Laraque-Arena is board certified in Pediatrics and in Child Abuse Pediatrics. Her scholarly work has focused on adolescent health behaviors, injury prevention, especially related to penetrating trauma, mental health integration in primary care settings, and global child health and has resulted in over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts, multiple chapters and media resource and educational materials.





**Adrienne Mercer, EdD, CHES** is the Program Director for the State funded Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative at Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnerships. The overall goal of the program is to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for Medicaid-eligible high-need low-income women and their families while reducing persistent racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in those outcomes. Dr. Mercer possesses a Doctorate in Health Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist. Dr. Mercer has over 20 years of experience in public health program management with extensive experience working with ethnically and culturally diverse populations in community, school, hospital, and faith based settings. Dr. Mercer has solid expertise in implementing and managing programs, research, literature reviews, data analysis, program planning, development, operations, monitoring, and evaluation. Dr. Mercer has coordinated maternal child health initiatives on multi-levels. She has managed the: state funded comprehensive prenatal perinatal services network and community health worker program; federal funded healthy start program; city council funded infant mortality reduction initiative; and a March of Dimes funded maternal child health initiative. In addition, Dr. Mercer has published an article in the Health Education Journal, on "Obesity, battle of the bulge-policy behind change: Whose responsibility is it and who pays?"



**Commissioner Chanel L. Porchia Albert CD, CPD, CLC**, is the Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Ancient Song Doula Services; A reproductive health organization of over 70 full-spectrum community-based doulas focused on providing resources and full-spectrum doula services to women of color and marginalized communities throughout NYC and Northern New Jersey. She is a certified lactation counselor, midwifery assistant, and vegan chef who has served on various advisory boards throughout the country. When she is not working on legislative policy or facilitating workshops, you can find her spending time with her six children.



**Jochen Profit, MD, MPH** is the Chief Quality Officer at California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford University. Dr. Profit received his medical degree from the Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg, Germany. He completed pediatric residency training at Tufts University, and fellowships in neonatal-perinatal medicine and health services research and a Master's of Public Health at Harvard. From 2005 to 2013, Dr. Profit served as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. In 2013, he joined the faculty at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he continues his research and practices as a neonatologist. Dr. Profit's research, which has received federal and intramural support, concentrates on measuring and improving the quality of neonatal and pediatric health care delivery, with a focus on enhancing organizational effectiveness. Dr. Profit has developed a composite indicator quality of care provided to very low-birth-weight infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), the Baby-MONITOR. This tool has been used to benchmark quality of care delivery in California NICUs. In addition, his research has focused on organizational determinants of excellence, including patient safety culture, high reliability, and caregiver resilience. Dr. Profit is a frequent invited lecturer at national scientific meetings and has served as a member of the National Quality Forum's Steering Committee on National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Perinatal Care and on the National Priorities Partnership Action Team. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Pediatrics Technical Committee on Neonatal Quality Improvement.



**Lynn Roberts, PhD** is an Assistant Professor of Community Health and Social Sciences at CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. She has a BS in human development from Howard University (1984) and a PhD in Human Services Studies from Cornell University (1991). The City University of New York has been her academic home since 1995. Prior to joining CUNY and the GSPHHP, she oversaw the development, implementation and evaluation of several prevention programs for women and youth in NYC. She has also served on the board of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective and co-edited the anthology *Radical Reproductive Justice* (CUNY Feminist Press, 2017). Dr. Roberts' current activism and scholarship examine the intersections of race, class and gender in adolescent dating relationships, juvenile justice and reproductive

health policies; as well as the impact of models of collaborative inquiry and teaching on civic and political engagement. Her research interests include adolescent health, women's health, reproductive justice, racism and health, community organizing, and collaborative inquiry.



**Judith A. Salerno, MD, MS**, is the President of The New York Academy of Medicine and is leading its strategic vision to advance health equity. A physician executive and one of the nation's pre-eminent leaders in health and health care, Dr. Salerno most recently served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Susan G. Komen™, the world's largest breast cancer organization, with over \$2.9 billion invested in research, community health and advocacy since 1982. She joined Komen from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academy of Medicine, where she was the Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Officer, serving as executive director and chief operating officer. In that role, she was responsible for directing the IOM's research and policy programs and guiding the Institute's operations on a daily basis. While at IOM, she led its partnership with HBO to

create an Emmy-nominated documentary series in 2013 on America's obesity epidemic, *The Weight of the Nation*, and co-authored a companion book that examined the crisis and proposed solutions. She also oversaw over 150 consensus study reports and IOM's policy forums, a consortium of government, industry, academic, consumer, and other representatives that identifies and examines emerging high-priority policy issues. Dr. Salerno was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine in 2018 and was elected as a Fellow of The New York Academy of Medicine in 2017. She currently serves as a Member of the National Academy of Medicine Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness, on the Advisory Board of the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, and as Commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Control. A board-certified physician in internal medicine, Dr. Salerno earned her MD degree from Harvard Medical School in 1985 and a Master of Science degree in Health Policy from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1976.



**Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH, FACOG** is an Associate Professor and OBGYN Hospitalist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco. As a sexual, reproductive, and perinatal (SRP) epidemiologist and obstetric hospitalist, the ethics and science of her research, clinical practice, and teaching exists at the intersections of critical, interpretative, cultural, and biomedical anthropology and crunk public health, with a foundation rooted in Cultural Rigor, Black Feminism, and Reproductive Justice (RJ). As a "dissident, disruptive, and recovering" board certified OBGYN and critical public health scholar, her work examines interventions to eliminate and reduce disparities and inequities in SRP health services provision, through the integration of a Black Feminist and Reproductive Justice (RJ) Praxis, in the afterlife of slavery and passage of the Congressional

Act of 1807 (which took effect in 1808, prohibiting further participation of the United States in the slave trade). Her research also examines the role of gendered racism, power, and economics in the authentic, coerced, and regulated

formations and expressions of Blackness, Black womanhood, Black motherhood, Black births, and Black women's scholarship within hospital and health systems culture, organizational structures, and operating mechanisms. As an educator, she examines the approachability, acceptability, availability and accommodation, affordability, and appropriateness of individuals, institutions, and systems in public health and health care that have traditionally rendered marginalized voices and communities invisible or invaluable as decision-makers, generative thinkers, achievers, and connectors. As a clinician scientist, she works to build individual and system capacity to challenge the hierarchy of knowledge production and dissemination as well as the decision making that sustains the medical industrial complex and perpetuates social and health inequities.



**Colette Sturgis, MA-MCHS** is the Program Director for the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative at Urban Health Plan, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a maternal and child health professional, she is a certified doula, who received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and a master's degree in Maternal Child Health Systems from Bastyr University. She also has received a certificate in whole health education. In the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative, she leads a team of exemplary Community Health Workers who provide excellent services to high need pregnant and parenting women in underserved areas of the Bronx. Sturgis believes that mothers, babies and their families should be healthy and treated with respect. Her mission is to improve infant and maternal vitality. Sturgis's passion for growing healthy children extends to her hobby as an avid vegetable gardener. As soon as the weather allows, she plans to tend her garden and watch the small seeds planted grow and blossom and bloom. It's a reminder that tending to mothers, babies and their families can help Bronx communities and the greater society thrive.

**Wendy C. Wilcox, MD, MBA, MPH, FACOG** is a board-certified Obstetrician Gynecologist and the Clinical System Lead for Women's Health, as well as Chairperson of Obstetrics and Gynecology for NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, has practiced obstetrics, gynecology and women's health with a focus on achieving health equity and eliminating disparities across populations throughout her career.

After earning a BA in Biomedical Ethics from Brown University, Dr. Wilcox attended SUNY Upstate Medical Center and completed her residency at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn. She holds an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and an MBA from Wagner College.

Dr. Wilcox became an attending at Montefiore Medical Center, which led to her being director of her medical group and Assistant Professor in Ob-Gyn at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Recently, Dr. Wilcox was named Co-chair for Governor Cuomo's Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes, which recommended the newly formed New York State Maternal Mortality Review Committee.



**Jennifer Zeitlin, MA, DSc**, is a perinatal epidemiologist and a tenured Research Director at the Obstetrical, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology Research Team which is part of the CRESS (Center for Epidemiology and Statistics Sorbonne Paris Cité) at INSERM. Dr. Zeitlin received her doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health and the HDR, Habilitation to supervise research, in Epidemiology from the University Pierre and Marie Curie. She holds an adjunct faculty position at Department of Population Health Science and Policy, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Her research focuses on assessing the impact of organization and quality of care on the health and development of babies born very preterm (<32 weeks of gestational age) using multi-national prospective cohort studies. She also leads

the EU Euro-Peristat project to develop perinatal health surveillance in Europe. Her third research interest is management and consequences of fetal growth restriction for preterm and term births.