

Maternal Health Disparities: The Women Behind the Data



Standing Committee on Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society
Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education

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SERIES SCHEDULE

Webinars are held 12:00pm ET -- 1:00pm ET on the following Fridays:

- *May 3: Maternal Mental Health and The Work of Doulas*
- *May 17: Community Based Organizations and Innovative Models of Care*
- *May 31: Outcome Studies of Maternal Health Care and Disparities within Active-Duty Service*
- *June 14: Understanding Micro-aggression and Implicit Bias Awareness*
- *June 28: Building Trust in Healthcare Among Historically Marginalized Pregnant Women*

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

May 31, 2024: Outcome Studies of Maternal Health Care and Disparities within Active-Duty Service



Julie Pavlin, MD, PhD, MPH, is the Senior Director, Board on Global Health at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine where she coordinates analyses of health developments beyond US borders, and areas of international health investment that promote global well-being, security, and economic development. Prior to this position, she was a Research Area Director at the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program, and the Deputy Director of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. She is a retired Colonel in the US Army with previous assignments including the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases. She concentrated most of her time with the Department of Defense in the design of real-time disease surveillance systems and was a co-founder of the International Society for Disease Surveillance. Dr. Pavlin received her AB from Cornell University, MD from

Loyola University, MPH from Harvard University and PhD in Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Uniformed Services University.



Karen A. McDonnell, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University (GWU). Dr. McDonnell is a public health program evaluation and implementation specialist with over 20 years of experience working with community groups, public health agencies, and health care systems both locally and globally. Dr. McDonnell's expertise lies in using mixed methods to look at complex public health issues and programs. Recent work includes collaborations to develop and test a community-centered FGM/C prevention project, evaluating the National Domestic Violence Hotline/loveisrespect Helpline, taking a public health approach to gender-based violence, and evaluating multi-systems changes in the Clinical Translational Science Institute with Children's National and GWU. Dr. McDonnell conducted trainings in public health policy, gender equity, and women's leadership and teaches coursework in Program Evaluation, Maternal

and Child Health, and works with undergraduate and graduate students, medical residents, and community groups to further the exploration of methods to meet our current complex public health challenges. Dr. McDonnell is the recipient of the ASPPH Early Career in Public Health Teaching Award, ASPPH Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and the Milken Institute SPH Excellence in Teaching Award.



Lynette Hamlin, PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Loyola University of Chicago, her post-master's certificate in nurse-midwifery from the University of Illinois, and her doctorate in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a minor in public administration. Dr. Hamlin is Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University. She was recently appointed as the inaugural USU Director, Military Women's Health Research Program. She is a Fellow in the American College of Nurse-Midwives and the American Academy of Nursing, a participant in the DHHS 2003 Primary Health Care Policy Fellowship, and a recipient of the coveted ACNM Kitty Ernst Award.



Tracey Pérez Koehlmoos, PhD, MHA, joined the faculty of the Uniformed Services University in July 2015 in order to lead the development of robust health services and policy research and graduate programs in support of the US Military Health System. She is the Director of the Center for Health Services Research and the Director of Doctoral Programs in Public Health. At the National Defense University, she serves as co-director of the Health and National Security concentration. Previously she served as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. With over 200 publications and multimedia products, Dr. Koehlmoos is a health systems and policy scientist who specializes in leading complex tasks, program development, and capacity building across the spectrum of health systems building blocks. Prior to transitioning to domestic and defense healthcare, she lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia. She cut her teeth in public health leading the Health & Family Planning

Systems Programme at ICDDR,B in Dhaka Bangladesh. Her research areas of interest include health equity, value-based care, women's health, systematic review, and health and National Security. She serves as the National Secretary of the Gold Star Wives of America and as the Deputy Chair of the Cochrane Library Oversight Committee. A former Army Air Defense Artillery officer she is the widow of COL Randall "Moose" Koehlmoos and mother of CPT Robert, Michael, and 1LT David Koehlmoos.



Monica Lutgendorf, MD, is the Chair of the Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Lutgendorf attended the University of Southern California, where she received a B.S. in Chemistry. She received her Medical Doctorate in 2004 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and completed her internship and residency in 2008 at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, practicing there until 2011, when she began a Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Madigan Army Medical Center. After completing her fellowship in 2014, Dr. Lutgendorf joined the medical staff at Naval Medical Center San Diego, where she served as Division Director for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Associate Residency Program Director, and Chair of the Defense Health Agency's Women and Infants Clinical Community.

In 2021, she returned to USU as the Department Chair of the Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics. Dr. Lutgendorf is committed to clinical standardization, provider support, medical simulation; and diversity, equity, and empowerment for women in healthcare. Her research interests include neuroprotection in preterm infants, non-invasive prenatal screening, simulation, quality improvement, healthcare disparities, intimate partner violence and posttraumatic stress disorder in pregnancy and the military.



Gayle "Hava" Haischer-Rollo, MD, is the Assistant Dean of Faculty Development and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Haischer-Rollo graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Texas, and her medical degree from University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She completed her Pediatric residency and Neonatal Fellowship at San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium in San Antonio Texas. She spent several years as a core faculty of the NICU program at Naval Hospital Portsmouth before returning to San Antonio as the program director for the Neonatal Fellowship Program.

During career she found a passion for medical education and is currently enrolled in a Master of Health Professions Education program. As Assistant Dean for Faculty Development she travels around the military health system and teaches faculty development as well as oversees a program of "boots on the ground" faculty development called FOCUS (Faculty Development Certification of the Uniformed Services). She currently teaches within the USU allyship faculty development curriculum and is committed to improving healthcare quality through education, scholarship, and advocacy.

May 17, 2024: Community Based Organizations and Innovative Models of Care



Cat Dymond, MSN, CNM is a certified nurse-midwife, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), and a nurse entrepreneur, practicing in Atlanta, GA. They are passionate about centering Black and LGBTQIA+ communities and providing inclusive sexual and reproductive health through patient education incorporating health equity and reproductive justice. Cat has witnessed the transformative power of holistic healthcare as a pro bono doula for 30 years serving immigrant and low-income birthing people. They believe midwifery is a framework for innovation and emancipatory nursing praxis. Cat earned an Anthropology degree from Harvard University and a BSN and MSN from Emory University. Midwifery is their second career after working for more than 20 years in government social services. Their lived experience, training in evidence-based practice and trauma-informed care, allows them to create and implement successful policies and programs. Cat created Earthseed Midwifery,

a grant-funded mobile/virtual health service that provides inclusive, online sexual and reproductive health education to marginalized communities. Cat's practice home has been the Atlanta Birth Center, where they've provided holistic, comprehensive, and family- centered midwifery care. Cat has been the recipient of numerous leadership awards, is a co-Leader of the National Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster for the Reproductive Health Access Project and sits on the Board of Directors of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality.



Karen A. McDonnell, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University (GWU). Dr. McDonnell is a public health program evaluation and implementation specialist with over 20 years of experience working with community groups, public health agencies, and health care systems both locally and globally. Dr. McDonnell's expertise lies in using mixed methods to look at complex public health issues and programs. Recent work includes collaborations to develop and test a community-centered FGM/C prevention project, evaluating the National Domestic Violence Hotline/loveisrespect Helpline, taking a public health approach to gender-based violence, and evaluating multi-systems changes in the Clinical Translational Science Institute with Children's National and GWU. Dr. McDonnell conducted trainings in public health policy, gender equity, and women's leadership and

teaches coursework in Program Evaluation, Maternal and Child Health, and works with undergraduate and graduate students, medical residents, and community groups to further the exploration of methods to meet our current complex public health challenges. Dr. McDonnell is the recipient of the ASPPH Early Career in Public Health Teaching Award, ASPPH Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and the Milken Institute SPH Excellence in Teaching Award.



Natalie D. Hernandez, PhD, MPH, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Executive Director of the Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). She received her Master of Public Health from Emory University and her Ph.D. in public health from the University of South Florida. Dr. Hernandez's more than 17 years of research experiences and contributions to science have been dedicated to rigorous methodology using community engagement approaches to advance health equity through research and practice. Her research on advancing science toward the elimination of women's health inequities takes a multi-sectoral and multi-level translational research approach. Her research explores the integration of technology to advance women's health and provides easy access to

women's health care. Dr. Hernandez is an R01 NIH funded researcher who has obtained diverse extramural funding to develop multiple lines of research. Most recently, she is the Principal Investigator of the inaugural NIH Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence focused on Black Maternal Behavioral Health. Dr. Hernandez has laid the groundwork for research in maternal health by establishing partnerships with local and national organizations dedicated to maternal morbidity and mortality disparities, evaluating maternal health interventions and programs, and validating effective measures of maternal mental health, medical mistrust, and psychosocial factors. She has received numerous awards for her research and dedication to community and sits on local and national maternal health organizations including but not limited to Georgia's Maternal Mortality Review Committee and Georgia PRAMS Steering Committee. Dr. Hernandez has presented her work at various international, national, state and local conferences.



Emilia Iwu, PhD, RN, APNC, FWACN, is a clinical assistant professor and the assistant dean for the Center for Global Health at Rutgers School of Nursing. She also is a Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Since 2006, Dr. Iwu has been a technical advisor for a U.S. CDC/PEPFAR (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) program at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria, where she developed national HIV treatment guidelines, policy documents, and training curricula for pre- and post-licensure education. She trained and mentored health workers to provide HIV care and continues her clinical and research work in Nigeria.

Dr. Iwu is the Nigerian principal investigator on the New York division of International Rescue Committee's UK Aid Direct consortium grant involving four African countries. It is a five-year, longitudinal cohort, midwifery workforce grant in collaboration with the Nigerian Nursing and Midwifery Council. Iwu also received a Global Health Seed Grant in 2021 from Rutgers Global Health Institute for the project titled *Youth and Family HIV Stigma: Examining Potential Barriers to HIV Services and Stigma-Reduction Interventions*. Her research in HIV task sharing received the Sigma Theta Tau International Global Research Award in 2014. She is an alumna of Rutgers and several fellowship programs, including the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship, Jonas Scholars, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars programs. She is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education and holds leadership positions in local and international nursing organizations.



Brandi Sims Desjola, EdD, is a community change agent serving to correct social inequities in their many forms through research, advocacy, education and philanthropy. A Los Angeles native, she began her career in education reform with a focus on closing opportunity gaps. She currently serves as the Co-Founder and Director for the new Black Maternal Health Center of Excellence (BMHCE) at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. Brandi studied communications and philosophy at Howard University and completed her doctorate in Education at UCLA. Her research focused on university campuses as sites of Black reproductive justice. She also studied public health at the Escuela Nacional de Salud Pública in Havana, Cuba, where she learned

first-hand about the Cuban Maternity Home model and is a certified doula and lactation educator. She sits on the LA County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM) Steering Committee, the organization that partnered with Charles Drew University (CDU) to create BMHCE. Given her educational and professional background, Brandi brings a deep understanding of the Black maternal health crisis and how to achieve solutions for reproductive justice.

May 3, 2024: Maternal Mental Health and the Work of Doulas



Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN is a preeminent scholar of antiracist birth equity research, community-informed methods, and policy translation. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from The College of New Jersey, a master's in public health from San Francisco State University and a PhD in oncology genomics at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. McLemore's has focused her career in reproductive health, rights, and justice. She retired from active clinical practice after 28 years when was awarded tenure in 2019. She has 93 peer reviewed articles, OpEds and commentaries and her research has been cited in the Huffington Post, Lavender Health, five amicus briefs to the Supreme Court of the United States, and three National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine reports. Dr. McLemore is the recipient of numerous awards and currently serves and she was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2019. She became the Editor in Chief of Health Equity

Journal in 2022. She currently serves as Director of Manning Price Spratlen Center for Anti-Racism and Equity in Nursing, at University of Washington School of Nursing and is a member of NASEM's Standing Committee on Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society.



Karen A. McDonnell, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University (GWU). Dr. McDonnell is a public health program evaluation and implementation specialist with over 20 years of experience working with community groups, public health agencies, and health care systems both locally and globally. Dr. McDonnell's expertise lies in using mixed methods to look at complex public health issues and programs. Recent work includes collaborations to develop and test a community-centered FGM/C prevention project, evaluating the National Domestic Violence Hotline/loveisrespect Helpline, taking a public health approach to gender-based violence, and evaluating multi-systems changes in the Clinical Translational Science Institute with Children's National and GWU. Dr. McDonnell conducted

trainings in public health policy, gender equity, and women's leadership and teaches coursework in Program Evaluation, Maternal and Child Health, and works with undergraduate and graduate students, medical residents, and community groups to further the exploration of methods to meet our current complex public health challenges. Dr. McDonnell is the recipient of the ASPPH Early Career in Public Health Teaching Award, ASPPH Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and the Milken Institute SPH Excellence in Teaching Award.



Jasmine L. Garland McKinney, PhD, LCMHCA, NCC, (she/her) earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology from North Carolina State University and a Master of Science (MS) in Counselor Education from East Carolina University – where she also earned a graduate certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling. Dr. Garland McKinney earned her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Counseling and Counselor Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). She is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (NC), Professional School Counselor (NC), and Nationally Certified Counselor. Dr. Garland McKinney’s clinical and scholarly efforts center on Black women’s experiences with maternal mental health, intergenerational trauma, and the relationship between Black mothers and daughters. Dr. Garland McKinney is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Community, Equity, Data, and Information Lab within the

College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland (College Park), where she continues to expand research on Black women’s maternal health experiences. Dr. Garland McKinney is a proud wife and mother of two girls, Blake and Cooper.



Adaeze Okoroajuzie is a senior program assistant with the Board on Health Care Services at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Prior to joining the National Academies, she was the president of GlobeMed at Howard University, a grassroots organization that works directly with the Nancholi Youth Organization (NAYO) in Blantyre, Malawi. She is a certified birth doula who provided free doula services to young mothers in Washington, DC through the Community Doula Network. Through her content creator account “DazetheDoula” she creates awareness and educates her community on birth education. Ms. Okoroajuzie obtained her Bachelor of Health Sciences, magna cum laude, with a minor in biology and maternal child health from Howard University and she is an expected Master's of Science graduate at Georgetown University Integrative Medicine and Health Sciences program August 2024.



Octavia Smith has been in the birth work field serving as a full spectrum Doula for the last 8 years providing support predominantly to wards 7 and 8 of Washington DC. Octavia currently serves in the role of Community Birth Work Coordinator for Mamatoto Village, a non-profit organization that provides accessible support during pregnancy, birth, & postpartum and create career pathways for Black women in perinatal health & human services. Octavia works closely with the organization’s Birth Workers and Care Specialists to provide effective care and support to birthing people perinatal and postpartum.

