

The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

COVID-19: Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations: A Workshop Series

Speaker Biosketches

Emily Feenstra is the Managing Director of Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In that role she leads the division responsible for government affairs, media relations and infrastructure policy for the Society, including ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card and the Failure to Act economic study series. Previously she served as Deputy Director of the US Water Alliance, where she managed the Washington, DC office and oversaw a diverse portfolio of projects and led partnerships to advance one water management in America. Emily has also held senior positions at the Intelligent Transportation Society of America and as a consultant for the Washington State Department of Transportation. She serves on the Eno Center for Transportation Board of Advisors, and holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington.

Nicolette Louissaint, Ph.D., M.B.A., serves as the Executive Director of Healthcare Ready, where she works to meet the most pressing patient needs before, during and after natural disasters, disease outbreaks and catastrophic events. Prior to joining Healthcare Ready, Nicolette was the Senior Advisor to the State Department's Special Coordinator for Ebola during the height of the Ebola Epidemic of 2014. In this role, she helped coordinate international response efforts. Nicolette currently serves as the Public Health Representative on FEMA's National Advisory Council, as a Commissioner on the Baltimore City Sustainability Commission, and as a co-Chair of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council (HPHSCC) under the Department of Homeland Security, leading on supply chain issues. Nicolette holds Bachelors of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Biological Sciences from Carnegie Mellon University, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and an M.B.A from the University of Baltimore. She completed post-doctoral fellowships at the Johns Hopkins University and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has also been recently been named in The Root 100 most influential African Americans in 2020.

Marcia G. Ory, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a regents and distinguished professor in the Department Environmental and Occupational Health at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. She also serves as Founding Director of the University-wide Texas A&M Board of Regents Center for Population Health and Aging. Her primary passion is to promote population health through innovations in research, education, and practice that examine social, behavioral, economic, environmental, and technological solutions linking academic and real-world settings. She has been responsible for designing and implementing interventions at the individual, organizational, and technology-environmental level to improve the health and well-being of individuals across the life-course. She has published more than 400 papers in peer-reviewed journals, edited 10 books and 25 special journal issues, and penned 50 book chapters and forewords. In recognition of her status in the field, she has obtained Fellow status in professional organizations such as the American Academy of Health Behavior, Gerontological Society of America, and Society of Behavioral Medicine, and received many national awards such as the American Academy of Health Behavior Research Laureate and the Healthcare Leadership Council Redefining American Healthcare Award. Of particular note, she is on the Executive Committee of the Texas A&M Emergency Management Advisory Group and has played a key leadership role on coordinating public health research around the incidence and spread of COVID-19. She has a particular interest in how older adults have been impacted by the pandemic and strategies to ease their burdens.