

Investigating the Potential Impact of COVID-19 on the Careers of Women in Academic Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Statement of Task

An ad hoc committee of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will undertake a fast-track study focused on early indicators of the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the careers of women in academic science, engineering, and medicine. Building on the information and data in the recent NASEM report, Promising Practices for Addressing the Underrepresentation of Women in STEMM, the committee will commission research papers to identify and analyze the barriers encountered by women in STEMM academic careers during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also hold a public workshop and conduct its own analyses on the ways in which COVID-19 is exacerbating the barriers encountered by women in STEMM, particularly with respect to child and family caregiving responsibilities (which fall disproportionately on women). Based on the commissioned papers, workshop presentations, and its analyses, the committee will issue a consensus report with findings that reflect what has been learned through its work as well as recommendations for further study and investigation.

Public Agenda for the First Committee Meeting(s)

August 24 & 27, 2020

DAY 1

Monday, August 24, 2020

<https://nas-sec.zoomgov.com/j/1607780631?pwd=bHppSG10clhXWkFxZG1aa2NMc1Y0dz09>

Meeting ID: 160 778 0631 | Password: 035822

12:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

Closed Sessions

4:00 pm – 5 pm

Open Session

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm *Introduction and conversation with sponsors*

- Liz Boylan and Lorelle Espinosa, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Karen Hamrick, NCSSES, National Science Foundation
- Betsy Myers, Director, Sindy Escobar-Alvarez, and Karen Han, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Medical Research Program
- TBA, National Institutes of Health – Invited

DAY 2

Thursday, August 27, 2020

<https://nas-sec.zoomgov.com/j/1610571502?pwd=UlZnMIQvVTFvcGtha3ZLK0taYmVFQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 057 1502 | Password: 894421

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm ET

Open Session

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm *Welcome and Summary of Day 1 from Chair and Study Director*

12:10 pm – 1:15 pm *[Presentation of Promising Practices for Addressing the Underrepresentation of Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine](#)*

Study co-lead Alex Helman shares the findings and recommendations of the February 2020 report, which offers an analysis of the current research on the factors that drive gender disparities across a range of scientific, engineering, and medical disciplines and provides evidence-based strategies and practices that research has shown can improve the recruitment, retention, and advancement of white women and women of color in these fields. This report represents an up-to-date and comprehensive landscape analysis of the issue prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will have time to ask questions following the presentation.

1:15 pm – 5:00 pm ET

Closed Session