

## Webinar Participant Bios

### Panelists

**Joia A. Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG**, is the founder & Director of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. Dr. Crear-Perry identifies & challenges racism as a root cause of health inequities. She is a highly sought-after trainer & speaker who has been featured in national & international publications, including *Essence* & *Ms.* magazine. In 2020, Dr. Crear-Perry was honored by *USA Today* in its “Women of the Century” series & featured on *ABC Nightline*’s “Hear Her Voice.” Dr. Crear-Perry has twice addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to elevate the cause of gender diversity & urge a human rights framework toward addressing maternal mortality. Previously, she served as the executive director of the Birthing Project, director of women’s & children’s services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center, & as the director of clinical services for the City of New Orleans Health Department. Dr. Crear-Perry currently serves as a principal at Health Equity Cypher & on the Board of Trustees for Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Community Catalyst, National Clinical Training Center for Family Planning, & the University of California, San Francisco Preterm Birth Initiative. She is an adjunct professor at Tulane School of Public Health. After completing undergraduate studies at Princeton University & Xavier University, Dr. Crear-Perry received her MD from Louisiana State University & completed her residency in obstetrics & gynecology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine. She is married to Dr. Andre Perry & has three children (Jade, Carlos, & Robeson) & one grandson (Quinn). Her love is her family; health equity is her passion; maternal & child health are her callings.

**Cara C. Heuser, MD, Intermountain Health**, is a maternal-fetal medicine physician at Intermountain Health’s IMC Maternal Fetal Specialists OB Clinic, where she serves patients throughout the Salt Lake Valley. She provides comprehensive care, including preconception counseling, high-risk ultrasound management, and prenatal diagnosis. Dr. Heuser is dedicated to supporting pregnancies complicated by maternal health issues and fetal conditions. Her research interests focus on stillbirth epidemiology, pre-eclampsia, and perinatal decision-making. Dr. Heuser earned her B.A. and M.D. from the University of Virginia, where she completed her OB/GYN residency. She furthered her specialty by completing her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at the University of Utah. Originally from Virginia, Dr. Heuser enjoys spending her free time with her husband and children.

**Lauren Korshak, DHealth, MS, ACSM-CEP**, is the Director of Education at OHE. Prior to joining OHE, Lauren worked within VHA to develop and expand VA’s strategic partnerships with nongovernmental organizations that included Amazon, YMCA, United States Tennis Association, (USTA), and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s 100 Million Healthier Lives Initiative, as well as with community Choice providers to ensure that Veterans were connected to treatment in their communities as well as within their VA Medical Centers. Lauren practiced as a physiologist at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, where she oversaw the exercise and stress management components of the Lifestyle Intervention for Veterans (LIVE) Program at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, a holistic program aimed at providing intensive diabetes management through lifestyle interventions as an adjunct to traditional medication therapy, and was engaged in epidemiology, systems redesign, and clinical research. Lauren holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health. She has Doctor of Health degree from the University of Bath in England. Lauren

is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Maryland. She explores and has published on the relationships between chronic disease, exercise capacity and mortality. Lauren has been interviewed by television news and radio channels about the importance of engaging in healthy behaviors.

**Katy B. Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA**, is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor at University of Minnesota School of Public Health, located on Dakota land. She is Co-Director of the [University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center](#) and the [University of Minnesota Rural Health Program](#). Dr. Kozhimannil conducts research to inform health policy that supports people at critical times in their lives, including pregnancy and childbirth. Drawing on her research and recommendations, local, state, and federal laws have allocated resources to improve access to prenatal, obstetric, and postpartum care in communities lacking access to high quality care.

### **Planning Committee**

**Yvette Calderón, MD, MS**, is currently a tenured Professor of Emergency Medicine (EM) and chair of Emergency Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the System Lead for Emergency Medicine Shared Service Line at the Jefferson Health System. She is renowned for her lifelong commitment to providing care to the underserved, finding solutions to address disparate medical care in vulnerable communities and promoting diversity in the field of medicine to reflect the diversity of patients served. It must be stressed that her research has been nationally and internationally transformational in incorporating public health initiatives in EM. She designed and implemented screening programs to identify patients with undiagnosed and/or untreated HIV/HCV and successfully linked these patients to care. She was appointed to the National Academy of Medicine in 2022. Dr. Calderon received her medical degree and Master of Science in Clinical Research Methods from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and her undergraduate degree at Brown University. Dr. Calderon completed her medical internship at Beth Israel Medical Center and her residency at Jacobi Medical Center.

**Melissa Simon, MD, MPH**, is the George H. Gardner Professor of Clinical Gynecology, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She is also the Founder and Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation and the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative and the Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement for the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is an expert in implementation science, women's health across the lifespan, minority health, community engagement and health equity. She has been recognized with numerous awards for her substantial contribution to excellence in health equity scholarship, women's health and mentorship, including the Presidential Award in Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentorship and a Presidential Leadership Scholar. She is a member of The National Academy of Medicine, a former member of the US Preventive Services Task Force and serves on the NIH Office of Research in Women's Health Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity. She completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago, her medical degree at Rush Medical College, her residency at Yale University, and her fellowship in family planning at Northwestern University.

**Winston Wong, MD, MS**, is a Scholar-in-Residence at the Kaiser Permanente UCLA for Health Equity with a four-decade history of addressing health equity as a clinician, medical director, officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, physician executive, non-profit Board director, federal advisor, and philanthropic leader. He currently leads the National Council of Asian Pacific

Islander Physicians after a 17-year career as Medical Director, Community Benefit for Kaiser Permanente. Anchored by his experiences as an FQHC physician serving residents in Oakland Chinatown, Dr. Wong has led national efforts to advance cultural competence and access to marginalized populations, including chair of the DHHS Advisory Committee on Minority Health. An Associate of the National Research Council, Dr. Wong served on the NASEM's Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice and NASEM committees addressing the Future of Nursing and the Intersection of Public Health and Primary Care. A graduate of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, Dr. Wong's professional contributions have been recognized by the California Primary Care Association, Asian Health Services, the American Journal of Public Health, Latino Health Access, the AT Still School of Osteopathy and Congresswoman Barbara Lee.