

# *The National Academies of* **SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

## **POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

*Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

### **SPEAKER BIOS (in alphabetical order by last name)**

#### **Overcoming Barriers to Diversifying Clinical Trials: 2nd Public Workshop**

Webcast Live Here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/06-01-2021/overcoming-barriers-to-diversifying-clinical-trials-2nd-public-workshop>

June 1, 2021 | 10:00am-3:00 pm ET

**Adaora Adimora**, *Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Professor of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Public Health*

Adaora Adimora is an American doctor and academic. She is the Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor of Medicine and professor of epidemiology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Her research centers on the transmission of HIV, as well as other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), among minority populations. Her work has highlighted the importance of social determinants of HIV transmission and the need for structural interventions to reduce risk. In 2019, she became an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of her contributions. She is a physician-epidemiologist with specialty training and extensive clinical experience in infectious diseases, particularly HIV, both in North Carolina and New York City. She received her B.A. from Cornell University in Psychology and her medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine. She did her Internal Medicine internship and residency at Boston City Hospital and completed specialty training in Infectious Diseases at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, NY. Prior to coming to UNC, she served as assistant chief for science of the NC Health Department's Communicable Disease Control Section. A fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Dr. Adimora chairs the NIH's HIV Prevention Trials Network's Women at Risk Committee. She has served on the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Advisory Council and as chair of the HIV Medicine Association. She also serves on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines Panel. She is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. In 2009 The Root (a publication of the Washington Post Company) named Dr. Adimora to its inaugural list of The Root 100, its recognition of "established and emerging African American leaders who are making extraordinary contributions."

**Philip M. Alberti, Ph.D.**, *Founding Director, AAMC Center for Health Justice; Senior Director, Health Equity Research and Policy, Association of American Medical Colleges*

As the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) Senior Director, Health Equity Research and Policy and the Founding Director of the AAMC Center for Health Justice, Philip M. Alberti, Ph.D. supports the efforts of academic medical centers, in collaboration with local communities and the multiple sectors that serve them, to build an evidence-base for effective programs, protocols, policies, and partnerships aimed at eliminating inequities in health. Dr. Alberti is a national research and policy leader at the intersection of community health, population health and health equity and has led and served on committees, workgroups, and task forces convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Quality Forum, among others. He regularly speaks on issues related to community and patient engagement, data needs for health equity, and the importance of adopting a

multi-sector, community-driven approach to achieve health justice, and has published numerous peer-reviewed research articles and commentaries on these topics. Previously, Dr. Alberti led research, evaluation, and planning efforts for a Bureau within the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that works to promote health equity for neighborhoods that have been marginalized and under-resourced. Dr. Alberti holds a B.A. in psychology and a Ph.D. degree in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University and was a National Institute of Mental Health Fellow in the Psychiatric Epidemiology Training program.

**Katherine D. Blizinsky, Ph.D.,** *Policy Director, the All of Us Research Program*

Katherine D. Blizinsky, Ph.D, is the Policy Director for the *All of Us* Research Program, leading program policy activities and the development and strategic visioning for work regarding ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI). A neuroscientist and geneticist, specializing in research on mental health and cognition, with a focus on health disparities and gene-environment interaction, Dr. Blizinsky completed her doctoral work at Northwestern University. She is an alumna of the American Society of Human Genetics/National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship and has policy experience with both the legislative and executive branches. On Capitol Hill, Dr. Blizinsky worked with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee under Ranking Member Patty Murray, where, among other roles, Dr. Blizinsky helped lead the drafting and negotiation of the 21st Century Cures Act. Following her time on the Hill, she moved to NIH, where she held simultaneous appointments as policy advisor to the *All of Us* Research Program and as an intramural research fellow with the NHGRI Health Disparities Unit. In addition to her current role with *All of Us*, Dr. Blizinsky continues to be involved in academic research, as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Rush University's Alzheimer's Disease Center, and lectures regularly on genomics, legal and regulatory policy, and ELSI.

**Jonca Bull, MD,** *Vice President, Value and Development Consulting, Evidera, PPD*

Jonca works to advance clinical development programs to ensure that new medical therapies are made available to patients in a rapid and cost-efficient manner beginning with early phases of clinical development throughout the product life cycle. Based in PPD's Washington, D.C., area office, Jonca joined PPD in 2017 following a career with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and in the pharmaceutical industry. She has significant therapeutic experience in clinical regulatory development consulting for biopharmaceutical products across a range of therapeutic areas with a specific interest in ensuring that clinical trials are patient centric in addressing unmet needs. Prior to joining PPD, Jonca served as assistant commissioner at FDA with a focus on diverse populations and clinical trials; vice president for U.S./North American regulatory policy for Novartis Pharmaceuticals; and director of clinical regulatory policy for Genentech. From 1994 to 2005, Jonca held various senior leadership roles with the FDA across various disease areas and programs. From 1982 to 1994 she cared for patients at a medical/surgical practice in the Washington metro area. She is a diplomat of both the American Board of Ophthalmology and the National Board of Medical Examiners. Jonca holds an undergraduate degree from Princeton University, a medical degree from Duke University, and she completed residencies in general medicine and ophthalmology at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she also serves as an assistant clinical professor. She is a recipient of a 2017 Year of Women Award in recognition of great accomplishment to the field of ophthalmology by Women in Ophthalmology.

**Gina Green-Harris, MBA,** *Director, Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health*

Gina Green-Harris is the Director of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute Regional Milwaukee Office, as well as Director of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships (CCEAHP) in Milwaukee, and Director of the All of Us Research program in Milwaukee, and Director of the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF). Ms. Green-Harris has expertise in the areas of health equity, diversity and inclusion, cultural competency, leadership development, and research. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her work, including a 2019-2020 UW-Madison Outstanding Woman of Color Award. In September 2020, she was appointed to chair the Governor's Health Equity Council. Ms. Green-Harris received her Master of Business Administration from Franklin University in Columbus, OH and her Bachelor of Science at Central State University in Wilberforce, OH.

**Regina Greer-Smith, MPH, FACHE, *President, Healthcare Research Associates, LLC***

Regina Greer-Smith, MPH, FACHE, is the President of Healthcare Research Associates, LLC, a community-based organization located in Apple Valley, whose work includes building and maintaining collaborations between communities and stakeholders that enable improved healthcare outcomes. She is co-founder of Pastors4PCOR, a PCORI-funded research engagement program training faith-based organizations in patient-centered outcomes research as well as involved in training and stakeholder collaborations and research engagement consultant on several boards and projects. Regina is among the winners of 2013 Health 2.0 PCORI Challenge and honorable mention in the concept category for designing a program to match patients and researchers for pcor. The program is entitled The S.T.A.R. Initiative – Strategically Targeting Appropriate Researchers. The S.T.A.R. Initiative was one of 17 world-wide finalists in the innovations program “Ideathon- Inspiring Hope” in 2016. The S.T.A.R. Initiative was named to CenterWatch's 2018 Top 20 Innovators Changing the Face of Clinical Trials. The S.T.A.R. Initiative has been funded to develop the E3 Mobile Engagement Application to increase minority participation in research and clinical trials. The S.T.A.R. was granted a trademark by The USOPT in 2016. Her primary focus has been towards addressing issues of health disparities and health inequities in vulnerable populations/underserved, minority, and communities with elevated risk. Her current work involves engagement in several PCORI-funded initiatives, collaborations with researchers and stakeholders on equity measures in research, and as a board member of the Southern California Clinical Translation Institute, SC CTSI, focused on vaccinating minorities and underserved communities regarding vaccine hesitancy.

**Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD, *Vice President for Health Justice, National Partnership for Women & Families***

Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD, is a vice president at the National Partnership for Women & Families, where she leads the Health Justice team. She is a national health and health care equity policy and advocacy thought leader with 25 years of experience advancing equal opportunity for women and families of color, and almost 20 years advocating for increased health care access and improved quality of care for underserved communities. Sinsi is deeply committed to transforming our health care system to meet the needs of our rapidly evolving nation so we can all thrive together. She believes that our future prosperity depends on ensuring our health care system routinely provides excellent, comprehensive, culturally centered and affordable care for every single person, family and community, and that this requires the dismantling of structural inequities including racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia and religious bigotry. Sinsi is a recognized leader in the national health equity movement, a sought-after strategic advisor and a dynamic, inspiring speaker. She has presented at national events across the country and served on numerous advisory committees for organizations including the National Academy of Medicine, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,

the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs and the American Association of Pediatrics. She has published extensively and has appeared in national and state level English and Spanish television, radio and print media. Sinsi's extensive experience in health and health equity policy and advocacy spans the state government, labor and non-profit arenas. Prior to joining the National Partnership's staff, she was the founding director of Families USA's Center on Health Equity Action for System Transformation, where she led efforts to advance health equity and reduce disparities in health outcomes and health care access and quality by leveraging health care and delivery system transformation to reduce persistent racial, ethnic and geographic health inequities with an intersectional lens. Prior to that, she advised and represented two governors of Puerto Rico on federal health and human services policies, and she worked for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as a senior health policy analyst and national campaign coordinator for their Healthcare Equality Project campaign to enact the Affordable Care Act. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sinsi is bilingual and bicultural. She earned an A.B. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was an Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellow, and won the Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship. She lives in Fairfax with her husband, teenage son and two rescue dogs. She loves sci-fi, board games and expressing her love for family and friends by feeding them.

**Becky Johnson**, *Director, Global Diversity & Inclusion in Clinical Trials, IQVIA*

Becky has 20 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and is a subject matter expert in healthcare communications and clinical trial recruitment with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. In her current role at IQVIA, Becky leverages her expertise to inform the strategic direction of initiatives and advise pharmaceutical company sponsor teams with their efforts to reach their goals of diversity and inclusion in their trials and clinical development programs. Becky has a Master's in Public Health and a PhD in Health Sciences. Her doctoral dissertation research focused on facilitating access to clinical trials for racially and ethnically diverse participants.

**Sarah Krüg**, *CEO and Executive Director, The Health Collaboratory*

Sarah Krüg is the founder of the [Health Collaboratory](#), a global innovation hub that paves the path for participatory co-design and collaboration in healthcare, with a focus on amplifying the voice of the patient and care/support partner in the design, development and continuous improvement of healthcare innovations. The Health Collaboratory has launched various innovations such as Prescription to Learn®, a Health GPS, and the Patient Shark Tank®, among others. Through the Patient Shark Tank®, over 20,000 patients and care/support partners across disease states have evaluated innovations across the globe, including technology, education, research, and policy. Sarah is the CEO of [CANCER101](#), a patient advocacy organization whose mission is to help patients and care/support partners navigate the cancer journey and partner with their healthcare team to make informed decisions. She is also the Acting Executive Director and Past President of the Society for Participatory Medicine, a patient: clinician member driven organization, whose mission is to enable collaborative partnerships between patients and healthcare professionals. She serves on the board of the National Organization for Rare Disorders. Sarah is the author of "A Roadmap to Wellness" with another book to launch in 2021. She is also a global speaker and recently gave a TEDx talk called "[The Patient: Doctor Tango](#)". She previously held the position of Global Education Director as well as Patient Advocacy Lead at Pfizer. She also established the Global Investigator Initiated Research Program at Pfizer. Prior to joining Pfizer, Sarah spearheaded the development of the Disease Management Clinical Pathways and conducted clinical research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

**Kimberly D. Manning, MD**, *Professor, Department of Medicine, Emory University*

Kimberly Dyan Manning, MD, joined the faculty at the Emory University School of Medicine in 2001 after completing residency in combined training Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, and currently has an academic appointment as professor in the Department of Medicine. A passionate clinician-educator, she divides her professional time between teaching pre-clinical medical students and training medical residents, primarily at Grady Memorial Hospital. Manning additionally serves as residency program director for the Transitional Year Residency Program, and has the distinction of being one of sixteen faculty members appointed to lead the new Medical School curriculum since 2007. She maintains board-certification in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Manning's academic achievements include numerous teaching awards in both the School of Medicine and the Internal Medicine residency program, and her work has been published in such prestigious journals as the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Academic Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. An avid writer, Dr. Manning authors a blog that was named in 2010 by 'O' The Oprah Magazine as one of "four top medical blogs you should read." She is additionally a regular blog contributor to the esteemed American College of Physicians (ACP) Hospitalist website, and for their monthly companion publication. Manning has been a weekly medical commentator on Fox 5 Good Day Atlanta since 2004, serves as an expert for WebMD's pediatric web site and is a frequent guest on network TV including CNN's Anderson Cooper 360, Weekend Headline News and The Dr. Oz show. The Los Angeles native balances all of this with her family life; she is a married mother of two young sons and applies her experience as a mother and wife to all that she does.

**Mahasin S. Mujahid**, *Associate Professor of Epidemiology; Director, Epidemiology & Biostatistics Master of Public Health Program; Lillian E. I. and Dudley J. Aldous Chair in the School of Public Health, UC Berkeley*

Mahasin S. Mujahid is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley where she holds the Lillian E. I. and Dudley J. Aldous Chair and is Director of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics MPH program in the School of Public Health. Her primary area of research is social epidemiology with a particular interest in investigations of neighborhood health effects, cardiovascular health disparities, and racial/ethnic health inequities over the life course. Using data from several U.S.-based cardiovascular cohorts, Dr. Mujahid seeks to improve the measurement of structural and contextual measures, including specific features of neighborhood physical and social environments, and employ novel statistical methods to estimate the contribution of structural and contextual factors to cardiovascular health and health disparities. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the Social Determinants Core of a multi-site cohort study designed to understand the disproportionate burden of cardiovascular disease in rural areas in Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and published in leading public health and medical journals. Dr. Mujahid is also an active member of the American Heart Association, where she is a fellow, member of the Advocacy Committee, and immediate past chair of the Social Determinants Scientific Subcommittee. Dr. Mujahid is also a renowned teacher and mentor. She has received several honors from UC Berkeley, including the 2021 Carol D. Soc Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award, the Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award, the Committee on Teaching Excellence Award, and the Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service. Prior to joining the faculty at UC Berkeley, Dr. Mujahid earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Xavier University, New Orleans LA, and an M.S. in Biostatistics and Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI. She was also a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Harvard University.