

*The National Academies of*  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**Advancing Maternal Health Equity and Reducing Maternal Mortality | A Virtual Workshop**

**AGENDA | June 7-8, 2021**  
**11:00 am -5:30 pm Eastern Time**

**Workshop Objectives** | To examine the current state of maternal health in the United States and explore the factors needed to enable communities and healthcare systems to be more effective in reducing maternal morbidity and mortality and improving outcomes for pregnant people through the fourth trimester. The workshop will examine:

- the factors shaping maternal health and outcomes, including social determinants, and the role early life events play in shaping health trajectories, and access to and the safety and quality of maternal health care
- the current state of evidence on maternal health and maternal mortality
- current promising evidenced-informed practices for improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality from selected states/localities
- promising models and approaches that apply a life course approach to advance maternal health including the health of the child through the fourth trimester
- research needs across the life course to improve outcomes for mother and child including reproductive and sexual health equity through the fourth trimester.

**MONDAY, June 7**

11:00 am -11:10 am

**Introduction**

Claire Brindis, Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy in the Division of Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Emerita Director of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco

**Welcome**

Victor Dzau, President, National Academy of Medicine

11:10 am - 12:00 pm

**I. Root Causes of Poor Maternal Health Outcomes for Black and Indigenous People**

*Moderator:*

- Claire Brindis

*Speakers*

- Joia Crear-Perry, Founder and President, National Birth Equity Collaborative

- Monica McLemore, Associate Professor, Family Health Care Nursing Department, University of California, San Francisco; Affiliated Scientist, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health
- Marinah Farrell, Chicana/Indigenous, Executive Director, Changing Women Initiative

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

## **II. Burden of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality**

### *Moderator*

- Brownsyne Tucker-Edmonds, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs | Professional Development | Diversity and Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Clinical Pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine

### *Speakers*

- RADM Wanda D. Barfield, Director, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Laurie Zephyrin, Vice President, Advancing Health Equity, The Commonwealth Fund
- Abigail Echo-Hawk, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Executive Vice President at Seattle Indian Health Board; Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Break**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## **III. Birthing Experiences in Care Settings**

### *Moderator*

- Monica McLemore, Associate Professor, Family Health Care Nursing Department, University of California, San Francisco; Affiliated Scientist, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health

### *Speakers*

- Karen A. Scott, Associate Professor, Ob/Gyn, Reproductive Sciences; Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine
- Saraswathi Vedam, Professor of Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Lead Investigator, Birth Place Lab, MSFHR Health Professional Investigator
- Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs, Professional Development, Diversity; Associate

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Clinical Pediatrics,  
Indiana University School of Medicine

- Carolyn Sufrin, Assistant Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Associate Director, Center for Medical Humanities and Social Medicine, John Hopkins University

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#### **IV. Maternal Health and COVID: Exacerbating Vulnerabilities and Use of Technology**

##### *Moderator*

- Melissa Simon, George H. Gardner Professor of Clinical Gynecology, Vice Chair of Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; Founder and Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation and the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative and the Co-Program Leader for Cancer Control and Survivorship for the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center

##### *Speakers*

- Stephanie Gaw, Assistant Professor, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, UCSF, Co-Principal Investigator COVID-19 PRIORITY (Pregnancy CoRonavirus Outcomes RegIsTrY)
- Allison Bryant Mantha, Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Harvard Medical School; Senior Medical Director for Health Equity, Mass General Brigham
- Nia Mitchell, Birth Equity Research Scholar, National Birth Equity Collaborative

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

#### **V. Maternal Health Issues Related to the 4th Trimester**

##### *Moderator*

- Melissa Simon

##### *Speakers*

- Alison Stuebe, Professor, Distinguished Scholar, Infant and Young Child Feeding; Department of Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Gillings School of Global Public Health; Division Director for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina
- Kanika Harris, Director of Maternal Health, Black Women's Health Imperative; Public Health Expert, DC Mayor's Lactation Commission; Maternal Health Equity Advisor, State of MD
- Karen Tabb Dina, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Faculty Affiliate,

Carle Foundation Hospital, the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, and the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives

- Kay Matthews, Founder, The Shades of Blue Project

## TUESDAY, June 8

11:00 am ET

### Welcome

- Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs | Professional Development | Diversity and Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Clinical Pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine

11:05 am - 12:00 pm

### VI. State Efforts to Redesign Maternal Health Care

#### *Moderator*

- Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds

#### *Speakers*

- Kathryn Menard, Upjohn Distinguished Professor of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University of North Carolina; Medical Director, North Carolina's Pregnancy Medical Home through Community Care of North Carolina
- Chanel Porchia-Albert, Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Ancient Song Doula Services; Commissioner, NYC Commission on Gender Equity
- Zsakeba Henderson, Senior Vice President & MCH Impact Deputy Medical Officer, Office of Maternal and Child Health Impact, March of Dimes

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### VII. Implementation of Statewide Policies and Mandates to Advance Maternal Health Equity

#### *Moderator*

- Claire Brindis, Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy in the Division of Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Emerita Director of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco

#### *Speakers*

- Ann E.B. Borders, Executive Director and Obstetric Lead, Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative; Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician, NorthShore University Health System, Clinical Associate Professor, Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago

- Charlene Collier, Medical Director, Bureau of Maternal and Infant Health, Mississippi State Department of Health in Jackson, MS; Director and Co-Founder, Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- Nourbese Flint, Policy Director, Black Women for Wellness; Executive Director at Black Women for Wellness Action Project

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Break**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**VIII. Promising Strategies using a Reproductive Wellbeing Approach To Advance Maternal Health**

*Moderator*

- Monica McLemore, Associate Professor, Family Health Care Nursing Department, University of California, San Francisco; Affiliated Scientist, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health

*Speakers*

- Aza Nedhari, Executive Director, Mamatoto Village
- Ebony Marcelle, Director of Midwifery, Community of Hope/Family Health and Birth Center
- Camie Jae Goldhammer, Sisseton-Wahpeton, Founder and Chair of the Native American Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington; Founding Mother and President Elect, National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color
- Grace Lubwama, CEO, YWCA Kalamazoo (via video)

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**IX. Federal Policy Approaches to Address Maternal Health and Maternal Morbidity**

*Moderator*

- Kosali Simon, Herman B Wells Endowed Professor, O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Associate Vice Provost for Health Sciences at the Indiana University

*Speakers*

- Jamila Taylor, Director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation
- Jennifer Moore, Founding Executive Director, Institute for Medicaid Innovation
- Dawn Godbolt, Policy Director, National Birth Equity Collaborative

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

## **X. Research and Funding Needs to Increase Knowledge Generation and Improve Maternal Health Outcomes**

### *Moderator*

- Claire Brindis

### *Speakers*

- Juanita J. Chinn, Sociologist and Demographer, Population Dynamics Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- Kathryn Schubert, President and CEO, Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR)
- Monique Shaw, Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)
- Tenesha Duncan, Principal, Birth Equity, Tara Health Foundation

5:30 pm

## **Workshop adjourns**

**Workshop Planning Committee** | Claire Brindis (University of California, San Francisco), Brownsyn Tucker Edmonds (Indiana University), Elena Fuentes-Afflick (University of California, San Francisco), Melissa A. Simon (Northwestern University).

*Note: The planning committee's role is limited to planning the workshop. A proceedings based on workshop will be prepared by an independent rapporteur.*

**Workshop Sponsors** | March of Dimes, Merck, National Academy of Medicine Women's Health Issues Endowment, Ronald McDonald House Charities Global

**Rose Marie Martinez, Sc.D.** | [rmartinez@nas.edu](mailto:rmartinez@nas.edu)

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**This webinar will be archived on**

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/06-07-2021/workshop-on-advancing-maternal-health-equity-and-reducing-maternal-mortality>