

Hauser Policy Fund Webinar: Understanding and Addressing Disparities in Midlife Mortality

Loretta Christensen, MBA, MSJ, FACS, an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe, serves as the chief medical officer of the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As the chief medical officer, Dr. Christensen is IHS' lead expert on medical and public health topics, giving technical consultation and guidance to the IHS Office of the Director and IHS staff throughout the country on American Indian and Alaska Native health care policies and issues. She provides national leadership for clinical and community-based health programs of the agency, and serves as the primary liaison and advocate for IHS health professionals.

William Cooke, MD, FAAFP, FASAM, AAHIVS, is proud to have graduated with honors from IU School of Medicine in 2001 and is now a fellow of the American Academy of Family Medicine and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, specializing in Family Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and HIV Medicine. He has received national recognition for the quality and compassionate care he provides by being named Family Physician of the Year by the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians. He's also received the Doc Hollywood Award by the Indiana Rural Health Association for his service to rural Indiana, the Indiana State Health Commission's Award for Exceptional Public Health Service, the Ryan White Distinguished Leadership Award, and the first ever Physician Pillar of Excellence Award by Addiction Policy Forum.

In addition to operating his Scott County, Indiana based rural health clinic, Foundations Family Medicine, he serves as the executive director of the nonprofit community organization, Refresh (F5); as the Medical Director of the Scott Memorial Health hospitalist program, and as Co-Director of the Rural Center of HIV/STD Prevention. He also serves on several boards of directors including the Scott County Partnership and the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Cooke believes that everyone deserves equal access to hope, health, and opportunity. He explores this topic in his book called *Canary in the Coal Mine* that through the lens of the historic 2015 Scott County HIV outbreak.

Dr. Cooke currently lives in Southern Indiana where he now resides with his wife and six kids.

William A. ("Sandy") Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics and the director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He has served as chair of the Department of African and African American Studies and was the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke. Darity's research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity, stratification economics, schooling and the racial achievement gap, North-South theories of trade and development, skin shade and labor market outcomes, the economics of reparations, the Atlantic slave trade and the Industrial Revolution, the history of economics, and the social psychological effects of exposure to unemployment. His most recent book, coauthored with A. Kirsten Mullen, is *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* (2020). *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century* is the recipient of the inaugural 2021 book prize from the Association of African American Life and

History and the 2020 Ragan Old North State award for nonfiction from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association.

Darrell J. Gaskin is William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in health policy and director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a health services researcher and health economist with a focus on health and health care disparities. Gaskin has published in the leading health services and public health research journals, including the American Journal of Public Health, Health Services Research, Health Affairs, Inquiry, Medical Care, Medical Care Research and Review, and Social Science & Medicine. He is a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Systems for Action program and serves on the board of directors of the American Society of Health Economists. Gaskin has also served as chair of the board of directors of AcademyHealth and has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics. He is a 2019 recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Gaskin holds an M.A. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in health economics from Johns Hopkins University.

Kathleen Mullan Harris is the James E. Haar distinguished professor of sociology, adjunct professor of public policy, and faculty fellow at the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on social inequality and health with particular interests in health disparities, biodemography, sociogenomics, and life course and aging processes. Dr. Harris served as director and principal investigator of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) from 2004-2021 (deputy director 1999-2004). She transformed Add Health into a landmark study funded by NIH institutes and agencies in which she integrated biological and genomic data for scientific study of developmental and health trajectories across the early life course. Dr. Harris works with an interdisciplinary set of scholars from sociology, epidemiology, nutrition, economics, cardiology, genetics, and survey methods to publish research on such topics as the health effects of despair, isolation and stress, social genetic effects, health costs of upward mobility, and the obesity epidemic and young adult health. She was awarded the Golden Goose Award from the US Congress in 2016 for major breakthroughs in medicine, social behavior, and technological research. Dr. Harris is past president of the Population Association of America, president of the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Science, and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She is the chair of the Committee on Population at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. She has a Ph.D. in demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Karas Montez is a professor of sociology, Gerald B. Cramer Faculty Scholar in Aging Studies, director of the Center for Aging and Policy Studies, and co-director of the Policy, Place, and Population Health Lab at Syracuse University. Her research investigates the troubling trends in population health in the United States since the 1980s and the growing influence of state policies and politics on those trends. A major focus of this work has been understanding why the trends are particularly worrisome for women, for people without a college degree, and for those living in states in the South and Midwest. Her research on these topics has been funded by NIH, NSF, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. Dr. Montez serves on the Board of Directors of the Population Association of America and Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. She also

serves on the editorial boards of *Demography*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and *The Milbank Quarterly*. Dr. Montez earned a PhD in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.