

**The Roles of Trust and Health Literacy in Achieving Health Equity  
A Workshop Series**

**Meeting #1: Clinical Settings**

**SPEAKER BIOSKETCH | September 22, 2022  
1:00 – 2:30 pm Eastern Time**

**Nikki Montgomery, MA, MEd, GPAC**

Ms. Montgomery is the Program and Communications Manager with Family Voices. Nikki's passion for empowering youth and families spans the last two decades, during which she has been an educator, a health literacy specialist, a patient advocate. Nikki identifies as neurodivergent and is also the parent of a child with autism and complex healthcare needs. In addition to a graduate certificate in Patient Advocacy, for which her research was focused on increasing engagement with parents of medically fragile children, Nikki has master's degrees in English and in Educational Psychology, with thesis research on critical thinking and health literacy for parents of children with disabilities. She is the author of the Super Safe Kids pediatric patient education series and currently serves on the Editorial Board for Pediatrics journal and on the Global Patient & Family Advisory Board for The Beryl Institute, among many other health advocacy roles.

**Michael Paasche-Orlow, MD, MA, MPH**

Dr. Paasche-Orlow is Professor of Medicine and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine at Tufts Medical Center. As a primary care clinician and a nationally recognized expert in the field of health literacy, he has dedicated his career to improving the care of vulnerable populations. He is currently a co-investigator with eight clinical studies that examine health literacy and doctor-patient communication, various modes of patient education, and empowerment. He has been the lead designer of ten patient-oriented interactive behavioral informatics programs and has helped create and evaluate a range of patient empowerment and decision support tools. With over 200 peer-reviewed papers, his work has brought attention to the role that health literacy plays in racial and ethnic disparities, improving self-care for patients with chronic diseases, and improving advanced care planning, as well as to the fact that appropriately designed information technologies can be empowering for patients with low health literacy.

**Melissa Simon, M.D. M.P.H.**

Dr. Simon 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 and the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice. 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.

**Reginald Tucker-Seeley, ScM, ScD, MA**

Dr. Tucker-Seeley is currently the Vice-President of Health Equity at ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer. In this role, he leads the development and implementation of ZERO's health equity strategy to reduce racial/ethnic and place-based disparities in prostate cancer. Dr. Tucker-Seeley completed master and doctoral degrees in public health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) and a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer prevention and control at HSPH and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI). His research has focused on social determinants of health across the life course, such as the association between the neighborhood environment and health behavior; and on individual-level socioeconomic determinants of multi-morbidity, mortality, self-rated physical, mental, and oral health. His research has also investigated the association of financial hardship with health across the cancer continuum from prevention to end-of-life care. Dr. Tucker-Seeley has a longstanding interest in the impact of health policy and social policy on racial/ethnic minorities and across socioeconomic groups. He has experience working on local and state level health disparities policy, and he has developed and taught courses focused on measuring and reporting health disparities. In 2017-2018, Dr. Tucker-Seeley was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow with a placement in the United States Senate. Prior to joining ZERO, he was the inaugural holder of the Edward L. Schneider chair in gerontology and Assistant Professor in the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California (USC).