

# Open Session Part 1: Committee on Strategies to Enhance Pediatric Health Research Funded by NIH

MARCH 14, 2025 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM EST

## Speaker Bios

**Valerie Durrant**, PhD, is the Director of the Division of AIDS, Behavioral, and Population Sciences, which comprises five review branches: Biobehavioral Processes (BP), Clinical Care and Health Interventions (CCHI), Epidemiology and Population Health (EPH), Health Services and Systems (HSS), and Social and Community Influences Across the Lifecourse (SCIL). Dr. Durrant joined the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) in 2003 as a Scientific Review Officer. Between 2010 and 2016, she served as the Chief of the Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group. Before joining NIH, she was a program officer at The National Academies' Committee on Population, where her research focused on transitions to adulthood in developing countries and health, and the health and well-being of adolescents in developing countries. Durrant holds a Ph.D. in sociology with an emphasis in demography from the University of Maryland. She was a Berelson post-doctoral fellow at the Population Council.

**Diana W. Bianchi**, MD, is the Director of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. In this role, she oversees the institute's research on pediatric health and development, maternal and reproductive health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and rehabilitation medicine, among other areas. These efforts include managing a staff of approximately 1,400 people and an annual budget of approximately \$1.75 billion. Dr. Bianchi is widely recognized for her achievements. Prior to coming to NICHD, she spent 23 years at Tufts Medical Center, where she was the founding Executive Director of the Mother Infant Research Institute, as well as the Natalie V. Zucker Professor of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Bianchi also was the Vice Chair for Pediatric Research at the Floating Hospital for Children, Boston, and served for four years on the NICHD advisory council. Dr. Bianchi also leads an intramural research laboratory in the Center for Precision Health Research at the National Human Genome Research Institute. Her research focuses on two broad themes: prenatal genomics with the goal of advancing noninvasive prenatal DNA screening, and diagnosis and investigating of the fetal transcriptome to develop new therapies for genetic disorders that can be given prenatally.

**Rohan Hazra**, MD, has served as the Director of the Division of Extramural Research (DER) at NICHD since March 2022, after acting as director since February 2020. Previously, he was the Chief of the NICHD Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch, leading research on pediatric HIV and infectious diseases. His expertise includes the long-term effects of HIV in children and adolescents, clinical trials for antiretroviral treatments, and the epidemiology and prevention of HIV in pediatric populations, particularly in resource-limited settings. A board-certified pediatrician and infectious disease specialist, Dr. Hazra earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, followed by residency and fellowship training at Children's Hospital in Boston.

**Colleen Hadigan**, MD, MPH, has served as the Chief Medical Officer and Clinical Director for the NIH Clinical Center since October 2021. Previously, she was the Deputy Manager of the NIAID Outpatient HIV and Infectious Diseases Research Clinic for over 10 years. Dr. Hadigan's academic medical career has primarily centered on clinical research, focusing on the long-term and metabolic complications of HIV and its therapies in both children and adults. Her expertise includes pediatric gastrointestinal and hepatology care, as well as the impact of HIV treatments on long-term health outcomes. A board-certified pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist, Dr. Hadigan earned her medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Harvard Combined Program for Pediatric Gastroenterology,

Hepatology, and Nutrition at Boston Children's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Hadigan also holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the Harvard School of Public Health.