

Population Health Science: Generating and Communicating Evidence--A Workshop

Committee

Philip M. Alberti

Co-Chair

Philip A. Alberti, PhD, is founding director of the AAMC Center for Health Justice and senior director of health equity research and policy at the AAMC. His work sparks, supports, and contributes to community-driven, multisector efforts that build evidence for programs, policies, practices, and partnerships that eliminate unfair and unjust group differences in health. He is a population health scientist whose singular professional commitment to health equity research and action spans 25 years. He is widely published, a frequent public speaker, and has served on advisory boards and expert panels for numerous organizations and federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He is also the current president of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. In 2021, Alberti founded the AAMC Center for Health Justice as the natural next step in a career focused on building evidence in support of the structural changes needed to ensure all communities have a genuine opportunity to thrive.

Prior to joining AAMC in 2012, Alberti led research, evaluation, and planning efforts for a bureau within the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that worked to promote community health and health equity across New York City neighborhoods. He holds a PhD in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and was a fellow in the National Institute of Mental Health Psychiatric Epidemiology training program.

Ana V. Diez Roux

Co-Chair

Ana V. Diez Roux, MD, PhD, MPH, is a Distinguished University Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Drexel Urban Health Collaborative. Dr. Diez Roux was Dean of the Dornsife School of Public Health from 2014-2023. Originally trained as a pediatrician in her native Buenos Aires, she completed public health training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. Before joining Drexel University, she served on the faculties of Columbia University and the University of Michigan, where she was Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health. Dr. Diez Roux is internationally known for her research on the social determinants of population health and the study of how neighborhoods affect health. Her work on neighborhood health effects has been highly influential in the policy debate on population health and its determinants. Her research areas include social epidemiology and health disparities, environmental health effects, urban health, psychosocial factors, cardiovascular disease epidemiology, social environment-gene interactions, and the use of multilevel methods and complex systems approaches in population health. She has led large NIH and foundation funded research and training programs in the United States and in collaboration with various institutions in Latin America. She was Principal Investigator of the Wellcome Trust funded SALURBAL (Salud Urbana en América Latina) study (2017-2023). She is currently Multiple Principal Investigator for the Wellcome Trust funded SALURBAL Climate Project and PI of the NIH-funded Drexel Center on Climate Change and Urban Health (CCUH). She is also Multiple Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Drexel FIRST initiative, a program focused on the creation of a culture of inclusive excellence via recruitment and career development support of 12 diverse early stage investigators and a set of strategies in support of institutional transformation at Drexel University.

Mariana Arcaya

Member

Mariana Arcaya, ScD, MCP, is Germeshausen Professor of Urban Planning and Public Health at MIT. She is a social epidemiologist and urban planner whose work explores dynamic relationships between geographic contexts, particularly neighborhoods, and health. Mariana conducts scholarly and policy-relevant research in two main areas: 1) bi-directional relationships between place and health, including how health considerations shape socioeconomic outcomes for individuals and communities, and, 2) applied and translational research on the social determinants of health, particularly health risk factors shaped by urban policy and planning decisions. Prior to coming to MIT in 2015, Mariana served as a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. She holds a Doctorate of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Master of City Planning from MIT's Department of Urban Studies & Planning. Her professional work experience includes instituting and managing a Public Health Division within Metropolitan Boston's regional planning agency, as well as designing and overseeing the implementation of healthy urban planning strategies under a federally funded Community Transformation Grant.

Bettina M. Beech

Member

Dr. Bettina M. Beech, DrPH, MPH, FAHA, is Chief of Population Health and Translational Science and Clinical Professor at the University of Houston, where she founded UH Population Health, an interdisciplinary initiative that is evolving into the Alliance for Population Health. She previously served as Founding Dean of the John D. Bower School of Population Health and Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and has held senior leadership positions at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dr. Beech is a population health scientist and academic leader whose work focuses on advancing translational science by strengthening the scientific, institutional, and workforce capabilities needed to translate discovery into measurable population benefit. Her expertise includes chronic disease prevention, implementation science, research capacity building, investigator development, and academic innovation, and she currently leads multiple NIH-funded initiatives supporting translational science and population health.

Dr. Beech is a Fellow of the American Heart Association and serves on the boards of the Humana Foundation, the Geisinger College of Medicine, the National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching, and the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. She is Editor-in-Chief of Population Health Management and has received national recognition for leadership in population health and academic medicine, including the Michael McGinnis Leadership Excellence Award and recognition as an Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Partner in Leadership.

Dr. Beech earned a DrPH in Community Health Sciences/Epidemiology from The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health, an MPH from Temple University, and a BA in Sociology from Temple University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and is an alumna of the American Council on Education Fellows Program and the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program.

Thomas E. Dobbs, III

Member

Thomas E. Dobbs, MD, MPH, assumed the role of Dean of the John D. Bower School of Population Health at the University of Mississippi on August 1, 2022. In addition to his role as Dean, Dr. Dobbs teaches Epidemiology for the School of Population Health and the School of Health-Related Professions. He has a clinical position within the Division of Infectious Disease, working specifically in the fields of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections with a focus on the intersection of disease and the social determinants of health. Dr. Dobbs has a long career working at the crossroads of clinical medicine and public health as a physician, researcher and public health leader. He has held numerous leadership roles within the Mississippi State Department of Health including State Epidemiologist and State Health Officer (a role through which he directed the state's response to the COVID pandemic). In his role as State Health Officer, Dr. Dobbs focused the agency on addressing the numerous health inequities that plague our state. Additionally, he has worked in leadership roles nationally and internationally in the fight against diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis.

Mathew Kiang

Member

Matthew Kiang, ScD, MPH, is assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Stanford University. His research lies at the intersection of computational epidemiology and social epidemiology. Methodologically, his work revolves around combining disparate data sources in epidemiologically meaningful ways. For example, he works with individual-level, non-health data (e.g., GPS, accelerometer, and other sensor data from smartphones), traditional health data (e.g., survey, health systems, or death certificate data), and third-party data (e.g., cellphone providers or ad-tech data). To do this, he uses a variety of methods such as joint Bayesian spatial models, traditional epidemiologic models, dynamical models, microsimulation, and demographic analysis. Substantively, his work focuses on socioeconomic and racial/ethnic inequities, substance use, and child health. For example, recently, his work has examined inequities in COVID-19 vaccine distribution, cause-specific excess mortality, and drug poisonings. Other work has examined the impact of changing vaccination rates on the reemergence of infectious diseases and the prevalence of parental death among children.

Jennifer K. Montez

Member

Jennifer Karas Montez, PhD, is University Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology Department at Syracuse University. Montez earned a Ph.D. in sociology with a demography specialization from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011. Afterwards, she spent two years at the Harvard School of Public Health as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar, and then two years at Case Western Reserve University as an assistant professor of sociology, before joining the Sociology Department at Syracuse University. Montez's 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 has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. Montez co-directs the Policy, Place, and Population Health (P3H) Lab at Syracuse University and is the director of graduate studies in the Sociology Department. Montez also serves in several leadership positions in the discipline. She is the president of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science and the next editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (starting January 1, 2027), a flagship journal of the American Sociological Association (ASA). She also co-directs the NIA-funded Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities. Previously she has served on the board of directors for the Population Association of America, chaired the ASA section on the Sociology of Population and the section on Aging and the Life Course, and served on the editorial boards for *Demography*, *The Milbank Quarterly*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and the *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

Alina B. Baci

Staff Officer

Alina Baci is a Senior Program Officer in the Center for Health, People, and Places at the National Academies. She has directed the activities of the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement since its launch in 2013. After joining the National Academies in 2001, Dr. Baci staffed or directed several consensus studies, including those that produced the reports *Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders* (2025), *Leading Health Indicators 2030: Advancing Health, Equity, and Well-Being* (2020), and the *For the Public's Health* series of reports on measurement, law and policy, and funding. She previously worked in local public health at the Orange County (California) health department. Alina earned her MPH in International Health from Loma Linda University in 1996 and her PhD in human sciences ("an interdisciplinary program in language, culture, and society") from George Washington University in 2010.