

Advancing Child and Youth Health Care System Transformation: A Workshop

Committee

Leslie R. Walker-Harding

Co-Chair

Leslie R. Walker-Harding, M.D. (Co-Chair), is the Ford/Morgan Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Dean at the University of Washington and the Chief Academic Officer and Senior Vice President of Seattle Children's Hospital. Prior to returning to Seattle Dr. Walker-Harding was Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Penn State Children's Hospital. From 2007 to 2016, she was the Division Chief of Adolescent Medicine and Vice Chair of Faculty Development in Pediatrics at the University of Washington. Dr. Walker-Harding serves on a number of national boards and committees including the Council of the American Pediatric Society (APS). She currently is chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (CODI) in the APS. She serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Use and Prevention (COSUP), and she is a past President of the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine. She has served on a number of committees at the National Academies of Medicine focused on adolescent and young adult health. Her research has been focused on prevention of adolescent risk behaviors spanning adolescent and young adult substance abuse and ADHD to adolescent pregnancy prevention. Diversity and inclusion in the workforce of health providers as a way of creating excellence in academic medicine and eliminating health disparities has also been a national focus of hers. She has publications both in adolescent and young adult health, and improving excellence in health care and research by increasing workforce diversity and inclusion.

David W. Willis

Co-Chair

David W. Willis, M.D. (Co-Chair), is a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy. He leads a national initiative to advance early relational health for child health and communities. A board -certified, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, Dr. Willis was a clinician in Oregon for more than 30 years with a practice focused on early childhood development and family therapy. Most recently, he was the first executive director of the Perigee Fund, a Seattle-based philanthropy focused on strengthening of the social and emotional development of all babies and toddlers, and on advancing the workforce to do so. From 2012-2018, he served as director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau, in Washington DC, and continues to be thought leader in home visiting and early childhood systems. During his career, Dr. Willis has also been a Harris Mid-Career Fellow with childhood development nonprofit ZERO TO THREE; the past president of the Oregon Pediatric Society; an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Early Education and Child Care; and chair of the AAP's Board's Early Brain & Child Development Strategic Initiative. Dr. Willis has been a national lecturer, advisor to early childhood national policy and visionary for the transformation of child health care in coordination with early childhood communities and focused on the advancement of early relational health and young children's social-emotional and developmental well-being. Dr. Willis received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

Tina L. Cheng

Member

Tina Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., is the B.K Rachford Professor of Pediatrics, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics for the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Director of the Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation, and Chief Medical Officer at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center starting November 2020. A 1986 graduate of Brown University's Program in Medicine she completed her pediatrics residency and chief residency at University of California, San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital. She received a Master in Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Residency from the University of California, Berkeley followed by a fellowship in Academic General Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts. She joined the faculty at George Washington University, Children's National Medical Center in 1993. In 2002 she became Division Director of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, Chair of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center (2013) and the 9th Director of Pediatrics and Pediatrician-In-Chief at Johns Hopkins University (2016). In 2020 she joined Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati.

Her clinical work, teaching and research focuses on child, adolescent and family perspectives on improving health and community-integrated models to interrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage. For 15 years she co-led the NIH-funded DC Baltimore Research Center on Child Health Disparities which outlined a research action agenda on child health disparities. She led the establishment of two clinical and research innovation centers at Johns Hopkins: Centro SOL: Johns Hopkins Center for Salud/(Health) and Opportunity for Latinos and the Rales Center on the Integration of Health and Education. Both of these centers develop and evaluate community-integrated models of health promotion to address the needs of vulnerable children, adolescents and families.

An author of over 150 publications, she has been the principal investigator on numerous federal and foundation grants (NICHD, CDC, MCHB, NIMHD, RWJF) and has conducted randomized trials of primary care and emergency department initiated interventions in partnership with community services (e.g. mentoring programs, legal advocacy, schools, home visitation) to promote of positive youth development, behavioral health integration and family health. She has written on the future of child and adolescent health needs and services, translating life course theory to practice, health equity and the importance of two generation programs and a proposed three generation approach.

She remains active seeing patients with trainees in primary care. She has mentored numerous trainees. An area of emphasis has been strengthening the pipeline of pediatric researchers. A program director of three previous NIH training grants she has mentored dozens of interdisciplinary researchers and many more clinicians who have gone on to be leaders in health services innovation and community health.

As a child advocate Dr. Cheng has promoted the importance of pediatric research including initiation of the "7 Great Achievements in Pediatric Research" campaign (Pediatr Res. 2016;80(3):330-7) and has published on the "Next 7 Great Achievements in Pediatric Research" (Pediatrics. 2017;139(5):e20163803). She wrote legislation that established and co-led the Maryland Maternal Child Health Task Force which produced recommendations influential in prioritizing maternal child health in the state.

A Past President of the Academic Pediatric Association she has held leadership roles in that organization and in the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is currently on the National Advisory Panel of the NIH All of Us Research Program and co-led the Child Enrollment Scientific Vision Working Group which authored the report on “Opportunities enabled through the enrollment of children in the All of Us Research Program.” She has received numerous recognitions including the American Academy of Pediatrics Education Award and the Job Lewis Smith Award for Community Pediatrics, the Vice Dean’s Award for the Advancement of Women Faculty, and the Academic Pediatric Association’s Public Policy and Advocacy Award. Dr. Cheng is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) and is a member of the Forum for Children’s Well-Being.

April Joy Damian

Member

April Joy G. Damian, PhD, MSc, is Vice President and Director of the Weitzman Institute, and Senior Scholar for Health Systems and Equity at AcademyHealth, with faculty appointments in the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Pediatrics at UConn School of Medicine, and Science in Society Program at Wesleyan University. At the Weitzman Institute, she leads research, education, and policy efforts centered on social determinants of health (SDOH), health systems transformation, and workforce development in the context of primary care safety-net practices. Dr. Damian previously served as the Director of Quality Innovation at the National Quality Forum (NQF) where she spearheaded the expansion of NQF’s portfolio on SDOH quality measures. As a psychiatric epidemiologist, health services researcher, and classically trained public health professional, Dr. Damian has applied her scholarship to elevate the voices, lived experiences, and psychosocial well-being of marginalized youth and families for over two decades. She served as the Principal Investigator of a NICHD-funded grant to examine the impact of Baltimore City Health Department’s trauma-informed care training intervention on improving organizational and provider capacity to respond appropriately to children experiencing high levels of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Dr. Damian is an elected member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Sigma Xi Scientific Honor Society, and has received numerous recognitions in honor of her role as a social change agent, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Community Well-Being Warrior Award, and an honorarium from the University of Delaware. Dr. Damian completed her Doctorate in the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Masters in Medical Sciences at Harvard Medical School, and Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies, Highest Honors from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kyle R. MacDonald

Member

Kyle R. MacDonald, MD, MPH, CPH is Chief Science & Program Officer at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation leading program innovation and evaluative strategy to advance equitable whole child health. A licensed physician with training in pediatrics and public health, Dr. MacDonald has held positions at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and KPMG, where he advised government clients on proven strategies for treating opioid addiction and other population health crises. Dr. MacDonald serves as Alumni Board President of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and as a member of the Dean's Board of Advisors. He is also a mentor to graduate students in Columbia Mailman's General Public Health program and previously served as a member of Healthier Generation's Board of Directors. Dr. MacDonald grew up in Prince Edward Island, Canada and holds a Bachelor of Science from Queen's University, a Doctor of Medicine from Memorial University, trained in pediatrics at the University of Ottawa, and holds a Master of Public Health from the Mailman School. He lives in New York City and is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Allysa N. Ware

Member

Allysa Ware, PhD, MSW, is the new Executive Director of Family Voices. She is a family leader and researcher with extensive experience in strategic planning, family engagement, grant writing, human relations, and systems change, and she believes strongly in family and community leadership in developing solutions and improving systems.

Dr. Ware's research is focused on the lived experience of individuals and families with an autism diagnosis. Her commitment to advocacy for individuals on the autism spectrum began with her personal experience as a parent and expanded through her practice as a social worker. She became increasingly frustrated with pushing families toward ineffective and inaccessible systems and made it her mission to help improve these systems with a goal of improving the overall functioning of children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

In addition to contributing to numerous academic journals, including *Pediatrics*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Advances in Social Work*, *Health Policy*, and *Academic Pediatrics*, Dr. Ware's was recognized in 2022 with the Researcher Award for Milestones Autism Resources, an Ohio-based nonprofit organization that provides lifelong strategies and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. She has collaborated with notable researchers to conduct in-depth research on kinship care, transition to adult care, and early childhood systems.

Dr. Ware is the principal investigator on several initiatives at Family Voices, including a PCORI Eugene Washington Engagement Award for building capacity for autism research in the African American community; the ACL-funded Center for Transition to Adult Care for Youth with Disabilities; and *Pediatrics Supporting Parents*, an early childhood social-emotional development initiative.

Dr. Ware holds a BA in Psychology from University of Maryland Global Campus and a master's and PhD in social work from The Catholic University of America. She is based in Euclid, Ohio and enjoys board games, shopping, and reading. She's an immensely proud mother of an autistic young adult daughter who is majoring in music performance.

Above all, she wants to ensure that the wellbeing of children and families are at the heart of all she does