

The Use of Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research

Committee

M. Roy Wilson

Chair

M. Roy Wilson, M.D. (Chair), is chancellor emeritus of the University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center and president emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology at Wayne State University. He also served as deputy director of strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Wilson holds elected memberships in both the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the author of an award-winning memoir, *The Plum Tree Blossoms Even in Winter*. He has served on the advisory council to the NIH director, as well as the advisory councils of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health disparities and the National Center for Research Resources. Dr. Wilson served on the executive committee of the NIH-funded Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study and chaired the data monitoring and oversight committees of both the NIH-funded Los Angeles Latino Eye Study and the African American Eye Disease Study. Dr. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College and M.S. in epidemiology from UCLA; he completed medical school, ophthalmology residency, and glaucoma fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

Allison E. Aiello

Member

Allison Aiello, Ph.D., is the James S. Jackson Healthy Longevity Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health and the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, where she leads a new program in Biosocial Science of Aging and Health Equity. Previously, Dr. Aiello led the Social Epidemiology Program as Professor of Epidemiology at the Gillings School of Global Public Health and became the Deputy Director of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) in 2021. She was awarded the 2019 Carol Rowland Hogue Award for Outstanding Mid-Career Achievement in Epidemiology from the Society for Epidemiological Research for her achievements. Dr. Aiello's research focuses on identifying the processes by which health inequities in aging emerge across the life course, with the goal of uncovering points of intervention. Her research program has focused on some of today's most pressing and complex health exposures and conditions, including socioeconomic inequalities, biological aging, Alzheimer's disease, immunity, and susceptibility to infectious diseases. She received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from Columbia University with distinction and was awarded the Anna C. Gelman Award for outstanding achievement and promise in epidemiology.

Efrén J. Flores

Member

Efrén J. Flores, M.D., is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and serves as faculty in Thoracic Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where completed his Diagnostic Radiology residency and fellowship. Dr. Flores is a nationally recognized health services researcher focused on understanding health disparities and advancing health equity among historically underserved racial and ethnic minority communities. He has served in several leadership roles at MGH, including his current role as Vice-Chair for Radiology Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and as the founding Director of the Radiology Inclusion and Systemic Equity (RISE) Center. Dr. Flores is recognized as a national thought leader in health disparities research as evidenced by numerous awarded grants, invited presentations nationally, and peer-reviewed publications. His health equity work is guided by the overarching goal of fostering trust and a sense of belonging. In recognition for his work, Dr. Flores was selected as one of the inaugural NAM Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence in 2021, and he currently serves on several institutional and national committees, including as Co-Chair of the Health Equity Committee for the Radiological Society of North America and as Associate Editor of Health Equity for the Journal of the American College of Radiology.

Carmen E. Guerra

Member

Carmen E. Guerra, M.D., is the Ruth C. and Raymond G. Perelman Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also the Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion for the Department of Medicine, and the Associate Director of Diversity and Outreach for the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC) where she leads Community Outreach and Engagement, including a Genentech-funded Cancer Clinical Trials Ambassador Program that promotes clinical trial awareness through peer-to-peer education. A general internist trained in epidemiology and a health equity researcher, Dr. Guerra has designed and evaluated interventions to increase access to cancer screening and cancer clinical trials for underserved populations. Dr. Guerra serves on the American Cancer Society's Guideline Development Group and is an author of the American Cancer Society's current colorectal, cervical, and lung cancer screening guidelines as well as the current HPV vaccination guidelines. In recognition of her contributions, Dr. Guerra received the American Cancer Society's St. George Medal in 2017, the Association of Community Cancer Centers Research Award in 2022, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology Excellence in Health Equity Award in 2023. She is also a member of the advisory board of Guardant Health, a company developing blood tests for colorectal cancer, and is the US Deputy Chair of the Health Equity Workgroup of the Multicancer Early Detection Consortium.

Elizabeth Heitman

Member

Elizabeth Heitman, Ph.D., is Professor in the Program in Ethics in Science and Medicine and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Her work focuses on cultural aspects of ethics in clinical medicine, biomedical science, and public health, particularly international standards of research ethics and education in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). Dr. Heitman teaches research ethics and RCR across UT Southwestern through the Center for Translational Medicine and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and she leads ethics education for two NIH training grants on cardiovascular health disparities, Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE and the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Dr. Heitman co-directs a Fogarty International Center-sponsored research ethics education program with Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique and is an advisory committee member for similar programs in Colombia and the Caribbean. She is a member of the editorial boards of Science and Engineering Ethics, Accountability in Research, and the Journal of Empirical Research in Human Research Ethics. Dr. Heitman is a National Associate of the US National Research Council and has been chair or member of eight US National Academy of Sciences programs in research integrity education in the Middle East, North Africa, Indonesia, and Malaysia. In 2015-16, she co-chaired the NASEM Committee on Gene Drive Research with Non-Human Organisms.

Matthew F. Hudson

Member

Matthew F. Hudson, Ph.D., M.P.H., is the Director of Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) at Prisma Health (Greenville, South Carolina), and Professor of Medicine at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. Dr. Hudson conducts and oversees research on patient, provider, and organization-based interventions improving cancer care outcomes and patient well-being. Dr. Hudson served on multiple National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities study sections designed to augment workforce diversity. Dr. Hudson's own research examines racial differences in pain reports and management experiences among patients with cancer. Dr. Hudson served the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) as a member of their Patient Engagement Advisory Panel; he also co-authored the PCORI report, Equity and Inclusion Guiding Engagement Principles. Dr. Hudson received his Ph.D. from Dartmouth College, M.P.H. from the University of California at Berkeley, and B.A. from the University of San Francisco. Dr. Hudson also received a certificate from the National Cancer Institute's Multilevel Intervention Training Institute (MLTI), and subsequently served MLTI as a small group junior faculty member.

Husseini K. Manji

Member

Husseini K. Manji, M.D., is Co-chair of the UK Mental Health Mission and a visiting professor at Oxford University. Previously, Dr. Manji was Global Head of Science for Minds at Johnson & Johnson (J&J), where he led a global team to discover and develop new therapeutics for major neurologic, psychiatric, and pain-related diseases with a high unmet need for effective treatments. Dr. Manji's research has helped to conceptualize severe neuropsychiatric disorders as genetically influenced disorders of synaptic and neural plasticity and led to the investigation of key novel therapeutics. The major focus of his research has been the investigation of disease- and treatment-induced changes in gene and protein networks that regulate synaptic and neural plasticity in brain and behavior disorders. Before joining J&J, Dr. Manji was Director of the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program, the largest research program of its kind in the world, at the National Institute of Mental Health. His work led to approval of the first novel antidepressant mechanism in decades, SPRAVATO (esketamine) nasal spray for adults with treatment-resistant major depressive disorder, by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Canada, and the European Commission. Dr. Manji is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He also serves on the scientific advisory boards of the Dana Foundation and of Vanna Health.

Amy Moran-Thomas

Member

Amy Moran-Thomas, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a faculty member in the program in History, Anthropology, and STS (Science, Technology, and Society). She is interested in how social perspectives on design can contribute to producing more equitable technologies. Her work combines insights from ethnographies of science and medicine; material histories of design; and STS perspectives on health and environment. Her essays helped draw attention to longstanding racial biases encoded in color-sensing medical devices and catalyzed clinical reexaminations of the pulse oximeter, including recent FDA hearings that led to new safety advisories. Prof. Moran-Thomas' writings have appeared in publications such as *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Wired*. Her first book, *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic* (2019), offers an anthropological account of diabetes technologies in use and the lives they shape in global perspective. Research and writing were supported by the Mellon-American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society and received five book awards, including the Wellcome Foundation's Medal for Anthropology as Applied to Medical Problems. Professor Moran-Thomas received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Princeton University in 2012.

Margaret Moss

Member

Margaret Moss, Ph.D., J.D., RN, is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation in North Dakota. She is currently Professor and Associate Dean for Nursing and Health Policy at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing. She holds both Nursing and Juris Doctorates. She has been a nurse for 34 years and an academic for 23 years across four universities. Previously at the University of British Columbia (UBC), she was a Professor in the Faculty of Applied Science, School of Nursing (20%) and Director of the UBC First Nations House of Learning (80%). During this time, she served as Interim Associate Vice President Equity & Inclusion at UBC (2022). Dr. Moss sat on the American Academy of Nursing Board of Directors in 2021-2023, is a new member of the National Academy of Medicine (2022), and is a member of the National Academies Board on Population and Public Health. Dr. Moss was a committee member on the recent consensus report (2023) Federal Policy to Advance Racial, Ethnic and Tribal Health Equity. She wrote an award-winning text, American Indian Health and Nursing (2015) followed by Health Equity and Nursing (2020). She co-led the development and launch of the UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan (2020) and was a consultant on the In Plain Sight Report: Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Healthcare in BC for the Minister of Health (2020). Dr. Moss was named an Inaugural member of the Forbes 50 over 50 Impact list 2021. She was a RWJF Health Policy Fellow, staffing the US Senate Special Committee on Aging, and was a Fulbright Chair at McGill University-Montreal, QC, Canada.

Elizabeth O. Ofili

Member

Elizabeth O. Ofili, M.D., M.P.H., is a Professor of Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine and a practicing cardiologist with Morehouse Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia. She serves as Chief Medical Officer for Morehouse Choice Accountable Care Organization, a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Shared Savings Program, which includes Federally Qualified Health Centers across the state of Georgia. Dr. Ofili is a nationally and internationally recognized clinician scientist with particular focus on cardiovascular disparities and women's health. In 2002, as president of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC), she led the initiative to implement the landmark African American Heart Failure Trial (AHEFT), whose findings changed practice guidelines for the treatment of heart failure in African Americans. Dr. Ofili is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AccuHealth Technologies Inc./Health 360x™ a patient-centered platform for population health management and clinical trial diversity. Dr. Ofili is the immediate past Chair of the Board of the Association of Black Cardiologists. She serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Alliant Health Group, a nonprofit Quality Improvement Organization. Dr. Ofili is a principal investigator (PI) in the National Research Mentoring Network and contact PI of the Coordination and Evaluation Center for the NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program for Inclusive Excellence. She serves as PI of the Amgen-sponsored African American Heart Study, multi-PI of the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance, and contact PI of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions Coordinating Center. She serves in advisory roles for Amgen's Rise program and the Bristol-Meyers-Squib-Pfizer alliance initiative. Dr. Ofili has received many awards for her contributions and is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Ofili graduated with distinction from Ahmadu Bello University School of Medicine in Nigeria and received an M.P.H from Johns Hopkins University.

Neil R. Powe

Member

Neil R. Powe, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., is Chief of Medicine at the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and the Constance B. Wofsy Distinguished Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. He also serves as the Chief Science Officer for the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Powe led the National Kidney Foundation-American Society of Nephrology Task Force on Reassessing the Inclusion of Race in Diagnosing Kidney Diseases that led to elimination of race from estimation of kidney function. As member and now chair of the Journal of the American Medical Association Oversight Committee, he provided important decision making regarding a podcast on structural racism. Dr. Powe is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has served on previous National Academies consensus study committees. Among his honors are the Herbert W. Nickens Award for Promoting Justice in Medical Education and Health Care Equity from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Diversity Award from the Association of Professors of Medicine, the John M. Eisenberg Award for Career Achievement in Research and the Robert J. Glaser Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine, the David Hume Memorial Award from the National Kidney Foundation, the 2021 John Phillips Memorial Award for Distinguished Contributions in Clinical Medicine from the American College of Physicians, and the Cato Laurencin Lifetime Research Award from the National Medical Association. Dr. Powe holds an M.D. and M.P.H from Harvard, and at the University of Pennsylvania, he completed residency, was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, and earned an M.B.A.

Aliya Saperstein

Member

Aliya Saperstein, Ph.D., is the Benjamin Scott Crocker Professor in human biology and a professor of sociology at Stanford University. Her research focuses on the conceptualization and measurement of race/ethnicity and the consequences of these methodological decisions for studies of stratification and health disparities, including in the field of precision medicine research. Her work has been published in the Science, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, American Journal of Sociology, and the Annual Review of Sociology, among others. Dr. Saperstein has been a Visiting Scholar at Sciences Po and the Russell Sage Foundation. Her scholarship has been honored with multiple article awards as well as the Early Achievement Award from the Population Association of America. Saperstein has a Ph.D. in sociology and demography from the University of California-Berkeley.

Roland J. Thorpe, Jr.

Member

Roland Thorpe, Jr., Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, Founding Director of the Program of Men's Health Research in the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Thorpe is a social epidemiologist whose research focuses on how social determinants of health impact health and functional outcomes among men across the life course. Dr. Thorpe serves as principal investigator (PI) on several NIH-funded grants and is a multiple PI of the Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD). Dr. Thorpe is the inaugural Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity at Johns Hopkins University. He is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research. Dr. Thorpe earned a bachelor's in theoretical mathematics from Florida A&M University, a master's in statistics, and a Ph.D. in clinical epidemiology with a graduate minor in gerontology from Purdue University. He received postdoctoral training in health disparities and gerontology from the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Thorpe is a member of scientific advisory boards, including the National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors, the Veterans Affairs Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee, the Natives Engaged in Alzheimer's Research (NEAR) project, and the Yale Pepper Center. He is a member of the Data Management Steering Committee for the National Health and Aging Trends Study. Dr. Thorpe also serves as the editor-in-chief of *Ethnicity & Disease* and associate editor of *Innovations in Aging* and *Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*.

Shyam Visweswaran

Member

Shyam Visweswaran, M.D., Ph.D., is a professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Informatics in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. His research broadly focuses on computerized clinical decision support driven by machine learning; patient-specific modeling, in which statistical models are tailored to the characteristics of the patient at hand and optimized to perform well for that patient; and the development of statistical machine learning methods for causal discovery using electronic health record data, molecular data, or both. His current research focuses on cataloging clinical algorithms that incorporate a person's race and ethnicity and developing computational methods for understanding the effect of race and ethnicity on model bias. Dr. Visweswaran serves as guest editor for a special issue on fairness and inclusion in the *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*. He holds an M.B.,B.S. degree (M.D. equivalent) from the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research in Pondicherry, India, an M.S. degree in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Ph.D. in Intelligent Systems (artificial intelligence) from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed his neurology residency at Boston University.

Genevieve L. Wojcik

Member

Genevieve L. Wojcik, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. As a statistical geneticist and genetic epidemiologist, her research focuses on method development for diverse populations, specifically understanding the role of genetic ancestry and environment in genetic risk in admixed populations. Dr. Wojcik integrates epidemiology with statistical and population genetics to better understand existing health disparities in minority populations, as well as underserved populations globally. In 2021, she was the recipient of one of NHGRI's Genomic Innovator Awards (R35). She is a long-standing member of multiple NHGRI consortia focused on diverse populations, such as the Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) Study and the PRIMED consortium. Prior to her faculty appointment, Dr. Wojcik was a postdoctoral research scholar at Stanford University in the Departments of Genetics and Biomedical Data Science. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology and M.H.S. in Human Genetics/Genetic Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and her B.A. in Biology from Cornell University. She was recently a member of the National Academies Committee on the Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry as Population Descriptors in Genomics Research, which published its report in 2023.

Ruqaiijah Yearby

Member

Ruqaiijah Yearby, J.D., M.P.H., is the inaugural Kara J. Trott Professor in Health Law at the Moritz College of Law, Professor in the Department of Health Services Management and Policy at the College of Public Health, and a faculty affiliate of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University. An expert in health policy and civil rights, Professor Yearby has received over \$5 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study structural racism and discrimination in vaccine allocation and from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study equitable enforcement of housing laws and structural racism in health care. She was a keynote speaker for the 5th Annual Conference of the ELSI Congress and has served as a reviewer for NIH, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust. Yearby is on the editorial board of the American Journal of Bioethics and is a Committee Member for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections. Her work has been published in the American Journal of Bioethics, American Journal of Public Health, Health Affairs, and the Oxford Journal of Law and the Biosciences.