PREMATURITY PREVENTION SUMMIT: BUILDING A BIRTH EQUITY MOVEMENT
May 21 & 22, 2018 | Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel

SPEAKER BIOS

Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH, VADM

Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, the 20th Surgeon General of the United States, was sworn into office by Vice President Mike Pence on September 5, 2017. Dr. Adams, a board-certified anesthesiologist, served as Indiana State Health Commissioner from 2014 to 2017. Dr. Adams, a Maryland native, has bachelor’s degrees in both biochemistry and psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a master of public health degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Adams was also an associate professor of clinical anesthesia at Indiana University School of Medicine and a staff anesthesiologist at Eskenazi Health, where he was Chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. He has served in leadership positions at a number of professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Indiana State Medical Association and the Indiana Society of Anesthesiologists. He is the immediate past Chair of the Professional Diversity Committee for the American Society of Anesthesiologists. As Health Commissioner, Dr. Adams presided over Indiana’s efforts to deal with the state’s unprecedented HIV outbreak. In this capacity, he worked directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as with state and local health officials and community leaders, and brought the widest range of resources, policies and care available to stem the epidemic affecting that community. He also helped with the successful launch of Indiana’s state-based, consumer-driven alternative to Medicaid expansion and worked with the state legislature to secure more than $10 million to combat infant mortality in high-risk areas of the state. Dr. Adams’ motto as Surgeon General is “better health through better partnerships.” As Surgeon General, Dr. Adams is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the public health community and forging new partnerships with non-traditional partners, including business and law enforcement. He has pledged to lead with science, facilitate locally led solutions to the nation’s most difficult health problems, and deliver higher quality healthcare at lower cost through patient and community engagement and better prevention. As Surgeon General, Dr. Adams oversees the operations of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, which has approximately 6,700 uniformed health officers who serve in nearly 800 locations around the world to promote, protect and advance the health and safety of our nation and our world.

Monifa Bandele

Monifa Bandele is Vice President and Chief Partnership & Equity Officer for MomsRising.org, Monifa Bandele has more than a decade of experience in policy analysis, communications, civic engagement organizing, and project management working with groups like the Brennan Center for Justice, Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund, and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. At
MomsRising.org she manages the food justice campaign, helping to successfully increase children’s access to healthy food and working to stem junk food marketing. Forbes has named MomsRising.org one of the top websites for women four years in a row. During her tenure at the Brennan Center as national field director for the Right to Vote Campaign, the coalition successfully change laws in five state expanding the franchise to more that 250,000 formerly incarcerated people.

**Wanda D. Barfield, MD, MPH, FAAP, RADM**

Admiral Barfield is the Director of CDC’s Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) and Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service. She received her medical and public health degrees from Harvard University and completed a pediatrics residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship at Harvard’s Joint Program in Neonatology (Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital, and Children’s Hospital, Boston). She has served in variety of emergency responses – including 9/11, Hurricanes Rita and Gustav, H1N1, Ebola, and Zika. She is a Fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and is the CDC liaison to the AAP Section on Perinatal Pediatrics (SoPPe) and Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN). She is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Barfield continues to do clinical work in neonatology, providing care to critically ill newborns in Atlanta, Georgia. nearly 800 locations around the world to promote, protect and advance the health and safety of our nation and our world.

**Paula Braveman, MD, MPH**

Paula Braveman is Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Her formal training is in Family and Community Medicine and in Epidemiology. For 30 years, Dr. Braveman has studied and published extensively on health equity, health disparities, and the social determinants of health, and has worked to bring attention to these issues in the U.S. and internationally. Her research has focused on measuring, documenting, understanding, and addressing socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities, primarily in maternal and infant health. During the 1980s she collaborated with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health to support public health efforts there. During the 1990s she collaborated with World Health Organization staff to develop an initiative on equity in health in low- and middle-income countries. She directed the research for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national commission on the social determinants of health. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with local, state, federal, and international health agencies to see rigorous research translated into practice for greater health equity. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) in 2002.

**Wylie Burke MD, PhD**

Wylie Burke is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Washington. Her work focuses on the ethical and policy implications of genetic information in research and health care. She co-directs the Northwest-Alaska Pharmacogenomics Research Network, a research partnership involving three universities and three tribal organizations in Alaska, Montana and Washington. Dr. Burke received a PhD in Genetics and an MD from the
University of Washington. She trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, where she was also a Medical Genetics Fellow. Dr. Burke is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a past President of the American Society of Human Genetics.

Scott Burris JD

Scott Burris is Professor of Law and Public Health at Temple University, where he directs the Center for Public Health Law Research. His work focuses on how law influences public health, and what interventions can make laws and law enforcement practices healthier in their effects. He is the author of over 200 books, book chapters, articles and reports on issues including urban health, HIV/AIDS, research ethics, and the health effects of criminal law. His work has been supported by organizations including the Open Society Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Department for International Development, and the CDC. He has served as a consultant to numerous U.S. and international organizations including WHO, UNODC and UNDP. He is a founder of Legal Science, LLC, a private company dedicated to the social mission of improving access to legal information and the supporting the practice of policy surveillance. He has been a visiting scholar at RegNet at the Australian National University, and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Cape Town Law School. In 2014, he was the recipient of the American Public Health Law Association Health Law Section Lifetime Achievement Award. Professor Burris is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis (A.B.) and Yale Law School (J.D.).

James Collins, MD, MPH

James Collins earned his BS and MD degrees from the University of Michigan and his MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He’s a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. He is the medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit and the associate director of the pediatric residency program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. He’s a member of several advisory groups including the Partnership to Eliminate Disparities in Infant Mortality, CityMatCH. He was featured in the episode “When the Bough Breaks” in the PBS series on “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequity Making Us Sick?”. He has been the principal investigator on several grants examining racial and ethnic group disparities in perinatal outcome. He has authored numerous research articles and is a frequent lecturer on issues related to birth outcomes. Dr. Collins has received several awards for his research, teaching, and leadership in maternal and infant health, including the March of Dimes Jonas Salk Health Leadership Award, Research Honoree and the Duane Alexander Award for Academic Leadership in Perinatal Medicine from the National Institute of Child Health and Development.

Joia Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG

Joia Crear-Perry is the Founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. Recently, she addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urge a human rights framework to improve maternal mortality. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Birthing Project, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center and as the Director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department where she was responsible for four facilities that provided health care for the homeless, pediatric, WIC, and gynecologic services within the New Orleans clinical service area. Joia Crear-Perry MD FACOG, continues to work to improve access and availability of affordable
health care to New Orleans’ citizens post the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005. After receiving her bachelor’s trainings at Princeton University and Xavier University, Dr. Crear-Perry completed her medical degree at Louisiana State University and her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine. She was also recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. A proud recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Hero’s award, Dr. Crear-Perry currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Community Catalyst, National Medical Association, and the New Orleans African American Museum. She is married to Dr. Andre Perry and has three children: Jade 24, Carlos 20, and Robeson 6. Her love is her family; health equity is her passion; maternal and child health are her callings.

**Siobhan Dolan, MD, MPH**

Siobhan Dolan is Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. Board-certified in both OB/GYN and Clinical Genetics, Dr. Dolan received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School. She did her residency in OB/GYN at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and Yale-New Haven Hospital and her fellowship in clinical genetics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received a master’s degree in public health from Columbia University.

**Ginny Ehrlich D.Ed., MS, MPH**

Ginny Ehrlich is the chief executive officer at Power to Decide, the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy. Prior to taking the helm at the National Campaign, Ginny directed the childhood obesity prevention portfolio at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and led the Foundation’s efforts to establish a strategic direction for its $500 million investment in ensuring that all children achieve a healthy weight by 2025. Previously, Ginny spent eight years at the Clinton Foundation, where she served as the Founding CEO of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative and the long-time CEO of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. During her tenure at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Ginny positioned the organization as a national leader on preventing childhood obesity and started the nation’s largest school-based obesity prevention program. Ginny started her career in the classroom as a health and sexuality educator, and has held several state and national leadership positions. Ginny has dedicated her more than 20-year career to improving the health and wellbeing of children, adolescents, and families. Known for her abilities to build organizational strategic vision and foster partnerships of great purpose across the public, private and nonprofit sectors, Ginny was recognized in 2012 by Health Leaders as one of the nation’s top change agents in the health sector. Ginny has a breadth of experience working with businesses, community organizations, policymakers, schools, and government officials on a wide variety of social welfare issues.

**Fleda Mask Jackson, Ph.D.**

A scholar, educator, and activist, Dr. Fleda Mask Jackson is the President of Majaica, LLC, a national research firm and think tank and she is the leader of Save 100 Babies® a cross sector network devoted to a social determinants approach for equitable birth outcomes. She is a University Affiliate at Columbia University and was a Visiting Scholar in the Psychology at Spelman College and Professor of Applied Public Health at Emory University. Dr. Jackson led the development of a unique
intersectional stress measure (the Jackson, Hogue, Phillips Contextualized Stress Measure), a dissemination/intervention model, and an advocacy approach for black women’s health. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters, and refereed and public presentations on stress from gendered racism. Dr. Jackson has been cited in major newspapers and her work has been presented nationally on CNN, NPR, and commercial radio stations. Her research on racial and gendered stress and the crisis of black infant mortality was featured in, When the Bough Breaks, an episode of the award winning PBS series, Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick, and in the film, Crisis in the Crib produced by Tanya Lewis Lee for the HHIS Office of Minority Health. Recently, she appeared in the Lightbox production, Death by Delivery, a documentary on black maternal mortality that spotlighted the crisis in Georgia. Fleda Mask Jackson has served as a consultant/advisor and collaborator with a wide range of organizations in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, New Orleans, New York and Wisconsin. Her collaborations include work with the Center for Excellence in Women’s Health at the Harvard Medical School (Brigham and Women’s Hospital), The Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and the Southeast Regional Office of the Children’s Defense Fund. She served as a member of the Advisory subcommittee on Health Disparities for the Director of the CDC and as a member of the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM) an appointment approved by the White House under President Barak Obama. Dr. Jackson also gave leadership for the development and direction of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta’s Babies Born Healthy Initiative. Dr. Jackson was recently named a co-leader for the National March of Dimes Equity initiative. A graduate of Spelman College and the University of Illinois, she is the recipient of the Spelman College Alumnae Achievement Award in Health and Science (2000). She is also the recipient of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta’s Live United Award and the city of Atlanta honored her work by naming September 28, 2002, Dr. Fleda Mask Jackson Day. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority recognized her work with their Torch Award for being an activist for mental and physical health (Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, 2003) and with the Pinnacle Leadership Award (Stone Mountain Lithonia Alumnae Chapter, 2000). The Center for Black Women’s Wellness honored her with the Health Pioneer Award (2009). In 2014, she received the Maternal and Child Health Award from the Georgia Public Health Association.

Arthur R. James MD, FACOG

Arthur James is a general obstetrician and gynecologist and associate clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Born and raised in Watts, Calif., Dr. James earned his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He completed residency training in pediatrics at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the University of Texas-Houston, and in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas-Houston. He moved from Houston to Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1988 to join a practice in obstetrics and gynecology at Bronson Methodist Hospital. While at Bronson, Dr. James expanded prenatal care services for underserved women, teens and women with pregnancies complicated by HIV and substance abuse. He later moved to Borgess Medical Center where he established and led Borgess Women’s Health Center, again expanding services. Between 1992 and 1999, he led a community-wide effort in Kalamazoo County that reduced black infant mortality from 29.7 to 10.2 deaths per 1,000 black births, thereby helping Kalamazoo, Mich. become only one of a few counties in the United States to accomplish the Healthy-People 2000 goal of 11 deaths per 1,000 live black births. Throughout his career, Dr. James has built healing partnerships, not only with women and families, but with whole communities, in the belief that the sources of poor pregnancy outcomes arise in the community, and thus require community-based interventions. He calls this “Community Oriented
Obstetrical Care,” based on Dr. H. Jack Geiger’s model of “Community Oriented Primary Care.” This approach begins by engaging the community to identify problems and resources, and then collaborating with multiple organizations to address the root causes of poor pregnancy outcomes in three dimensions: vertical (along levels of care), horizontal (across providers of multiple services), and longitudinal (over time). His mission, in his own words, is to move people and agencies with shared goals “... from coexistence to communication, to coordination, and finally to full collaboration ... through conviction, commitment, and persistence“ to reduce perinatal and infant morbidity and mortality and to eliminate the racial disparity in the rate at which black babies die. In July 2011, Dr. James moved to Ohio to join the faculty of The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children’s Hospital and serve as co-director of the Ohio Better Birth Outcomes, co-chair of the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality, and senior policy advisor in the Bureau of Child and Family Services of the Ohio Department of Health.

**Michael Kramer, PhD**

Michael Kramer is a social epidemiologist with research and teaching interest in maternal and child health populations and life course processes, and collaborations with HRSA MCH Bureau, CDC, and state health departments. His current research and teaching interests focus on the contribution of social and community-based determinants of health inequity in maternal and infant health, with an emphasis on the importance of social policy outside of formal healthcare.

**Portia Jones MD, MPH**

Portia Jones is a family physician on the faculty of the University of Washington and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, who teaches at the family medicine residency in Yakima, WA. Her area of interest is maternal child health. She is a founding member of Ttawaxt. She has worked in community based health projects her entire career. She is a mother or three young adults.

**Kelli A. Komro, PhD MPH**

Kelli Komro is a professor of behavioral sciences and health education, jointly appointed in epidemiology, at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. She was trained as a behavioral epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Professor Komro has over 20 years of experience leading NIH-funded community-randomized trials evaluating effects of community-engaged and multi-level preventive interventions to reduce child health disparities. She has been an invited speaker and panelist at numerous NIH meetings and the National Academies of Sciences on alcohol prevention, behavioral and social sciences contributions to addressing the opioid epidemic, and the study of structural racism on minority health. Recently, she and her colleagues have initiated a new line of research in response to the “Health in All Policies” agenda, using theory and methods of public health law research. Today they will present on a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities funded study to examine the effects of family economic security policies on maternal and infant outcomes.
David Lakey, MD

David Lakey, an expert in disease prevention, community health services and infectious disease outbreaks, serves in a duel role as Vice Chancellor for Population Health and Chief Medical Officer at The University of Texas System and Senior Advisor to the President and Isadore Roosth Distinguished Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.

Vanessa Lee, MPH

Vanessa has been a Public Health Analyst at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 2009, where she currently serves as the Infant Mortality Collin Coordinator in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). In this role she oversees and manages a national initiative to reduce infant mortality and prior to this, she was a Project Officer for the Title V MCH Block Grant Program. Before joining HRSA, Vanessa worked in HIV/AIDS prevention for 7 years coordinating federally-funded HIV counseling and testing programs at the California Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and the George Washington University Hospital Emergency Department. She has an MPH in health policy and management from the University of California-Berkeley and a BS in public health from Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey.

Michael P. Marcotte, MD

Michael Marcotte is a maternal fetal medicine specialist at TriHealth in Cincinnati Ohio. He is the medical director for HOPE (Helping Opiate addicted Pregnant women Evolve) at Good Samaritan Hospital, one of the largest tertiary maternity centers in Ohio. In addition, as the director of quality and safety for women’s services at TriHealth, he has had the opportunity to improve the childbirth experience for women. As a national speaker for the March of Dimes, he has worked with many hospitals throughout the United States to improve pregnancy outcomes. He is an obstetric content expert in the statewide Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative and a member of the Cradle Cincinnati Steering committee, a local initiative to reduce infant mortality in the greater Cincinnati area. He is medical lead for a Medical-Legal Partnership, M-HeLP, working with pregnant women to mitigate social determinants of health. He was one of the Obstetric leads for StartStrong, a neighborhood based initiative focused on enhanced prenatal care focused on identifying social and physical needs of pregnant women and assisting them to get these needs addressed. Both of these efforts have been associated with a reduction of preterm births.

Sara Markowitz PhD

Sara Markowitz is a Professor of Economics at Emory University and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dr. Markowitz’s research interests are on the economics of healthy and unhealthy behaviors, with an emphasis on the role of public policies in determining health outcomes. Much of her research focuses on maternal and child health. Dr. Markowitz is widely published in general interest and specialty academic journals.
Michael McAfee, EdD, EMPA

Michael McAfee is President of PolicyLink and, oversees strategy development, the alignment of PolicyLink assets, and the achievement of policy wins that ensure all people in America have economic security, live in healthy communities of opportunity, and benefit from a just society. He came to PolicyLink in 2011 as the inaugural director of the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink. Under his leadership, PolicyLink emerged as a national leader in building cradle-to-career systems that ensure children and youth in our nation’s most distressed communities have a pathway into the middle class. His partnership with local leaders in more than 60 communities contributed to significant improvements in the educational and developmental outcomes for more than 300,000 children, and helped attract public and private investments that exceed $1 billion. Because of the focus on results, Promise Neighborhoods became a permanent federal program through the 2015 authorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Michael is also the catalyst for the creation of the Corporate Racial Equity Advantage, the first comprehensive tool to guide private sector companies in assessing and actively promoting equity in every aspect of their business operations and strategy. Before joining PolicyLink, Michael served as senior community planning and development representative in the Chicago Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). While at HUD, he managed a $450 million housing, community, and economic development portfolio where he partnered with local leaders to create more than 3,000 units of affordable housing and 5,000 jobs and ensure access to social services for more than 200,000 families. He is most proud of personally ensuring the successful matriculation of more than 168 senior executives through the Leadership Development Program and providing fundraising, leadership, management, and organizational development technical assistance to more than 1,000 persons and 800 grassroots faith- and community-based organizations. His partnership with the White House and HUD’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships has resulted in nonprofit organizations accessing more than $1 billion in federal resources.

Michelle Owens, MD

Michelle Owens is a Maternal Fetal Medicine subspecialist and Professor in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UMMC. Dr. Owens completed her residency training at Johns Hopkins Hospital and her fellowship in Maternal Fetal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has served as a member of the Executive board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the MS March of Dimes. Her research and clinical interests are in Maternal and Infant mortality, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, health disparities and adolescent health. She has authored numerous articles and book chapters, and was recently appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to the State Board of Medical Licensure. Dr. Owens can be heard weekly on Mississippi Public Broadcasting as the radio host of “Southern Remedy for Women”, a talk show focused on health issues for women and the people that love them. She is also doubles as the energetic wife of Jody Owens, II, and the often-exhausted mother of Tripp, a lively seven year old and Joshua and Taylor, two spirited four year olds.

Carmanita Pimms

Carmanita Pimms is an enrolled tribal member of the Yakama Nation and the Executive Director of the Campbell Farm a mission retreat center under the Umbrella of the PC USA/ North West coast Presbytery. She is a Birth Justice Advocate for the Ttawaxt Coalition. Her area of interest is maternal child healthcare, justice for women of color and mentoring while addressing infant
mortality issues amongst our Native Women. She has worked in community outreach on the Yakama Nation Reservation for the past 16 years. Also Mother and grandmother working toward becoming a Birth educator and Doula.

**Liz Plosser**

Liz Plosser is the Editor-In-Chief of Women’s Health magazine. She has been in the wellness industry for 15 years. Previously, she oversaw digital strategy as SVP of Content at the digital wellness and lifestyle brand Well+Good. Prior to that, she was the Senior Director of Content & Communications at SoulCycle. She is the former Deputy Editor of SELF, and before that she helped earn Cosmopolitan its first-ever national magazine award at the helm of the global brand’s health coverage. Plosser was also the Editorial Director of CosmoBody, an on-demand subscription fitness channel. Plosser graduated cum laude from Princeton University, and is a marathoner, triathlete and boutique fitness-lover. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and three children.

**Diana E. Ramos MD, MPH, FACOG**

Diana Ramos is well recognized national public health expert, a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist and adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor, at the Keck University of Southern California School of Medicine. Dr. Ramos is the Public Health Medical Officer for the California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, where she serves as the California women’s health expert with an emphasis on the Southern California region. She was previously the Los Angeles County Public Health Department’s Director for Reproductive Health. Dr. Ramos also serves as the vice-chair of the California American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology executive committee and other women’s health committees providing leadership and guidance to obstetricians and gynecologists throughout California and the U.S. Her areas of expertise include health disparities, preconception/interconception health, contraception and quality improvement. In Los Angeles County and California, she has led initiatives to decrease maternal morbidity and mortality by focusing on postpartum hemorrhage, cesarean section reduction, obesity reduction and reproductive life planning. Dr. Ramos is an innovator and visionary in health technology and public health. She was the principal investigator for LA MOMs (Los Angeles Managing Overweight/Obesity in Moms), a postpartum obesity reduction program for new moms and FAMILIA, a preconception text messaging program. Nationally, Dr. Ramos is on the American Medical Association Health Care Disparities Advisory Board, Co-Chair for the March of Dimes Health Equity Advisory Group and on the Board of the National Hispanic Medical Association. Her quality improvement leadership is highlighted by her participation on the National Quality Forum Perinatal and Reproductive Health advisory group, Chair for the Implementation of the Women’s Preventive Services Initiative and co-chair for the California American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology Patient Safety Committee.

She has written and contributed numerous articles to the obstetrics and gynecology and public health literature and has lectured in Spanish and English, locally, nationally and internationally on a wide array of topics including preventive health, women’s health, motivational speaking and mentoring. Dr. Ramos is one of the “go-to” medical experts for Univision and Telemundo in Los Angeles and on-line women’s health publications. Recent awards include 2018 National Hispanic Medical Association Fellow of the Year, Let’s Get Healthy California’s 2017 Innovation Challenge Finalist, 2017 Global Health & Innovation: Semifinalist for Choose Health LA MOMs 2016 Health Officers Association of California Public Health Communications Award and 2016 American
Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District Service Award. Dr. Ramos received her medical degree from the University of Southern California with honors and completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center. She obtained her master’s degree in public health with an emphasis in management from the University of California, Los Angeles and received her BA in Communications, Arts & Science from the University of Southern California.

**Monica Raye Simpson**

Monica Simpson is the Executive Director of SisterSong, a woman of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. A native of rural North Carolina, Monica organizes against human rights violations, the prison industrial complex, and structural racism through a feminist and interdisciplinary approach to Black liberation from a southern to a global scale. A true renaissance leader, she is also committed to birth justice as a certified Doula and centers the reproductive rights of black women as part of her practice. Monica’s masterful integration of activism and artistry “artivism,” created a path for the release of her first live album entitled Revolutionary Love, an album praised for its blending of her gospel roots and her passion for social justice. This innovative sound is what she calls Revolutionary Soul. As a performer who works to empower marginalized people and tear down broken systems, Monica was named as a New Civil Rights Leader by Essence Magazine and chosen as one of the Advocate magazine’s 40 under 40 leaders.

**Celeste Smith**

Celeste Smith, Community and Minority Health Supervisor and Licensed Professional Counselor currently works at the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. As the Community and Minority Health Supervisor she has a broad range of responsibilities including data collection and reporting; health education and promotion; mobilizing and empowering community partners and developing policies and plans to support health efforts. The goal of the Office on Minority Health is to eliminate all health disparities. Prior to that Celeste worked for Mercy in Toledo Ohio for 28 years caring for low income, primarily African American, women and their families. She was the manager of grant Programs for Healthy Connections. Under Celeste’s leadership, Healthy Connections used a multidisciplinary approach to diminish the effect of racial disparities on pregnancy and birth outcomes with a special emphasis on: prevention of violence toward women, identification and appropriate referral of substance exposed newborns and evidence based home visitation for maternal support. Women were helped to find resources to overcome substance abuse, depression, poverty, poor health, poor self health care, and other issues during, following, and between pregnancies. Her overall objective is: To enhance my role as a leader by developing strategies to increase service awareness to faith based, public and private community serving organizations and the public sector in the greater Toledo community by building strong relationships. Consistently teaching and promoting healthy lifestyles by targeting issues that affect our public while promoting services that treat these issues to create a positive impact on the lives of people.

**David K. Stevenson, MD**

David Stevenson is the Harold K. Faber Professor of Pediatrics and has held numerous leadership roles at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is currently the Senior Associate Dean for
Maternal & Child Health, the Co-Director of the Stanford Child Health Research Institute, and the Principal Investigator for the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Stanford University. Dr. Stevenson has received many awards, including the Virginia Apgar Award, which is the highest award in Perinatal Pediatrics, The Joseph W. St. Gme, Jr. Leadership Award from the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, and the Jonas Salk Award for Leadership in Prematurity Prevention from the March of Dimes Foundation. He has served as the President of the American Pediatric Society. In recognition of his achievements, Dr. Stevenson is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

**Stacey Davis Stewart, MBA**

Stacey Stewart is President, March of Dimes. She joined March of Dimes as its fifth President on January 1, 2017. In this role, Stewart heads the organization leading the fight for the health of all moms and babies. She is responsible for all aspects of the organization’s strategy, vision and operations. Stewart came to March of Dimes from United Way Worldwide, where she held several positions, most recently serving as U.S. President of United Way, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization. There she provided strategic direction for more than 1,000 local United Ways. Stewart was also responsible for United Way’s national efforts in education, financial stability and health as well as guiding efforts to enhance the brand and grow revenue. Stewart spearheaded the transformation of United Way from a pass-through fundraiser to a leading organization for local community impact. Prior to becoming U.S. President, Stewart served as Executive Vice President, Community Impact Leadership and Learning. In this role, Stewart developed global partnerships to advance community impact in more than 40 countries. A business veteran, Stewart has also held a number of senior roles, including Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Vice President for the Office of Community and Charitable Giving at Fannie Mae, as well as President and Chief Executive Officer for the Fannie Mae Foundation. Additionally, Stewart has an extensive background in finance and investment banking, having served as Vice President for Pryor, McClendon, Counts & Co., and as a senior associate for Merrill Lynch, specializing in financings for state and local governments. Stewart has a master’s of business administration in finance from the University of Michigan and a bachelor of arts in economics from Georgetown University. She also holds honorary degrees from Trinity University, Morgan State University, Texas Southern University, Lincoln University and Alabama A&M University. She currently serves on several boards nationally and in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Stewart is married to Jarvis C. Stewart, the Chairman and Managing Partner of I + R Media, LLC, a strategic communications firm based in Washington, D.C. The Stewarts have two children, Madeleine and Savannah.

**Julie Sweetland PhD**

Julie Sweetland is VP for Strategy and Innovation at the FrameWorks Institute, an essential partner to the mission-driven sector in efforts to change the conversation on social and scientific issues. FrameWorks’ innovative approach to applied communications research shapes public discourse on today’s most pressing policy topics, across the nation and around the world. Their impact was recognized in 2015 with the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, otherwise known as the “organizational genius grant.” Since joining FrameWorks in 2012, Dr. Sweetland has led powerful learning experiences for leaders working on numerous social issues, and has provided strategic communications guidance for advocates, policymakers, and scientists nationwide and internationally. Prior to joining FrameWorks, Julie was actively involved in improving
teaching and learning for over a decade as a classroom teacher, instructional designer, and teacher educator. Julie’s linguistic research has focused on the intersection of language and race; on the role of language variation and language attitudes on student learning; and on effective professional learning for teachers. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and completed her MA and PhD in linguistics at Stanford University.

**Sarah Verbiest, DrPH, MPH, MSW**

Sarah Verbiest is the Executive Director for the Center for Maternal and Infant Health, the Director of the Jordan Institute for Families at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and senior advisor to the national Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative. She is a principal investigator on two research projects focusing on postpartum health and wellness and leads several statewide infant mortality prevention campaigns. She is also the principal investigator for a new cooperative agreement with the federal government focusing on integrating preconception care into the well woman visit. Dr. Verbiest has an edited book coming out in April 2018 with APHA Press – *Making Change Happen: Moving Life Course Theory into Action.*

**Lisa F. Waddell, MD, MPH**

Lisa Waddell is the Senior Vice President for Maternal Child Health and NICU Innovation and the Interim Chief Medical Officer of the March of Dimes Foundation. She has over 23 years of national, state and local public health experience, having served as a local public health director and a Deputy Commissioner for Health Services. In her current role, Dr. Waddell works with other March of Dimes leaders to align MCH and NICU Innovation initiatives with the strategic direction of the March of Dimes. She provides leadership to the MCH Innovation team to support strategic investments to achieve equity and reduce preterm birth at the state, regional and national levels. Additionally, she provides leadership to the NICU Innovation team who provide hospital based support for families and providers in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units. She also oversees the Health Equity Workgroup and the Clinical and Public Health Practice Workgroup which are both part of the National Prematurity Campaign Collaborative involving over 240 leading organizations and experts working to achieve equity and demonstrated improvements in preterm birth. Prior to joining the March of Dimes, Dr. Waddell served as the Chief Program Officer for Community Health and Prevention with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Her ASTHO portfolio included state health policy and program areas of maternal and child health, reproductive health, injury prevention, chronic disease prevention, health promotion and health systems improvement. Dr. Waddell was also instrumental in leading the ASTHO team through launch and expansion of a multistate learning community focusing on Increasing Access to Contraception; and she provided important guidance and leadership to the multistate Million Hearts Learning Collaborative. Additionally, Dr. Waddell served as the Deputy Commissioner for Health Services and the Assistant Commissioner for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. She also served as a local public health director SC and as the Deputy Public Health Director/Medical Director in Richmond, VA. She is the proud recipient of several honors and awards including the Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Service in Public Health from the Southern Health Association; the J. Marion Sims Award for Meritorious Achievement in Public Health from the S.C. Public Health Association; and the ASTHO Noble J. Swearingen Award for excellent in public health administration. Dr. Waddell is a member of several professional organizations including the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Public Health Association and the SC
Public Health Association. Dr. Waddell received her medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia, her Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina, School of Public Health, and her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Virginia. She is also a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute. She is Board Certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. She lives in South Carolina with her husband and two sons.

**Alex Wagenaar PhD, MSW**

Alex Wagenaar is Research Professor at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and Professor Emeritus at the University of Florida College of Medicine. His second book, *Public Health Law Research: Theory and Methods* (with Scott Burris of Temple University School of Law), was published by Wiley in 2013. He has published almost 200 scientific articles on social and behavioral epidemiology, public health policy, legal evaluations, community intervention trials, alcohol and tobacco studies, traffic safety, and injury control. His research papers are widely cited—over 10,000 citations to date. In 1987, Professor Wagenaar received the Exceptional Leadership Award from the American Public Health Association. In 1999, he received the Jellinek Award for lifetime achievement in research on alcohol. In 2001 he received the Innovator’s Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and in 2004 was named by the Institute for Scientific Information as a Highly Cited Researcher, an honor limited to less than one-half of one percent of published scientists worldwide. In 2009 he received the Prevention Science Award and in 2016 the Nan Tobler Award, both from the Society for Prevention Research, in recognition of his work investigating and advancing the methods and outcomes of prevention research.

**Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, MS**

Kimberlydawn Wisdom is the Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity and Chief Wellness and Diversity Officer at Henry Ford Health System. She is a board-certified Emergency Medicine physician, the Chair of the Gail and Lois Warden Endowment on Multicultural Health, and Michigan’s and the nation’s First State-level Surgeon General. In 2012 she was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health. Since 1987 she has been on the faculty of University of Michigan (UM) Medical School’s Department of Medical Education and adjunct professor in the UM School of Public Health. Dr. Wisdom focuses on health disparities/health care equity, infant mortality/maternal and child health, chronic disease, unintended pregnancy, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, and tobacco use. She has worked collaboratively with school districts, faith-based organizations and the business community. Dr. Wisdom provides strong leadership in community benefit/population health, and improving the health of those disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes. She founded the award-winning African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIM –HI) and most recently, the Women Inspired Neighborhood (WIN) Network which aims to improve access to healthcare and reduce infant mortality in neighborhoods in Detroit. Since 2008, she has chaired the Detroit Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force. In 2007, she founded a youth leadership development effort – Generation With Promise (GWP) – designed to equip youth to drive policy, environmental and behavioral change in their school and community. GWP youth were featured on the cover of Modern Healthcare in June 2014. Dr. Wisdom is the recipient of numerous awards, has authored several peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and appeared on national television, including ABC’s Nightline, and has presented to audiences across the country and internationally.
Christopher M. Zahn, MD

Christopher Zahn is currently the Vice President of Practice Activities at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). He is the former Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS), and is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pathology at USUHS. He is a graduate of USUHS, and completed residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, followed by a residency in anatomic pathology and fellowship in gynecologic pathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Zahn is Board-certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Zahn has previously served in numerous roles in ACOG, including several leadership positions at the Section and District office levels. Dr. Zahn is a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and served on the ACGME Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology.