

FIRST ANNUAL

# SYMPOSIUM TO ADDRESS THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 29, 2023  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.



## BIOGRAPHIES



### SARAH BLAKE, PHD, MA

**Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,  
Department of Health Policy and Management,  
Emory Rollins School of Public Health**

Sarah C. Blake, PhD, MA is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She is a health services researcher who applies an equity lens to address maternal health disparities, particularly among low-resourced mothers and their families in Georgia. Dr. Blake works closely with the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health to examine how social and community-level factors influence maternal morbidity and mortality. Dr. Blake is an appointed member of the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee, lending her research and policy expertise to examine the contributing factors and causes of maternal mortality in the state. She is an Atlanta native, a mother of two wonderful teenage sons, and has worked at Emory for over 20 years!



### KEISHA R. CALLINS, MD, MPH

**Obstetrician/Gynecologist at Community Health Care  
Systems, and Joy McCann Endowed Professor with  
Mercer University School of Medicine**

Dr. Keisha R. Callins is a Georgia-trained Obstetrician/Gynecologist with Community Health Care Systems, Inc. (CHCS) and a Professor at the Mercer University School of Medicine. She is committed to providing healthcare services to rural and medically underserved areas. Her personal mission statement is, “You may not be able to change the world, but you can change the world of everyone with whom you interact”.



## HEATHER DOBBS

### Perinatal Patient Navigator and Doula, Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine

Heather Dobbs is a birth doula, postpartum doula, childbirth educator, and birth trauma survivor. A Georgia native, she is passionate about helping all families—particularly BIPOC, low-income, and rural families—feel informed and empowered during and after childbirth. Her training includes programs with Lifespan Doulas, DONA, Birthing from Within, and the Morehouse School of Medicine’s Perinatal Patient Navigator certification. She is a wife and a mother of two young children.



## M. DANIELE FALLIN, PHD

### James W. Curran Dean of Public Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. M. Daniele Fallin is the James W. Curran Dean of Public Health at the Rollins School of Public Health. With more than 250 scientific publications that have been cited more than 22,000 times, Fallin’s globally-recognized research focuses on applying genetic epidemiology methods to studies of neuropsychiatric disorders including autism, Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder and to developing applications and methods for genetic and epigenetic epidemiology, as applied to mental health and development.

Fallin has led multiple CDC- and NIH-funded projects regarding how environments, behaviors, genetic variation, and epigenetic variation contribute to risk for psychiatric disease, particularly autism. She currently leads the B’more Healthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) study, one of 25 sites of the NIH’s newly initiated [HBCD study](#), where she also serves as an associate director of the administrative core to guide epidemiologic design.

Prior to joining Rollins, Fallin worked at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for 22 years, where she served as chair of the Department of Mental Health, Sylvia and Harold Halpert Professor, Bloomberg Centennial Professor, and held joint appointments in the Bloomberg School’s Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine’s Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry. While at the Bloomberg School, Fallin directed the Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and previously served as director of the genetic epidemiology area within epidemiology prior to becoming chair of the Department of Mental Health in 2013.

Fallin was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2023. She completed a Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida–Gainesville and earned a PhD in genetic epidemiology from Case Western Reserve University.



## **NATALIE HERNANDEZ-GREEN, PHD, MPH**

**Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Executive Director, Center for Maternal Health Equity, Morehouse School of Medicine**

Dr. Hernandez-Green is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Executive Director of the Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Hernandez-Green received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Stony Brook University in New York and a Master of Public Health from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. She earned her Ph.D. in public health and a graduate certificate in interdisciplinary women's health from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Hernandez-Green currently sits on Georgia's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Georgia PRAMS Steering Committee, Georgia Improving Postpartum Care Affinity Group, and various maternal and child health organizations, including Postpartum Support International-Georgia Chapter Advocacy Group and Georgia Maternal Health Stakeholder Group. She also sits on national organizations, including the American Public Health Association Committee on Health Equity, the Health Disparities Taskforce of the National Preeclampsia Foundation, and many others. Dr. Hernandez-Green has presented her work at various international, national, state, and local conferences.



## **ROSE L. HORTON, MSM, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, FAAN**

**Specialty Director Women & Infant Services, Emory Decatur Hospital**

**Founder & CEO of NotOnMyWatch Consulting Partners**

Rose L. Horton, MSM, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, FAAN, is the Founder & CEO of NotOnMyWatch Consulting Partners, an LLC she created 3 years after coining the hashtag #notonmywatch. She created the hashtag out of her frustration at the rising rate of maternal morbidity and mortality. As a nurse she believes that nurses, as the largest healthcare employee contingent, have the power to change the trajectory of morbidity and mortality and eradicating preventable stillbirths. The hashtag is a call to action for all nurses to use their collective voices to support, listen to, advocate for, and follow evidence-based practices in caring for all birthing people.

Rose is a Women & Infant healthcare executive leader working as a Specialty Director at Emory Decatur Hospital. She is passionate about safe and equitable care for all women. Rose speaks locally, regionally, and nationally.



## **KY LINDBERG**

### **Chief Executive Officer, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, Inc.**

Kyesha (Ky) Lindberg currently serves as the CEO for HMHBGA. Mrs. Lindberg has over 17 years of experience leading local, statewide, and national efforts designed to solve complex social problems through innovation and creative design thinking, centering equity in her overall approach. In her current role, she works with multisector stakeholder groups to improve maternal and child health from conception through 12 months postpartum. Her work focuses on improving policies, bolstering the workforce, and expanding access to education, clinical, and community-based resources to ensure moms, birth givers, and babies survive and thrive. As a passionate advocate for marginalized populations, Lindberg understands how to bring groups together and activate them around a common goal. She is a strategic thinker who knows how to develop on-target processes to achieve the desired outcome. A team builder, Ky has a proven record of accomplishment in leading teams to be more productive and create better-defined systems and practices. Her strength lies in her ability to understand the depth and breadth of an issue and develop a realistic plan that moves an idea from concept to implementation.



## **MICHAEL LINDSAY, MD, MPH**

### **Luella Klein Professor and Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine, and Chief of the Emory Obstetrics and Gynecology Service at Grady Memorial Hospital**

Dr. Lindsay is the Luella Klein Professor and Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Chief of the Emory Obstetrics and Gynecology Service at Grady Memorial Hospital.

He has dedicated his three decades-plus career to eliminating reproductive health disparities by managing women at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and training the next generation of obstetricians and gynecologists. His primary areas of research have included HIV infection, gestational diabetes, substance abuse, and maternal mortality.

Dr. Lindsay received a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from Morehouse College, a Doctor of Medicine from Yale University and a Master's in Public Health in epidemiology from Emory University.



### **HOLGER STEPAN, MD**

#### **Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics, University of Leipzig, Germany**

Stepan is Full Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Medical and Scientific Head of the Department of Women's and Children's Health at Leipzig University. The focus on the care of high-risk pregnancies is complemented by the research work of Stepan, whose focus is, among other things, preeclampsia. He is a member of the National Board of Obstetrics for the German Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics, the Executive Board of the German Society for Prenatal Medicine and Obstetrics, and the Executive Board of Middle German Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics.



### **RAVI THADHANI, MD, MPH**

#### **Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory University**

Thadhani is the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs of Emory University, Executive Director of Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center, and Vice Chair of the Emory Healthcare Board of Directors. With more than 30 years as a general and specialized internal medicine physician, Thadhani has extensive experience in patient care, research, and clinical trials. He has led a successful research lab with continuous federal funding for more than 25 years, with a focus on kidney disease and developing diagnostics and therapeutics for patients with preeclampsia. Thadhani has performed several clinical trials focused on effective treatments and preventative measures for preeclampsia, one of the leading causes of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. He is the author or co-author of more than 300 scientific manuscripts and has published in top-tier journals. His most recent publication (NEJM Evidence, 2023) led to the FDA approval of the first diagnostic test for preeclampsia in the U.S.



## **KATHLEEN E. TOOMEY, MD, MPH**

### **Commissioner, Georgia Department of Public Health**

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health by Governor Brian Kemp in March 2019. As commissioner, Dr. Toomey oversees 159 county health departments in 18 health districts, and various public health programs.

Dr. Toomey earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Smith College. As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied indigenous healing practices in Peru. Dr. Toomey earned her M.D. and M.P.H. degrees from Harvard University. In 1985, Dr. Toomey was selected as a Pew Health Policy Research Fellow at the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. After residency, she practiced with the Indian Health Service in a number of Inupiaq communities in Northwest Alaska. She also took care of patients at Mission Neighborhood Health Center in San Francisco and what was then San Francisco General Hospital, while serving on committees looking at the initial cases of emergent HIV.



## **MARY WOOLLEY**

### **President and CEO, Research!America**

Mary Woolley is the President and CEO of Research!America, an alliance that advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.

Woolley is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and served two terms on its Governing Council. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has served on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Higher Education and the Workforce, having previously served on its Board on Life Sciences. She is a founding member of the Board of Associates of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and served two terms on the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine Council. She has served on the School of Public Health Visiting Committee of the Harvard College Board of Overseers and on the Council for Johns Hopkins Nursing.

She holds honorary doctoral degrees from Wayne State University and the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). In her early career she was the Project Director for the San Francisco site of the then-largest ever NIH-funded clinical trial, the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial and served as CEO of the Medical Research Institute of San Francisco. She served as President of the Association of Independent Research Institutes, as a Reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and as a Consultant to several research organizations. Woolley has a 35-year publication history on science advocacy and research related topics, and is a sought-after speaker, often interviewed by science, news, and policy journalists.

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



EMORY

---

WOODRUFF  
H E A L T H  
S C I E N C E S  
C E N T E R

MERCER  
UNIVERSITY

---

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



MOREHOUSE  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RESEARCH  
AMERICA  
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

