Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium

Driving Diversity: Collaborative Solutions for Clinical Research Equity

NMA Project 2.0 Collaborative in Collaboration with the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

Date & Time: Monday, August 5, 2024, 8:00–11:00 AM

Venue: Sheraton Hotel - New York Ballroom West

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 3

Event Details

OVERVIEW

Project IMPACT (Increase Minority Participation and Awareness of Clinical Trials) 2.0 addresses the persistent underrepresentation of African Americans and other minorities in clinical trials, aiming to mitigate health disparities by enhancing minority participation in medical research. By fostering partnerships and implementing innovative strategies, the initiative seeks to amplify the voice and involvement of physicians from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in medicine within clinical research, ultimately improving healthcare outcomes. This program delves into critical topics such as the impact of employed providers in clinical research, the influence of FDA guidelines on industry implementation strategies, and strategies for engaging state and local legislatures in clinical trial implementation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After participating in this activity, learners will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in clinical research and its impact on improving healthcare outcomes for minority populations.
2. Gain insights into the current landscape of clinical trial participation among minority communities and identify strategies to increase minority representation in clinical trials.
3. Explore the implications of FDA guidelines on industry implementation strategies and discuss how pharmaceutical companies can adapt to ensure inclusivity in clinical research practices.
4. Learn effective approaches for engaging state and local legislatures in supporting and promoting clinical trial implementation within diverse communities.
5. Develop actionable plans for fostering collaboration and partnership between healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, and regulatory bodies to address disparities in clinical research participation.

Continuing Medical Education Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the National Medical Association (NMA) and the W. Montague Cobb/ NMA Health Institute. The NMA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The NMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of *3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of participation in the activity. The NMA has been reviewed and approved as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Medical Education and Training (IACET), 8405 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800, McLean, VA 22102-5120. The NMA will award 3 hours of CEUs to participants who successfully complete the program.

DISCLOSURE

ACCME Standards for Commercial Support require that we collect commercial interest information from faculty for identifying conflicts of interest, and for resolving those conflicts. Accordingly, all persons in a position to affect the educational content of the activity must complete a full disclosure form prior to the activity. Additionally, we request copies of all speaker presentations (these aid in determining and resolving potential conflicts). Faculty disclosures, or lack thereof, must be made known to learners prior to the activity.

Event Schedule

Coffee & Refreshments

Welcome and Introduction

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.

Introductory Provider Training & Research Workstations

James Powell, M.D.

David Franklin

Walter Rayford, M.D.

Panel 1 Discussion: Industry Conversations with Q&A: "Impact of Employed Providers Participating in Clinical Research"

Moderator

Randall Morgan, M.D., M.B.A.
President & CEO, W. Montague Cobb Health Institute (The Cobb Institute)

Panelists

Luther Clark, M.D.
Deputy Chief Patient Officer and Global Director, Scientific Medical and Patient Perspective, Office of the Chief Patient Officer (OCPO), Merck

Jude Ngang, Pharm.D.
Executive Director, Representation in Clinical Research (RISE), Amgen

Tony Pearson, J.D., M.P.H.
Senior Director of Diversity & Inclusion in Clinical Trials, Lilly

Carmen White, M.B.A.
Multicultural Participant Experience Lead, Global Product Development Division, Pfizer

Stretch Break

Keynote Address

Etta Pisano, M.D.
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

Panel 2 Discussion: "Impact of FDA Guidelines on Industry Implementation Strategies"

Moderator

Gabriel Felix, M.D.
Psychiatrist, Cambridge Health Alliance; Instructor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Panelists

DeChane Dorsey, J.D.
Executive Director, AdvaMed Accel , AdvaMed

Stacey Bledsoe, R.N., M.S.N.
Head of Global Clinical Trial Diversity and Inclusion, Gilead

James Ingram II
Director of Policy and Alliance Development, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Joy Jones, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Dr. Robert Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Award Program or (Winn CDA)

Roundtable Discussion: "Engaging State and Local Legislatures in CT Implementation"

Moderator

James H. Powell, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder, knowRX®

Panelists

Rose E. Blackburne, M.D., M.B.A.
Executive Medical Director, Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD), LLC

Gregory Porter
Indiana State Representative; Past President, National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL); Vice President of External Affairs, Health and Hospital Corporations of Marion County

Next Steps And Q&A Discussion

Closing Remarks

Randall Morgan, M.D., M.B.A. (The Cobb Institute)

Participant Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Etta D. Pisano, M.D.

Dr. Etta Pisano joined ARPA-H as Portfolio Lead overseeing the Advancing Clinical Trials Readiness (ACTR) initiative in March 2024. She also currently serves as the Chief Research Officer at the American College of Radiology and as the Principal Investigator for the NCI-funded ECOG-ACRIN-sponsored Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST) which will compare digital mammography to tomosynthesis for breast cancer screening and has recruited approximately 99,000 women at 131 centers in the US, Canada, Argentina, Peru, Italy, Thailand, Taiwan and S Korea since it opened in July 2017. She has adjunct faculty appointments in radiology at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After completing her undergraduate degree in Philosophy at Dartmouth College, Dr. Pisano received her MD from Duke University School of Medicine. She did her radiology residency at Beth Israel Hospital at Harvard Medical School. She next served on the faculty at the University of North Carolina Medical School where she was founding Chief of Breast Imaging for 16 years before becoming Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, overseeing the research and education missions of the medical school. While at UNC, she also served as the first Principal Investigator for the CTSA grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences and the founding Director of the Biomedical Research Imaging Center. After serving as Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina, she moved to Boston to join the faculty of Harvard Medical School serving as Professor in Residence at Beth Israel-Deaconess Health System.

Her career has focused on breast imaging with a special focus on the development and testing of new technologies, most recently studying the application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to breast cancer screening. Dr. Pisano is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Rose Blackburne, M.D., M.B.A.

Rose Blackburne, M.D., M.B.A., currently serves as Executive Medical Director for PPD (Pharmaceutical Product Development, LLC), providing strategic oversight for pharmaceutical and medical device product development in General Medicine and Women's Health. Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, she brings over 25 years of healthcare experience, including 12 years as a practicing Obstetrician/Gynecologist before transitioning to global pharmaceutical and biotechnology leadership. With more than 15 years in Clinical Research & Development and global leadership roles across various therapeutic areas, Dr. Blackburne was appointed by the FDA Commissioner to a four-year term (2016-2020) as Industry Representative to the FDA Patient Engagement Advisory Committee Center for Devices and Radiologic Health (CDRH). She received the Morehouse School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2018 and served as Vice President (President Elect) of the Morehouse School of Medicine National Alumni Association from 2018-2020.She has been a prominent member of the National Medical Association, serving as Chair of the Physician Executive Section (2013-2016, 2018) and Co-chair (2011-2013, 2015, 2017). Dr. Blackburne has been actively involved in NMA Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities, presenting at annual conventions, National Colloquiums on African American Health, and the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. She has also contributed to the NMA's Convention Planning Committee and CME Faculty since 2008. In addition, Dr. Blackburne has collaborated closely with and serves as an advisor to NMA's Project IMPACT. She earned her MD from Morehouse School of Medicine.

Stacey Bledsoe, R.N., M.S.N.

Stacey Bledsoe, R.N., M.S.N., assumed the role of Head of Global Clinical Trial Diversity and Inclusion at Gilead Sciences in July 2023, bringing over two decades of pharmaceutical industry experience to her new position. In her role, Stacey leads the charge in

enhancing the diversity of Gilead's clinical trials portfolio while advancing the company's commitment to understanding the impact of treatments across all populations. Prior to joining Gilead, Stacey spent more than 20 years at Eli Lilly & Co, where she excelled across multiple disciplines, including Research & Development, Global Health Outcomes, Medical, and Six Sigma methodologies. At Lilly, she spearheaded diversity and trial initiatives, earning the company a Gold rating through strategic partnerships and internal and external collaborations. Stacey's dedication to promoting diverse clinical trial access and inclusion is evident through her engagement in national boards, conference presentations, interviews, and publications. Notably, Stacey established the Lilly Global Medical Outreach Program, leveraging medical professionals employed by Lilly to deliver essential medical services to underserved communities worldwide, including those in Africa, Greece, and South America. Stacey's commitment to patient advocacy stems from her early career as a Registered Nurse in the Level III Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Riley Hospital for Children. She holds a Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing from Indiana University.

Dr. Doris Browne

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H. is President/CEO, Browne and Associates, LLC, a health consulting company that addresses national and global health inequities, a medical oncologist, and the 118th President of the National Medical Association. As President of the NMA, she focused on a Collaborative Approach to Health Equity entitled "The Urgency of Now: Creating a Culture for Health Equity. She tirelessly champions causes that significantly contribute to improving the health status of vulnerable populations. She achieved national and international recognition as an expert educator and speaker and has been either featured or quoted in many news articles, Podcasts, and Op-Eds in addition to publishing scientific articles, book chapter and textbook. Her public health background includes health education programs on women's health, cancer, climate health and environmental justice, sickle cell disease, HIV/AIDS, and radiation casualties, including participating in an international disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance program for 17 West African Nations. She is passionate about achieving health equity through increased participation of underrepresented populations in clinical trials research. She is a retired Colonel from the U. S. Army, Medical Corps and retired from National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute where she managed the breast cancer portfolio. Dr. Browne is a graduate of Tougaloo College (BS), UCLA (MPH), and Georgetown University (M.D.) and completed an internship, residency, and fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Hematology-Oncology. She is a member of numerous professional organizations, Trinity Episcopal Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the recipient of plentiful awards including the NIH Merit Award and Top Blacks in Healthcare Award.

Luther Clark, M.D.

Luther Clark, M.D., FACC, FACP serves as Deputy Chief Patient Officer and Global Director of Scientific, Medical, and Patient Perspective (SMPP) within the Office of the Chief Patient Officer (OCPO) at Merck. In this capacity, he oversees a multifaceted role, including collating both internal and external scientific and medical data to inform high-level decision-making, fostering collaboration across Merck to amplify the patient's voice in decision-making processes, both directly and indirectly, and engaging with key internal and external stakeholders to standardize the collection and integration of patient insights throughout the patient journey and product lifecycle. Additionally, Dr. Clark leads Merck's Patient Insights Team, co-leads the initiative promoting Health Care Equities, which encompasses advancing health literacy and research diversity, and chairs the Patient Engagement, Health Literacy & Clinical Trials Diversity Investigator Initiated Studies Research Committee. Prior to his tenure at Merck, Dr. Clark served as Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY Downstate) and was the founding Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Brooklyn Health Disparities Research Center. Dr. Clark is an alumnus of Harvard College, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, and Harvard Medical School, where he obtained his Medical degree. He is a Fellow of

both the American College of Cardiology (FACC) and the American College of Physicians (FACP). Notably, he has contributed significantly to cardiovascular education, clinical investigation, cardiovascular disease prevention, and health equity. His academic contributions include over 100 publications, and he was the principal contributor to the textbook "Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes" (McGraw-Hill). His professional achievements have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Harvard University Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Medicine.

DeChane L. Dorsey, Esq.

DeChane L. Dorsey is the Executive Director of AdvaMed Accel, a division within the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed). AdvaMed Accel represents small and mid-sized companies and works to address concerns specific to this group of companies that comprise more than 70% of AdvaMed's overall membership. She also leads AdvaMed's health equity and women's health workstreams. Prior to assuming her current role Ms. Dorsey was a Vice President in the Payment and Health Care Delivery Department at AdvaMed where her responsibilities included policy development and analysis of regulatory issues affecting the medical technology industry, including the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), reimbursement for Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), advanced wound healing and tissue regeneration, coding, and physician payment issues. Prior to joining AdvaMed's staff in June 2006, Ms. Dorsey was the Director of Health Policy for the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) where she managed issues affecting coverage and reimbursement for ophthalmology procedures. Before joining the AAO, Ms. Dorsey was a Senior Counsel with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, where she worked as a litigator on a variety of fraud and abuse issues including enforcement of exclusion authorities, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) statute, civil monetary penalties, and compliance monitoring. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Gabriel Felix, M.D.

Gabriel Felix, M.D. is a board-certified psychiatrist at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) and holds the position of Instructor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School (HMS). His professional interests encompass a diverse array of areas, including public-sector psychiatry, emergency psychiatry, psychotherapy, ethics, the intersection of psychiatry with the law, general well-being, and advancing efforts to end structural racism. Dr. Felix completed his psychiatry training at CHA/HMS following his graduation from Howard University College of Medicine, where he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree. His academic journey also includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Binghamton. His clinical focus encompasses psychotherapy, community/public psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, and promoting general mental health/well-being, with a dedicated commitment to addressing health disparities and racism in medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Felix has demonstrated leadership both locally and nationally. Notably, he served as the 55th National President for the Student National Medical Association during his time in medical school. Currently, he remains actively engaged in several professional organizations and serves as a Public Psychiatry Fellow for the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Felix is deeply invested in mentoring premedical and medical students, contributing to the development of the next generation of healthcare professionals.

James Ingram II

James Ingram II serves as the Director of Policy and Alliance Development at Vertex, a leading healthcare biotech company dedicated to advancing scientific innovation to develop transformative medicines for individuals affected by serious genetic diseases. In his current capacity, Ingram collaborates closely with minority health advocacy groups, professional medical communities, and other relevant social and civic organizations to cultivate strategic partnerships and foster alignment on critical minority health-related initiatives. With a career predominantly

rooted in government affairs and advocacy, James brings over 15 years of experience championing various healthcare causes, particularly focusing on cancer research, survivorship, and addressing health disparities within minority and underserved populations. His dedication to these causes is exemplified through his service on the Board of Directors for a national young adult cancer survivorship organization and his active participation in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. James is deeply committed to amplifying the perspectives and voices of the minority health community, driven by his profound passion for advancing health equity and inclusivity in healthcare.

Joy Jones, Ph.D.

Dr. Joy L. Jones is Executive Director of the Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Award Program (Winn Awards) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) - Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. She oversees the strategic direction, expansion, integration, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of the Winn Awards.

Dr. Jones has more than 20 years of experience providing technical assistance and institutional support for capacity development including proposal writing, program development and implementation, strategic planning, human capital development, and program monitoring and evaluation. She holds a PhD in International Development from Tulane University Law School's Payson Center for International Development and has been a consultant to public and private institutions in the US and internationally.

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A.

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A. is an orthopedic surgeon achieving a career of excellence through service to his patients as a visionary leader in group medical practice, as an avid participant in community involvement, in youth mentorship, and in national medical leadership. He currently serves as the President and CEO of the W. Montague Cobb/ NMA Health Institute, the research arm of the National Medical Association. He also serves as Senior Executive of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopedic Society. Dr. Morgan continues to be engaged in the practice of orthopedic surgery with Sarasota Orthopedic Associates in Sarasota, FL.

Dr. Morgan graduated from Roosevelt High School in Gary, IN, as co-valedictorian. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Grinnell College, in Iowa, and began a long career of medicine after acceptance at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. He served an internship and orthopedic surgery residency at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, where he was recognized as Resident of the Year and also as Chief Resident of Orthopedic Surgery. He then served as Resident Physician at the prestigious Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, CA.

Dr. Morgan joined two of his Northwestern faculty members in their private practice in Evanston, IL, and then practiced in his hometown of Gary, IN, for 30 years. He completed a fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati. He served as Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine and as a Clinical Associate at Northwestern University. He later earned his Master of Business Administration from University of South Florida in 2001.

In addition to his contributions to community service, Dr. Morgan is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and is certified by the American Board of Managed Care Medicine. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from his alma mater, Grinnell College, in 1992. He was elected President of the Indiana Orthopedic Society in 1999. He is a life member of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served as Chair of the Life Membership Dinner of the Gary Branch for several years. In 2003, Dr. Morgan was elected to the Steel City Hall of Fame in Gary, IN. He received the Joseph Pitts Award for Community Service from the NAACP in 2005. He was named a distinguished alumnus of Howard University College of Medicine. He was also inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Medical Society at Howard University.

He also serves as a life member of the Grinnell College Board of Trustees. Dr. Morgan presently serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Florida State School of Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center. It is there that he continues to develop his research interest in health care and musculoskeletal disparities.

He has had over 200 scientific publications and presentations during his career.

Jude Ngang, Pharm.D.

Jude Ngang, Pharm.D. serves as the Executive Director for the Representation in Clinical Research (RISE) program at Amgen, where his focus is on enhancing proportional representation across the company's clinical trials in collaboration with internal and external partners. With a background in clinical operations leadership, Jude was honored with the prestigious Amgen 'Innovation Trail Blazer' award for his pivotal role in shaping the clinical operations strategy for LUMAKRAS®, leading to accelerated development within the program. A pharmacist by training, Jude earned his PharmD from Roseman University of Health Sciences. Prior to assuming his current role, he served as Team Lead in Oncology Early Clinical Development Operations at Amgen, contributing significantly to the development of precision therapies for lung cancer. Additionally, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in translational medicine at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. With over four years of experience at Amgen, Jude has demonstrated leadership by actively engaging with the Amgen Black Employee Network (ABEN). He specializes in oncology and general medicine therapeutic areas, with a keen focus on clinical sciences, innovation, and patient recruitment and retention in clinical trials.

Tony Pearson, J.D., M.P.H.

Tony Pearson, J.D., M.P.H., serves as Senior Director of Diversity & Inclusion in Clinical Trials at Lilly, where he leads strategic trial design and delivery initiatives to ensure the appropriate representation of diverse participants and investigators across all therapeutic areas. Tony joined Lilly in 2019 as an Associate Director in Trial Capabilities, overseeing teams responsible for site start-up procedures. Subsequently, he transitioned to support Lilly's Diabetes Corporate Affairs team, where he focused on addressing key barriers to care and improving health outcomes by engaging influential policy, advocacy, patient, and government stakeholders. Before joining Lilly, Tony held positions in government affairs at Indiana University (IU) Health, where he supported hospital system and federally qualified health center priorities. He also served as an Associate General Counsel, providing legal support for transactional and regulatory matters within IU Health's multi-specialty physician practice group. Additionally, he led gastroenterology and hepatology operations as a Service Line Administrator. Tony earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health, specializing in Health Policy and Management, from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. He obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University. Furthermore, Tony is a Veteran with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, having served as a healthcare administrator and supporting plans, operations, and medical intelligence for Naval Special Warfare Command.

Gregory Porter

Gregory Porter is a seasoned legislator serving his 15th term in the 96th Indiana House District in Indianapolis. He is a ranking minority member of the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee and serves on the State Budget, Public Health, and Insurance committees. Porter has a rich history of legislative accomplishments, including authoring Resolution No. 56, which renamed a section of Interstate Highway 65 to honor the Tuskegee Airmen. In addition to his legislative duties, Porter holds the position of Senior Vice President of External Affairs at the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County. He is a past president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) and has held various board positions and leadership roles at both state and national levels. Porter is deeply involved in community organizations such as Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis, Inc., and the NAACP, among others. He has received numerous awards for his contributions, including the 2019 Father Boniface Hardin Founders Award and the American Association for Access, Equity, and Diversity "Drum Major for Justice Award. A native of Indianapolis, Porter holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Earlham College and has completed executive education at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

James H. Powell, M.D.

James H. Powell, M.D., serves as the Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder of knowRX, leveraging over two decades of experience as a clinical research executive in the pharmaceutical industry. Throughout his career, Dr. Powell has been deeply committed to healthcare advocacy and advancing clinical trial inclusion initiatives. His illustrious career includes serving on the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Investigators, where he received the esteemed Lifetime Honorary Membership Award for his exceptional contributions. Dr. Powell's dedication to advancing diversity in clinical trials is evidenced through his pivotal role as Principal Investigator for the National Medical Association's Project IMPACT (Increase Minority Participation and Awareness of Clinical Trials). Through this initiative, he has championed programs aimed at nurturing diverse physicians as clinical investigators and educating consumers from diverse communities on the benefits and processes of contemporary clinical trials. Beyond his professional endeavors, Dr. Powell has made significant contributions to promoting equitable healthcare. He has served as a member of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections and has played a key role in Baylor College of Medicine's EDICT Project (Elimination of Disparities in Clinical Trials). Additionally, he is a founding member of the Alliance of Multicultural Physicians, advocating for enhanced inclusion in clinical trials. Currently, Dr. Powell sits on the Board of Closing the Health Gap, a prominent community health advocacy organization in Greater Cincinnati.

Walter Rayford, Ph.D., M.D., M.B.A.

Walter Rayford, Ph.D., M.D., M.B.A., currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tennessee. He specializes in urologic oncology and has made significant research contributions in prostate cancer, benign prostate hypertrophy, and health disparities. Dr. Rayford is certified by the American Board of Urology and holds memberships in prestigious organizations such as the American Urology Association, American Association of Clinical Urologists, and National Medical Association. He completed his education with a B.S. in Biology from Jackson State University, followed by a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and an M.D. from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Rayford underwent general surgery training at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, MO, and completed his urology residency at the University of Kansas. He furthered his expertise with a urologic oncology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute.

Carmen White, M.B.A.

Carmen White, M.B.A., serves as the Multicultural Participant Experience Lead within Pfizer's Global Product Development Division. With extensive experience in clinical trials, patient engagement and healthcare communications across the public sector, academia, and the pharmaceutical industry, Carmen has worked on both the specialized-service agency and sponsor side. In her current role, Carmen is responsible for leading educational and awareness programs, focusing on enhancing the participant experience to foster diverse and inclusive participation in clinical trials through equitable access and practices. Throughout her career, she has supported clinical trials for various sponsors across multiple therapeutic areas and has developed protocol review, public awareness, and community outreach programs for a leading multi-center comprehensive cancer center. Carmen earned her B.A. in Psychology from Hampton University and holds a Master of Business Administration in Marketing.