



W. MONTAGUE  NMA HEALTH  
**Cobb** **Institute**

# 2024 Annual Program

August 3-7, 2024 | New York, NY

NMA Convention and  
Scientific Assembly

*Leadership and  
Innovation  
in Medicine  
and Scientific  
Research  
for the  
Elimination  
of Racial and  
Ethnic Health  
Disparities*

2024 COBB AWARDEES



Cato T. Laurencin,  
M.D., Ph.D.



Joan Y. Reede,  
MD, M.S., M.P.H.,  
M.B.A



Selwyn M. Vickers,  
M.D.



Geoffrey Young,  
Ph.D.



Lynne Holden,  
M.D.



Dexter Frederick,  
M.D.

HIGHLIGHTED GUESTS & SPEAKERS

# Advancing Access to Medical and Scientific Research Careers!

## Featuring:

### The 2024 W. Montague Cobb Symposium:

“Then and Now - Navigating Best-in-Class Mentoring Innovation”

Livestream available via BlackDoctor.Org

2  
CME  
Credits

### Cobb Scholars Convening

on the NIH *All of Us* Research Program with Baylor College of Medicine

2  
CME  
Credits

### Myeloma Research Scholars Poster Walk

as part of the 2024 Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Cancer Disparities Symposium

## Additional Collaborations

### 2024 Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Cancer Disparities Symposium and Poster Walk

*Keynote Address*

Lisa A. Newman, M.D., M.P.H.

*Weill Cornell Medicine/New York*

*Presbyterian Hospital Network*

2  
CME  
Credits

### 2024 Project IMPACT 2.0

(Increase Minority Participation and Awareness of Clinical Trials) Symposium

*Keynote Address*

Etta Pisano, M.D.

*Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)*

3  
CME  
Credits

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# About The Cobb Institute

The W. Montague Cobb/National Medical Association (NMA) Health Institute (The Cobb Institute), a 501(c)(3) in Washington, DC, engages in innovative research and knowledge dissemination for the reduction and elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. Founded in 2004, the Institute honors the legacy of William Montague Cobb M.D., Ph.D., LL.B., a distinguished physician, anthropologist, and professor of medicine and anatomy at the Howard University School of Medicine. In addition to hosting the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, the Institute collaborates with public agencies, private entities, academic medical centers, including the medical schools of the historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and—equally important—communities. The Institute also provides opportunities for early career doctorates to receive intensive mentoring and networking in the areas of research, policy and practice. With funding from governmental agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as substantial in-kind contributions, the Institute continues to cultivate a trusted and proven network of diverse stakeholders committed to solving racial inequities in health.



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Camara Phyllis Jones, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.  
Edith Irby Jones, M.D. (*deceased*)  
Lovell A. Jones, Ph.D.  
Thomas LaVeist, Ph.D.  
Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Robert Like, M.D., M.S.  
Edith Mitchell, M.D. (*deceased*)  
Randall C. Morgan, M.D., M.B.A.  
Elizabeth O. Ofili, M.D., M.P.H.  
Roderic Pettigrew, M.D., Ph.D.

Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Griffin Rodgers, M.D.  
John Ruffin, Ph.D.  
David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.  
Brian Smedley, Ph.D.  
Richard Allen Williams, M.D.  
Jackson T. Wright, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.  
Vivian W. Pinn, M.D.  
Gail E. Wyatt, Ph.D.  
Augustus A. White III, M.D., Ph.D.

## Advisors to the Cobb Scholars Program

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Lovell Jones, Ph.D.  
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Terone Green, M.P.A.  
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Yashika Watkins, Ph.D.  
Lynne Richardson, M.D.

## Executive and Administrative Leadership

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A.,  
*President & CEO*  
Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D.,  
*Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*

Winston Price, M.D.  
Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.  
Christina Stephens, Ph.D., Q.A.S.  
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# Sponsors and Contributors

*Thank you to our sponsors, contributors, and partners!*

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## Bronze Sponsor



## Contributors



## Partners



# Schedule of Events

## Saturday, August 3, 2024

**7:30 AM–12:00 PM**      **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk a Mile with a Child**

*Location: Sheraton Hotel, West Ballroom*

**7:00–8:30 PM**      **Honoring of Cobb Awardees at NMA Opening & Awards Ceremony**

*Location: Hilton Hotel, Grand Ballroom West*

## Sunday, August 4, 2024

**1:45–3:45 PM**      **2024 W. Montague Cobb Symposium and Lectureship**

“Then and Now - Navigating Best-in-Class Mentoring Innovation”

*Location: Hilton Hotel, Grand Ballroom West*

Livestream: [Facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live](https://www.facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live) or [YouTube.com/BlackDoctorOrg](https://www.youtube.com/BlackDoctorOrg)

**5:00–7:00 PM**      **Exhibit Hall Opening and Reception**

*Location: Hilton Hotel, Rhinelander - 2nd Floor, America's Halls level 3 & 4*

## Monday, August 5, 2024

**8:00–11:00 AM**      **2024 NMA Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium on Representation in Clinical Trials**

“Driving Diversity: Collaborative Solutions for Clinical Research Equity”

(A program of the NMA Project IMPACT 2.0, in Collaboration with The Cobb Institute)

*Location: Sheraton – New York Ballroom West*

**1:00–3:30 PM**      **2024 Cobb Scholars Convening**

“Empowering the Next Generation: Precision Medicine and the NIH *All of Us* Research Program.”

(In collaboration with the All of Us Evenings with Genetics Research Program of the Baylor College of Medicine)

*Location: Sheraton – New York Ballroom West*

**3:30–5:30 PM**      **2024 Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Cancer Disparities Symposium and Poster Walk**

“Updated Strategies for Addressing Disparities in Cancer Care and Screening”

(A program of Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, the NMA Oncology Section, NMA Internal Medicine Section, International Myeloma Foundation, and The Cobb Institute)

*Symposium Location: Metropolitan Ballroom West, level 2*

*Poster Walk Location: Metropolitan Ballroom East*



# Venue & Locations

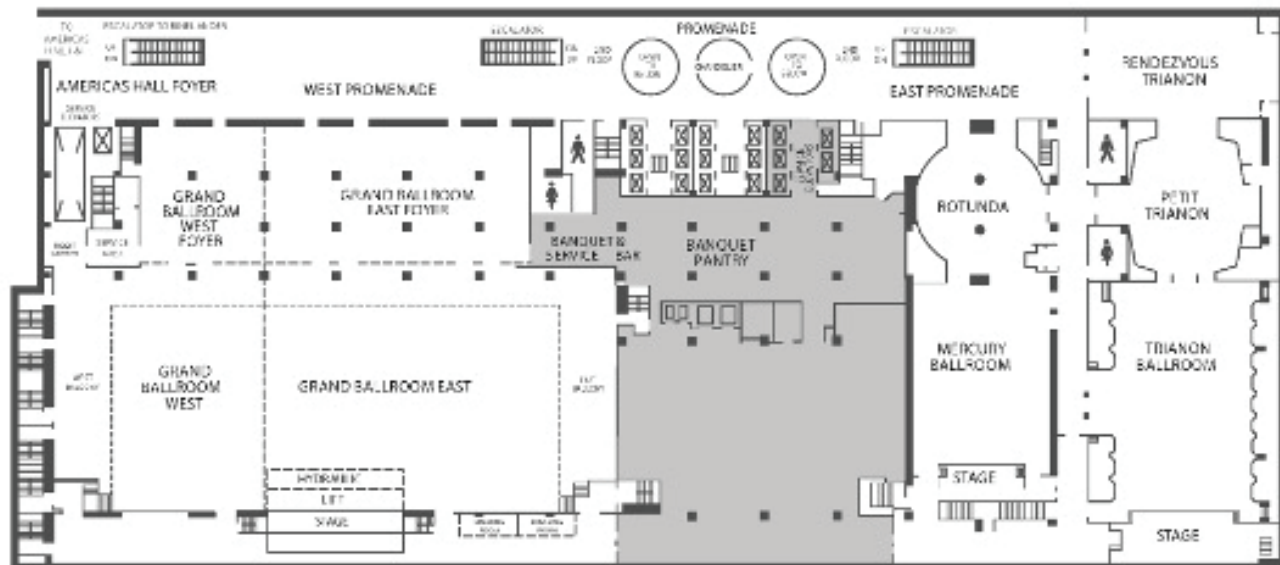


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## Second Floor



## Third Floor



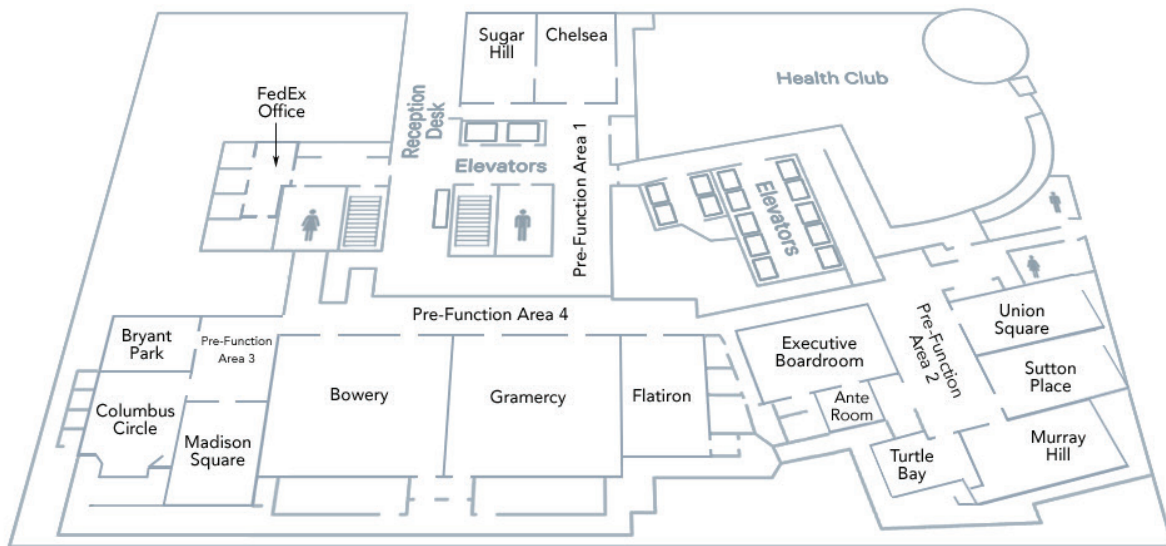
# Venue & Locations



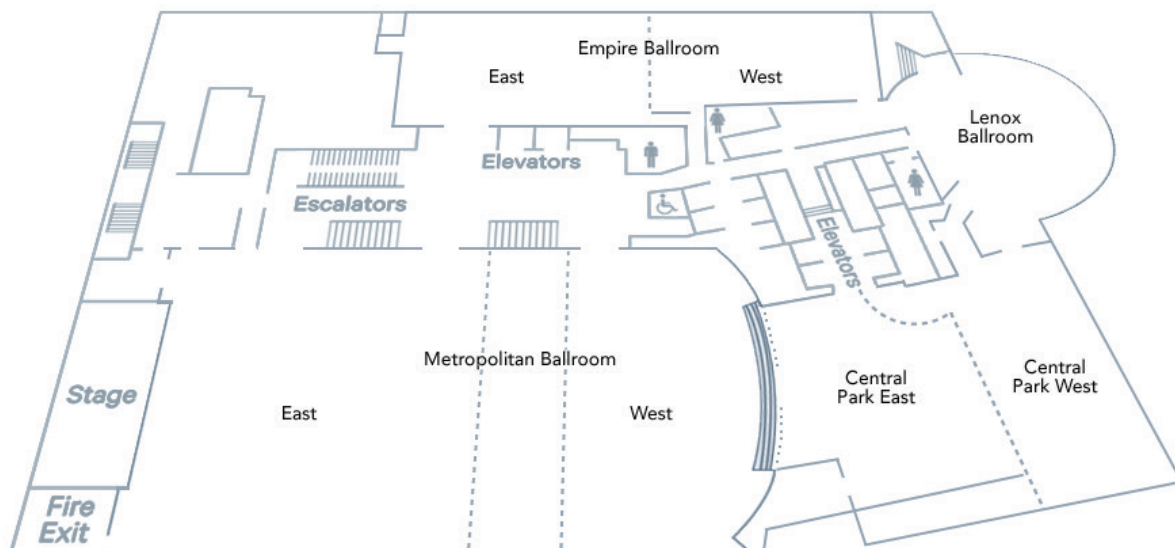
SHERATON

**Sheraton New York  
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## *Lower Level*



## *Second Floor*



# Disclosures of Commercial Relationships

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (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. No undisclosed financial relationships for speakers nor the planning committee. Any disclosed financial relationships did not influence the planning and content of the program and no such commercial products will be discussed in the program.

## Planning Committee

### *Committee Co-chairs*

Randall C. Morgan, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.  
*President and Founding CEO, W. Montague Cobb/ NMA Health Institute (The Cobb Institute)*

Mallory Williams, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Chair, Department of Trauma and Burn  
John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County  
Board Chairman, The Cobb Institute*

### *Committee Members*

Yolanda Lawson, M.D.  
*President, National Medical Association*

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.  
*University Professor  
CEO, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*

Dexter Frederick, M.D.  
*Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI),  
Loma Linda University  
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Lynne Holden, M.D.  
*Professor, Emergency Medicine,  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
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Cedric M. Bright, M.D.  
*Vice Dean for Medical Education and Admissions and  
Professor of Internal Medicine, East Carolina University  
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Geoffrey Young, Ph.D.  
*Senior Director, Transforming the Health Care Workforce,  
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Debra Murray, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor  
Co-Director, Office of Community Engagement &  
Diversity Molecular and Human Genetics  
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April Adams, M.D., M.S.  
*Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of  
Maternal Fetal Medicine Molecular and Human Genetics,  
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Jasmine Baker, Ph.D.  
*Postdoctoral Associate, Baylor College of Medicine*

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Winston Price, M.D.

Christina Stephens, Ph.D., Q.A.S.

Maliek van Laar, P.M.P., CMPH

Conchita Burpee, M.B.A.

Tiffany North Reid, M.P.H.



# Welcome

## from the President & CEO and Board Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Whether joining us in person at the 2024 NMA Convention or virtually, we extend our warmest welcome. Our W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute Annual Program at the 128th National Medical Association (NMA) Convention is poised to be both enlightening and stimulating, featuring engaging Symposia in collaboration with various partners and institutions, including the Jane Cooke Wright M.D. Symposium and Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium on Representation in Clinical Trials, addressing the pivotal role of representation in medicine, biomedical research, and clinical trials to mitigate racial and ethnic health disparities.

First, we invite you to join us in congratulating our 2024 Cobb Honorees, featured on subsequent pages. Their dedication and contributions to the medical and scientific fields are exemplary and warrant special recognition.

Reflecting on the 2023 Symposium, which served as a pivotal moment for contemplating progress and challenges in medical education and diversity, we eagerly anticipate the 2024 Symposium. We are privileged to present Dr. Cato Laurencin of the University of Connecticut and *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Disparities* as our distinguished Cobb Lecturer, whose remarkable contributions epitomize excellence in education, medicine and scientific innovation. Dr. Laurencin's lecture promises to ignite crucial conversations around mentorship and representation in regenerative engineering. Panel discussion will then delve into strategies and challenges in fostering diversity and inclusion in medical education, featuring esteemed panelists from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and leading pipeline programs, including Mentoring in Medicine. The symposium will conclude with a summary and actionable steps guided by Dr. Yolanda Lawson, President of the NMA. Your participation in shaping this transformative journey is invaluable.

Furthermore, for those interested in navigating the NIH enterprise, we have thoughtfully designed a program tailored to our Cobb Scholars, pre-Cobb Scholars, IMF Scholars, NMA Postgraduate Section, and the Student National Medical Association.

We invite you to visit [www.thecobbinate.org](http://www.thecobbinate.org) to become involved in advancing diverse leadership throughout the scientific and biomedical pipelines. Together, let us contribute meaningfully to solutions for racial and ethnic health disparities.

Sincerely,



Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A.,  
President and CEO  
W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute  
(The Cobb Institute)



Mallory Williams, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chair, Department of Trauma and Burn  
John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County  
Board Chairman, The Cobb Institute



*Randall C. Morgan Jr.,  
M.D., M.B.A.  
President and CEO*



*Mallory Williams,  
M.D., M.P.H.  
Board Chairman*

# ANNUAL HONOREE PROGRAMS

Each year, The Cobb Institute presents the **W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award**, the **Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D. Lifetime Research Award**, and **Distinguished Cobb Lecturer**. These honorees are celebrated at the Opening and Awards Ceremony of the National Medical Association (NMA) Convention and Scientific Assembly. Additionally, a W. Montague Cobb Reception is held in their honor during the evening of the W. Montague Cobb Scientific Symposium and Lectureship at the NMA Convention.



# 2024 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award

**Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., M.B.A.**

Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership  
Harvard Medical School

In acknowledgment of her extraordinary dedication and groundbreaking contributions, we proudly recognize Dr. Joan Y. Reede as a distinguished recipient of the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Reede has exemplified an unwavering commitment to fostering diversity and community partnership within the medical field. As the inaugural dean for diversity and community partnership at Harvard Medical School (HMS), Dr. Reede has played a pivotal role in spearheading comprehensive programs aimed at advancing the recruitment, retention, and progression of underrepresented minority faculty. Her visionary leadership extends across various domains, including oversight of diversity initiatives for faculty, trainees, students, and staff. Dr. Reede's impact is profound, highlighted by her founding of the HMS Minority Faculty Development Program and her role as faculty director of Community Outreach programs.

Notably, she assumed the directorship of the Harvard Catalyst Program for Faculty Development and Diversity. Beyond her administrative roles, Dr. Reede holds esteemed professorial appointments at Harvard Medical School, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Massachusetts General Hospital, showcasing her multifaceted expertise and dedication to academic excellence. Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Reede has pioneered innovative programs at HMS, addressing critical pipeline and leadership issues for minorities and women in medicine, research, and healthcare. Her tireless advocacy is reflected in the myriad mentoring initiatives she has championed, spanning from middle school to graduate and medical school levels. Dr. Reede's collaborative endeavors, such as the Biomedical Careers Program (BSCP), have transcended institutional boundaries, fostering mentorship and support for underrepresented minority students and professionals across academia, industry, and healthcare sectors. Dr. Reede's remarkable achievements have earned her widespread acclaim, including prestigious awards such as the Herbert W. Nickens Award from both the Society of General Internal Medicine and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Her election to the National Academy of Medicine further underscores her enduring legacy and national stature in advancing health equity and diversity in the biomedical sciences. In conferring upon Dr. Joan Y. Reede the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, we celebrate not only her remarkable achievements but also her enduring legacy as a trailblazer, visionary leader, and tireless advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine and beyond. Her exemplary contributions serve as an inspiration to us all, embodying the highest ideals of service, leadership, and compassion.



# About the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award

Named for William Montague Cobb, M.D., Ph.D. (1904–1990), Physical Anthropologist, Anatomist, Activist, and Prolific Writer. Dr. Cobb dedicated his life to promoting civil rights and combating segregation and discrimination in medical education and healthcare. To honor his contributions, the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2006.

General Criteria for the Award: Recognizes individuals with over 20 years of consistent contributions in the field of medicine.

## *Previous Recipients:*

- 2023 Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, President, Howard University; Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2022 Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2021 Hannah Valentine, MD, Inaugural Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, National Institutes of Health (NIH); Senior Investigator, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- 2020 Frank S. Royal, Sr., MD, Former Chairman and Honorary Trustee, Meharry Medical College; Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Virginia Union University
- 2019 Carolyn Barley-Britton, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons
- 2018 Nelson Adams, MD, Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Jackson North Medical Center; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Meharry Medical College; Chairman of the Board, Sunshine State Health Plan; Trustee Emeritus, Barry University
- 2017 Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London), Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Enterprise Vice President for Cancer Disparities, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities and Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University; National Cancer Institute's Blue Ribbon Panel; NIH Council of Councils; Appointed Member, President's Cancer Panel, 2019-2023
- 2016 Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP, Managing Director, Tuckson Health Connections
- 2015 Alma R. George, MD, Past President, NMA
- 2014 John Ruffin, PhD, Former Director, NIH Office of Minority Health
- 2013 Roselyn Payne Epps, MD, MPH, MA, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Child Health, Howard University School of Medicine
- 2012 Louis Sullivan, MD, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Former President, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2011 LaSalle Leffall, MD, Past President, American Cancer Society; Former Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, Howard University Hospital
- 2010 John Nelson, MD, MPH, Past President, American Medical Association (AMA)
- 2009 Vivian W. Pinn, MD, Past President, NMA; Former Director, NIH Office of Women's Health; Chair, Department of Pathology, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2008 David Satcher, MD, PhD, Former U.S. Surgeon General; President, Meharry Medical College; Former Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- 2007 Edith Irby Jones, MD, Past President, NMA
- 2006 W. Michael Byrd, MD, MPH, Public Health Scientist, Harvard School of Public Health

# 2024 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award

## Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.

President and CEO

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

In profound celebration of his exemplary contributions and enduring legacy, we proudly honor Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS, as the recipient of the 2024 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award. Serving as President and CEO of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), Dr. Vickers stands as a beacon of excellence in the fields of pancreatic cancer surgery, research, and health disparities advocacy on a global scale. A distinguished member of the National Academy of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars, Dr. Vickers' illustrious career is characterized by groundbreaking discoveries and transformative leadership in medical science and patient care. Born and raised in Alabama, Dr. Vickers' journey of excellence began at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he joined the faculty. Rising through the ranks, he was appointed as the John H. Blue Chair of General Surgery, leaving an indelible mark on the institution's academic and research landscape. His tenure at UAB culminated in his appointment as Senior Vice President of Medicine and Dean of the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, where his visionary leadership propelled the institution to new heights of innovation and excellence. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Vickers has garnered international acclaim for his pioneering research in pancreatic cancer treatment, notably co-leading the development of Minnelide, an injectable cancer drug that entered phase 2 trials in 2019. His groundbreaking work has not only advanced medical science but has also brought hope to countless patients battling pancreatic and gastrointestinal cancers worldwide. As the recipient of the Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award, Dr. Vickers' transformative contributions to medical research and patient care stand as a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation. His groundbreaking discoveries and visionary leadership have not only shaped the landscape of modern medicine but have also inspired future generations of researchers and healthcare leaders to push the boundaries of possibility in the pursuit of improved health outcomes for all. In honoring Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, we celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also his profound impact on the lives of countless individuals touched by his compassion, leadership, and unwavering dedication to excellence. His legacy serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, illuminating the path forward towards a future where groundbreaking discoveries and transformative innovation continue to redefine the possibilities of medical science and patient care.



# About the Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D. Lifetime Research Award

Named for Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD, Orthopedic Surgeon, Biomedical Engineer, National Academy of Medicine, and National Academy of Engineering Member. History: Dr. Laurencin has dedicated his life to excellence in research, teaching, surgery, mentoring, and scientific leadership. He has been instrumental in advancing the field of orthopedic surgery and reducing health disparities. His exceptional contributions have inspired a new generation of researchers and healthcare professionals.

General Criteria for the Award: Recognizes individuals with over 20 years of consistent contributions benefiting reducing health disparities through research and inquiry.

## *Previous Recipients:*

- 2023 Neil Powe, MD, MPH, MBA, Chief of Medicine, University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medicine Service, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
- 2022 Ezra Griffith, MD, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and African American Studies, Yale University
- 2021 Richard Allen Williams, MD, Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Founder and President, Minority Health Institute; Founder, Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC)
- 2020 Mae C. Jemison, MD, Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut; Principal, 100 Year Starship Project
- 2019 Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, MACP, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- 2018 Camara P. Jones, MD, PhD, Past President, American Public Health Association (APHA); Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine; Senior Fellow, Cardiovascular Research Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2017 Virginia Caine, MD, MPH, Past President, APHA; Director and Chief Medical Officer, Marion County Public Health Department; Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Board of Advisors; Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine
- 2016 James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emory University and Indiana University; CEO & Chief Medical Officer of Healing Our Village, Inc.; National Program Director Emeritus, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP)
- 2015 Roy Wilson, MD, MS, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center; President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology, Wayne State University
- 2014 Alvin Poussaint, MD, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
- 2013 Beny J. Primm, MD, Addiction Research Treatment Corporation (ARTC) Founder; Founding President, Urban Resource Institute
- 2012 Kenneth Olden, PhD, ScD, LHD, Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- 2011 Jane Cooke Wright, MD, Former Professor of Surgery, Head of the Cancer Chemotherapy Department, and Associate Dean at New York Medical College

# 2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer

**Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.**

University Professor

CEO, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering

University of Connecticut

Editor-In-Chief, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*

In celebration of his exceptional achievements and pioneering contributions, we proudly honor Professor Cato T. Laurencin as the esteemed 2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer. Renowned for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of biomaterials, nanotechnology, and regenerative engineering, Dr. Laurencin stands as a trailblazer in the field of musculoskeletal regeneration. Dr. Laurencin's illustrious career has been marked by numerous historic milestones, including his recent distinction as the first surgeon ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences. This prestigious accolade adds to his distinguished memberships in the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors, underscoring his profound impact on multiple scientific disciplines.



His pioneering research has revolutionized orthopedic treatments, with innovations such as the Laurencin-Cooper ligament (LC ligament) for ACL regeneration and engineered grafts for shoulder rotator cuff tendon repair and regeneration. These groundbreaking inventions have been lauded in National Geographic Magazine's "100 Scientific Discoveries that Changed the World" edition, cementing Dr. Laurencin's legacy as a transformative figure in medical science. In addition to his scientific achievements, Dr. Laurencin is a passionate advocate for social justice, earning recognition for his dedication to promoting equity and fairness in healthcare. His commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion has been honored with prestigious awards from esteemed organizations like the Society for Biomaterials and the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute. Currently serving as the Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and CEO of the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering, Dr. Laurencin continues to inspire future generations of researchers and clinicians through his exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence. Dr. Laurencin's academic journey is a testament to his unwavering pursuit of excellence, having earned his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, his M.D. with Magna Cum Laude honors from Harvard Medical School, and his Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was recognized as a Hugh Hampton Young Fellow. In addition to his myriad accomplishments, Dr. Laurencin is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. This significant role underscores his dedication to addressing disparities in healthcare and promoting equity within the medical community. In honoring Professor Cato T. Laurencin as the 2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer, we celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also his enduring legacy as a visionary leader and trailblazer in the field of regenerative medicine. His groundbreaking contributions continue to shape the future of healthcare, inspiring innovation and advancing the frontiers of medical science for the betterment of humanity.

# About the Distinguished Cobb Lecturer

## *Previous Recipients:*

- 2023 Ruth J. Simmons, PhD, President Emerita of Prairie View A&M University, Brown University, and Smith College; Distinguished Presidential Fellow, Rice University; Adviser to the President of Harvard University on HBCU Initiatives
- 2022 Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2021 Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, FACS, President, Howard University; Distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2020 Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Dean and Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- 2019 Kimberly Gregory, MD, MPH, FACOG, Director, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- 2018 Dara Richardson-Heron, MD, Former Chief Engagement Officer - All of Us Research Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 2017 Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London), Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Enterprise Vice President for Cancer Disparities, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities, and Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University; National Cancer Institute's Blue Ribbon Panel; National Institutes of Health Council of Councils; Appointed Member, President's Cancer Panel, 2019-2023
- 2016 James E. K. Hildreth, PhD, MD, President & CEO, Meharry Medical College
- 2015 Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS, MBA, Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School
- 2014 Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, Director of Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 2013 Harold P. Freeman, MD, Founder, Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute
- 2012 Virginia Caine, MD, MPH, Past President, APHA; Director and Chief Medical Officer, Marion County Public Health Department; Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine
- 2011 LaSalle Leffall, Jr., MD, First Distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine; Former President, American Cancer Society (ACS); Former President, Society of Surgical Oncology; Former President, Society of Surgical Chairs; Former Chief of General Surgery at the U.S. Army Hospital, Munich, Germany (1960-1961)
- 2010 Robert S. Satcher, MD, PhD, Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut; Assistant Professor, The Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University; Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 2009 Roderic I. Pettigrew, PhD, MD, Director of National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at NIH
- 2008 Augustus A. White III, MD, PhD, Founding President, J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society; Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Ellen and Melvin Gordon Distinguished Professor of Medical Education, Director of the Culturally Competent Care Education Program, Former Advisory Dean of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Society, Harvard Medical School; Former Professor, Harvard/MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology; Former Orthopaedic Surgeon-in-Chief, Beth Israel Hospital



# 2024 Cobb Lecture and Symposium & Lectureship

## *Then and Now: Navigating Best-in-Class Mentoring Innovation*

A Program of the W. Montague  
Cobb/ NMA Health Institute  
(Cobb Institute) for the 2024 NMA  
Convention and Scientific Assembly

**Date & Time:** Sunday, August 4, 2024, 1:45-3:45 PM

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel - Grand Ballroom West

**Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits:** 2

**Livestream Available:**

[Facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live](https://www.facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live)

[YouTube.com/BlackDoctorOrg](https://www.youtube.com/BlackDoctorOrg)



**2024 Cobb Lecturer**  
*Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D.*  
*University of Connecticut*  
*JREHD*



**Moderator**  
*Gary C. Butts, M.D.*  
*Mount Sinai Health System*  
*& Icahn School of Medicine*  
*at Mount Sinai*



*Dexter Frederick, M.D.*  
*Loma Linda University &*  
*BEST Medical Academy*



*Lynne Holden, M.D.*  
*Albert Einstein College of*  
*Medicine & Mentoring in*  
*Medicine, Inc.*



*Cedric M. Bright, M.D.*  
*East Carolina University*  
*(ECU) Brody School of*  
*Medicine*



*Geoffrey Young, Ph.D.*  
*Association of American*  
*Medical Colleges (AAMC)*



*Yolanda Lawson, M.D.*  
*President, National*  
*Medical Association*  
*(NMA)*



*Dr. Randall C. Morgan, Jr.,*  
*M.D., M.B.A.*  
*Chief Executive Officer,*  
*The Cobb Institute*

# Event Details

## Overview

This program focuses on enhancing access to medical education for underrepresented minorities. It aims to provide participants with comprehensive insights into the multifaceted landscape of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the fields of medicine and science. Through a combination of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the historical context, current challenges, and future opportunities surrounding diversity initiatives in these disciplines, particularly in navigating best-in-class mentoring programs post-Supreme Court ruling of 2023.

## Learning Objectives

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

1. Define diversity and explore its significance in the context of medicine and science, including its various dimensions and implications.
2. Develop actionable strategies to cultivate diversity in medical and scientific fields, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and representation.
3. Analyze the essential components of successful mentoring programs in medicine, highlighting their critical role in supporting and empowering diverse learners and professionals.
4. Articulate the concept, scope, and practical applications of regenerative engineering, with a focus on its intersections with mentorship and inclusion efforts.
5. Evaluate the systemic barriers hindering progress toward diversity, equity, and inclusion within higher education institutions, and propose informed approaches to address these challenges effectively.

## 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 *2 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 2 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

## Opening Remarks

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

## Introduction of the 2024 Cobb Lecturer, Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

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

## 2024 W. Montague Cobb Lecture: “Exploring Regenerative Engineering: Evolution, Applications, and Intersectionality with Mentorship and Inclusion”

*Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D.  
University Professor  
CEO, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*

## Panel Discussion: Strategies and Challenges in Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Medical Education: Insights from Leading Programs and Institutions

### Moderator

*Gary C. Butts, M.D.  
Executive Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Mount Sinai Health System; Dean, Diversity Programs, Policy, and Community Affairs, and Director, Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

## Panelists

**Introduction of Unique Pathway Programs and Their Collective Impact on Enrollment in Higher Education: The Strategy and Long-Term Results of B.E.S.T.**  
*Dexter Frederick, M.D., CEO of Best Medical Academy and Associate Dean of Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Loma Linda University*

**The Strategy and Long-Term Results of Mentoring in Medicine**  
*Lynne Holden, M.D., President of Mentoring in Medicine, Inc. and Professor of Emergency Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

**The Challenges of Success within Academic Institutions: Who is on the Team?**  
*Cedric M. Bright, M.D., Vice Dean for Medical Education and Admissions at Brody School of Medicine*

**Advice and Recommendations of the AAMC Regarding Workforce Diversity**  
*Geoffrey Young, Ph.D., Senior Director, Transforming the Healthcare Workforce, AAMC*

## Panel Discussion / Audience Q&A

### Summary And Next Steps

*Yolanda Lawson, M.D., President, National Medical Association*

- What have we encountered in American medicine today as the NMA?
- What insights have we gained from this symposium and lecture?
- What are next steps for attendees?

## Closing Remarks

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

# Participant Biographies

## *Distinguished Cobb Lecturer*

### Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., has made history as the first surgeon elected to the National Academy of Sciences. His distinguished memberships also include the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Laurencin's groundbreaking contributions span biomaterials, nanotechnology, stem cell science, and regenerative engineering, transforming musculoskeletal regeneration. Notably, he pioneered the Laurencin-Cooper ligament (LC ligament) for ACL regeneration and engineered grafts for shoulder rotator cuff tendon repair, featured in *National Geographic Magazine's* "100 Scientific Discoveries that Changed the World." His exceptional achievements, including the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, reflect his profound impact on human health. Dr. Laurencin's advocacy for social justice is recognized through awards from esteemed organizations like the Society for Biomaterials and the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute. Currently, he holds the distinguished position of Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and serves as CEO of the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering. With an exemplary academic journey, Dr. Laurencin's dedication to excellence spans his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, M.D. with Magna Cum Laude honors from Harvard Medical School, to his Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is Editor-In-Chief of the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.



## *Moderator*

### Gary Butts, M.D.

Dr. Gary C. Butts is the Executive Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Mount Sinai Health System and serves as its Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. He also holds the role of



Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy, and Community Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Education, and Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. With decades of experience, Dr. Butts has been instrumental in designing and managing comprehensive diversity and inclusion strategies across the health system, including its medical and graduate schools, graduate medical education, and hospitals. His leadership extends to directing the Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs and overseeing initiatives that have significantly diversified the student body and faculty. Under his stewardship, Mount Sinai has garnered recognition for its commitment to diversity, including top rankings from DiversityInc and Forbes. Dr. Butts also spearheaded the launch of the Diversity Innovation Hub, focusing on inclusivity in health care innovation and technology. His career spans leadership roles in academic medicine, public health, and community outreach, including a tenure as Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Health. Dr. Butts is actively involved in national and regional medical organizations and has received numerous awards for his leadership and contributions to health care diversity and community service. A native New Yorker, Dr. Butts completed his premedical studies at Columbia College and earned his medical degree from Cornell Medical College. He completed his clinical training in pediatrics at The Mount Sinai Hospital.

### Cedric M. Bright, M.D.

Cedric M. Bright, M.D., is a respected physician, patient advocate, and academic leader, currently serving as the Associate Dean for Admissions and Professor of Internal Medicine at the East Carolina University (ECU) Brody School of Medicine.



With a career spanning various leadership roles, including President of the National Medical Association and Associate Clinical Professor at Duke University, Dr. Bright is renowned for his dedication to increasing diversity in healthcare and advocating for health equity. Dr. Bright's commitment to mentorship is evident through his involvement in initiatives such as the

Diverse Medicine Inc.'s "Black Male in a White Coat" video series and his role as a mentor for premedical and medical students. His contributions have been recognized through numerous awards and honors, including induction into the Order of the Golden Fleece and fellowships in prestigious medical organizations. He received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and completed residency training in internal medicine at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University. He completed undergraduate training at Brown University.

## Dexter Frederick, M.D.

Dexter Frederick, M.D., currently serves as the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Loma Linda University. His passion for medicine was ignited during his adolescent years when diagnosed with Osgood-Schlatter disease, fueling his determination to alleviate human suffering. He commenced his academic journey at Columbia Union College, majoring in respiratory care with a pre-med emphasis. Despite the demands of his studies, Frederick actively engaged in college life and community service, serving in various roles such as vice president of his senior class, participating in the pre-med club, and volunteering at a soup kitchen in a nearby Cambodian community. Graduating in 1992, he continued his education at Loma Linda University, where he further honed his medical skills. Following his graduation in 1997, Frederick completed his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics, subsequently becoming board certified. Over the years, his dedication to medicine has only deepened, leading him to make a significant impact in his community. Notably, he is the proud founder of the Tampa-based B.E.S.T. (Brain Expansions and Scholastic Training) program.



## Lynne Holden, M.D.

Lynne Holden, M.D., serves as an Emergency Department Physician at Montefiore Health System and holds the esteemed position of Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Additionally, she serves as Vice-Chair of Diversity and Inclusion.



Beyond her clinical and academic pursuits, Dr. Holden is deeply engaged in community service, serving as a Deacon at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY, and co-founding Mentoring in Medicine, Inc. (MIM). Through MIM, Dr. Holden has impacted the lives of thousands of students, parents, and educators, guiding aspiring biomedical professionals through academic enrichment and mentorship initiatives. Dr. Holden's remarkable contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the American Medical Association Inspirational Physician Award and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leader Award. Her journey in medicine began with her attainment of a B.S. in Zoology from Howard University, followed by her graduation from Temple University School of Medicine. She completed her medical training at the Jacobi/Montefiore Emergency Medicine Residency Program, where she distinguished herself as a Chief Resident.

## Yolanda Lawson, M.D.

Yolanda Lawson M.D, Board Certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist, is the founder of MadeWell OBGYN in Dallas, Texas, and an Associate Attending at Baylor University Medical Center. She is the medical director of Abounding Prosperity, a community-based organization that addresses HIV disparities in target, Black communities. Dr. Lawson is also principal investigator of one of twenty-one sites for the EBONI study which is investigating Black women interested in reducing HIV by using PREP. Dr. Lawson leverages her business acumen, strategic thinking, and entrepreneurial skills to contribute to better healthcare for all but especially for the healthcare of women.



Dr. Lawson earned her medical degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, completed internship at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed residency at St. John Hospital & Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan.

As a seasoned leader and strategist, Dr. Lawson has successfully navigated several pivotal roles for the National Medical Association, including serving as vice president and president of the CV Roman Medical Society and the regional secretary, chair, and trustee. Her leadership extends to councils and committees, including as the chair of the Council on Concerns of Women Physicians and is the immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Medical

Association. She is a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, member of the Texas Medical Association, and she is a delegate for the Dallas County Medical Society and serves on the Political Action committee.

Adept at recognizing and capitalizing on growth opportunities, Dr. Lawson brings her formidable strategic thinking to the non-profit sector and demonstrates her community engagement and passion by contributing to several boards and committees, including Baylor Scott and White Health and Wellness Center, the Texas Medical Association Physician Health & Wellness Committee, Uptown Dallas Inc. She has lent her expertise and business acumen in board membership to hospital and recovery center boards, city, and health and wellness boards. She is also a volunteer with many other community activities and organizations.

Expanding her influence and nurturing her entrepreneurial instincts, Dr. Lawson has served on multiple advisory boards and speaker bureaus, including Gilead Sciences, Merck, Teva, Viiv Healthcare, and Abbvie. Her expertise is sought-after, having made her a guest on the nationally syndicated *Michael Baisden* show and the Black News Channel, and she makes appearances as an invited speaker, panelist, and moderator for various forums to discuss health equity and disparities, and maternal health. She is also a contributor to several medical publications and a recipient of many awards over the span of her career.

With a genuine caring for others at the core of her work, Dr. Lawson is a staunch advocate for physicians in the House of Medicine and the patients they serve. Her tireless efforts and strategic approach are a testament to her commitment as a women's health advocate and her relentless pursuit to end health disparities. Her unique combination of business acumen, leadership, and genuine care has propelled her career and transformed opportunities into significant contributions to medicine and her community.

## 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.

## Geoffrey Young, Ph.D.

Geoffrey Young, Ph.D., brings a wealth of experience in academic medicine and workforce development to his role as Senior Director of Transforming the Healthcare Workforce at the AAMC. With a background as an associate student affairs dean and associate admissions dean at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, Dr. Young has dedicated his career to nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals and promoting diversity in the field. At the AAMC, he leads efforts to create a more inclusive and diverse healthcare workforce, providing resources and guidance to students interested in pursuing careers in medicine. Dr. Young's passion for equity and access in healthcare is evident in his advocacy work and his commitment to addressing disparities in the field.



# Convening of the Cobb Scholars Program

## *Empowering the Next Generation: Precision Medicine and the NIH All of Us Research Program*

A Program Dedicated to the Cobb  
Scholars, Myeloma Research Scholars,  
NMA Postgraduate Section, and the  
Student National Medical Association

**Date & Time:** Monday, August 5, 2024, 1:00-3:00 PM

**Venue:** Sheraton Hotel - New York Ballroom West



**Convener and Moderator**  
*Winston Price, M.D.*  
*The Cobb Institute &  
Philadelphia College of  
Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)*  
*South Georgia*



*Debra Murray, Ph.D.*  
*Baylor College of Medicine*



*April Adams, M.D., M.S.*  
*Baylor College of Medicine*



*Bernard W. Parker, M.D.*  
*Division of Cancer  
Prevention, NCI, NIH*



*LeShaundra N. Price, Ph.D.*  
*National Institute of Allergy and  
Infectious Diseases (NIAID)*



## Overview

In order to achieve Precision Medicine for all, several critical improvements in the biomedical research landscape are necessary. The foremost priority is the inclusion of historically underrepresented groups in clinical trials and research studies, with researchers from these communities leading the efforts to ensure meaningful outcomes. These groups bear a disproportionate burden of chronic medical conditions, underscoring the urgency to address these disparities.

The *All of Us* Research Program Researcher Workbench boasts a substantial dataset encompassing numerous conditions relevant to clinical researchers, featuring approximately 780,000 participants, of which 80% are from underrepresented communities and about 50% are racial and ethnic minorities. Following last year's NMA

Convention and Scientific Assembly, the W. Montague Cobb Health Institute and the *All of Us* Evenings with Genetics Research Program will continue to raise awareness about the value of this cohort and database.

## Learning Objectives

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

1. Describe the data types available in the *All of Us* Research Program database.
2. Identify disease conditions relevant to their personal research interests.
3. Understand the process of creating a Researcher Workbench account.

# Event Schedule

### Opening Remarks

*Winston Price, M.D.*  
Chief Information Officer (The Montague Cobb Institute); Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) South Georgia

### Introduction to *All of Us* Evenings with Genetics Research Program

*Debra Murray, Ph.D.*  
Multiple Principal investigator (MPI)-All of Us Evenings with Genetics Research Program; Assistant Professor Co-Director, Office of Community Engagement & Diversity Molecular and Human Genetics (Baylor College of Medicine)

### Maternal Genetic Variants Associated with Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)

*April Adams, M.D.*  
Program Faculty - All of Us Evenings with Genetics Research Program  
Assistant Professor Obstetrics and Gynecology Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine Molecular and Human Genetics

### Descriptions of Research Careers

*LeShawndra Price, Ph.D., Director, Office of Research Training and Special Programs, National Institute of*

*Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH*

*Bernard Parker, M.D., F.A.C.P., Program Officer, Community Oncology and Prevention Trials, NCI*

### Presentation of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - (PCOM) Student Papers (4 Total)

*"Climate Health Community Project-EV Bus Impact on Child Learning" - London Wheeler, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Candidate*

*"Exploring the Potentials of Pulmonary Malignancy as a Contributing Factor to Pulmonary Edema" - Evelyn Orusa, DO Candidate*

*"Treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: A Current Review" - Ericka Westbrook, Savannah Finley, and Tyanna McCladdie, DO Candidates*

*"Variations in Lung Morphology and Their Clinical Correlations - A Cadaveric Study" - Saron Araya, DO Candidate; International Myeloma Foundation Scholar-2024*

### Audience Q&A

### Closing Remarks

*Randall Morgan, M.D., M.B.A.*  
President and CEO (The Cobb Institute)

# Participant Biographies

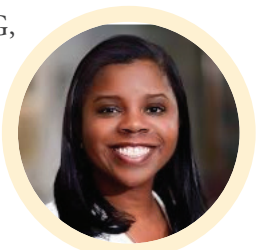
## Debra D. Murray, Ph.D.

Debra D. Murray, Ph.D., a leader in diversity and inclusion, mentoring, and research education, is a 2021 recipient of the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Leadership. As a MPI, she recently was awarded the *All of Us* Evenings With Genetics Research Program from the NIH All of Us Research Program. Dr. Murray is Director of Education and Diversity Initiatives in the Human Genome Sequencing Center (HGSC), and an Associate Professor in the Molecular and Human Genetics Department and former co-Director of the Office of Community Engagement and Diversity at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). In this role, she focuses on faculty training and increasing diversity in the medical genetics' programs. She is a part of the Engagement, Communication, and Education (ECE) Team that provides community engagement research and activities for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) and is co-PI on a PCORI "Building Capacity in Hispanic Serving Institutions for PCOR/CER focused on Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19".



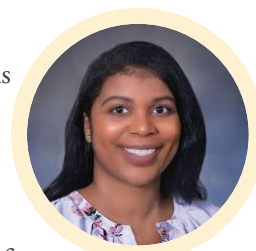
## April Adams, M.D., M.S.

April Adams, M.D., M.S., FACOG, FACMG, is currently an assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Molecular and Human Genetics. She is also the associate program director for the maternal fetal medicine and combined maternal fetal medicine/medical genetics fellowship programs and the Maternal Medical Director for Quality and Safety at Ben Taub Hospital. She completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Minnesota. She then completed fellowship training in both maternal fetal medicine and medical genetics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and the National Human Genome Research Center. Her research and clinical interests are in placental development, pregnancy loss and stillbirth, health disparities in reproductive genetics.



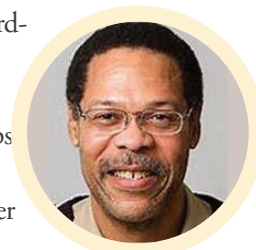
## Jasmine Baker, Ph.D.

Jasmine Baker, Ph.D., is a bioinformatics scientist with a wealth of experience in genomic data analysis and computational biology. She holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Louisiana State University, where her research focused on the evolution of Alu elements in primate lineages. Throughout her career, Dr. Baker has demonstrated a strong proficiency in developing computational scripts for next generation sequencing data analysis, utilizing languages such as Python and R. With over a decade of experience, Dr. Baker has held various positions in organizations such as Baylor College of Medicine and SomaLogic, where she led projects in predictive modeling, disease state analysis, and data management. Notably, she played a pivotal role in the development of bioinformatics curriculums tailored for analyzing diverse datasets, including those from the All of Us program, encompassing EMR, genomic data, and environmental exposures. Dr. Baker's research contributions have been published in renowned scientific journals, including *Genome Biology and Evolution* and *Mobile DNA*. Her expertise extends beyond academia, as she actively engages in workshops and conferences, sharing her knowledge and insights with the scientific community. Passionate about leveraging data-driven approaches to address pressing challenges in healthcare and beyond, Dr. Baker is committed to advancing precision medicine and population health initiatives. With her interdisciplinary background and strong collaborative abilities, she continues to make significant contributions to the field of bioinformatics and computational biology.



## Bernard W. Parker, M.D.

Bernard W. Parker is a physician board-certified in internal medicine and medical oncology who has recently retired from the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service after 30-years of federal career spanned over various assignment types, including 9 years of clinical services and research within NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI), 6 years



of drugs- and biologics-regulation in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 11 years of Commissioned Corps administration within the Office of the Surgeon General, and 4 years of federal policy within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health. Dr. Parker was also the DCP medical oncology consultant for 2 Cancer Moonshot Biobank studies launched by NCI's Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research Branch (BBRB).

Dr. Parker earned his B.S. at Virginia State University, M.D. at Eastern Virginia Medical School, completed internal medicine training at Howard University Hospital and completed medical oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute of NIH. Dr. Parker is also board-certified in clinical pharmacology after completing a clinical pharmacology fellowship at Georgetown University Medical Center.

## LeShawndra N. Price, Ph.D.

LeShawndra Price, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Research Training and Special Programs (ORTSP) at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is a leading expert in the fields of health equity, global health, and implementation science, with more than 20 years of experience at the NIH. She supports research training programs to develop the next generation of researchers and physician scientists, including promoting diversity within the biomedical research workforce, within NIAID's mission areas. Dr. Price also manages NIAID's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs and implements the Institute's international outreach and compliance program, including overseeing the NIAID Global Infectious Disease Research Administration Award for Low- and Middle-Income Country Institutions (G11).

In partnership with academic medical centers and universities, ministries of health, NGOs, and other research institutions, Dr. Price has built collaborative research programs across multiple sectors with the aim of reducing disease in vulnerable populations and improving healthcare delivery around the world. Her work has spanned the entire lifespan from childhood to adulthood across infectious diseases, and several chronic



diseases, including mental health, substance abuse, and heart, lung, and blood diseases. Immediately prior to joining NIAID, Dr. Price was Chief of the Health Inequities and Global Health Branch at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, where she developed the Institute's strategy to build a transdisciplinary research portfolio focused on implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based interventions targeted at reducing health inequities across the lifespan in low resource settings in the U.S. and globally.

After receiving her B.A. degree in Psychology with Honors from Wake Forest University, Dr. Price attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology.

## Winston Price, M.D.

Winston Price, M.D., FACPE is a dedicated pediatrician and associate professor, exemplifying a steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusivity in cultivating strong and healthy communities. As Chief Technology & Information Officer for the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, Price leads the integration of technology to support the Institute's mission of promoting health equity and collaborating with the NIH All of Us Research Program. In addition, in his role as Chair of the Cobb Scholars Advisory Committee, he passionately advocates for diversity and equitable representation within healthcare and the scientific workforce. His leadership extends to serving as the 105th President of the National Medical Association (NMA) in 2004-2005, a testament to his dedication to advancing healthcare and integrating technology toward eliminating disparities. Beyond these roles, Price's contributions are numerous. He serves as President and Chair of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition and as Chair of the Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center (SOWEGA-AHEC). Price actively engages in advisory boards, including the The Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition, The Adult Vaccine Advisory Group, and the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health. He represents the NMA on the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) and offers medical/technology advice to the Collaborative Impact Decatur County (CIDC), a non-profit community



health promotion initiative. Price holds the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-South Georgia Campus. He also serves as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Georgia. Outside of his professional endeavors, Price remains committed to clinical medicine, providing preventive care to the population in Southwest Georgia. Price earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and

completed a residency in pediatrics at The New York Hospital-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. His unwavering dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion, combined with his extensive experience, makes him a true champion for positive change in the healthcare landscape. His recognition as the National Medical Association's 2021 Practitioner of the Year further emphasizes the impact of his efforts and the inspiration he brings to others in pursuit of a healthier and more equitable society.

# Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Cancer Disparities Symposium & Poster Walk

*Updated Strategies for Addressing  
Disparities in Cancer Care and Screening*

A Collaboration between Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, the NMA Oncology Section, NMA Internal Medicine Section, the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, and the International Myeloma Foundation

**Date & Time:** Monday, August 5, 2024, 3:30-5:30 PM

**Venue:** Sheraton Hotel - Metropolitan Ballroom West, level 2

**Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits:** 2

# Event Details

## Overview

The Annual Jane Cooke Wright, MD Cancer Disparities Symposium addresses disparities in cancer care and screening. This year's program includes a tribute to Dr. Edith P. Mitchell, a keynote address on current strategies, and panel discussions on lung, breast, and colorectal cancer care and screening disparities. Updates on multiple myeloma will also be provided, concluding with remarks and a research poster walk focused on myeloma research.

## Learning Objectives

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

1. Discuss current advancements in cancer screening methodologies and their relevance for addressing disparities in cancer incidence and mortality rates.
2. Describe the predominant cancers affecting target communities, examining key outcomes and underlying factors contributing to disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.
3. Develop tailored implementation strategies for reducing cancer disparities, prioritizing current guidelines and research from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and other leading scientific organizations.
4. Explore updated therapeutic interventions for cancer treatment, including emerging modalities and precision medicine approaches, and discuss their implications for improving patient outcomes and reducing disparities.
5. Convey the significance of preparing the next generation of cancer providers, emphasizing the

importance of education, training, and diversity in the healthcare workforce to address disparities and ensure equitable access to quality cancer care.

## 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 *2 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 2 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

## Opening (3 minutes)

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

## Tribute to Dr. Edith P. Mitchell (10 minutes)

*Peter O'Dwyer, M.D.*  
*Group Co-Chair – ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research*  
*Group*

*Marie L. Borum, M.D., Ed.D., M.P.H.*  
*Editor in Chief, Journal of the National Medical*  
*Association*

## Keynote Address (20 minutes)

*Lisa A. Newman, M.D., M.P.H.*  
*Professor of Surgery*  
*Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian*  
*Hospital Network*

## Panel Discussion: Disparities in Cancer Care and Screening (30 minutes)

### Moderator

*Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.*  
*Chair, NMA Hematology-Oncology Subspecialty/*  
*Internal Medicine Section*

## Panelists

Disparities in Lung Cancer Care and Screening  
*Harlan Pinto, M.D.*  
*Professor of Hematology, Medical Oncology, Stanford*  
*University Medical Center*

Disparities in Breast Cancer Care and Screening  
*Tiffany Avery, M.D., M.P.H.*  
*Chief Medical Officer, NantHealth*

Disparities in Colorectal Cancer Care and Screening  
*Luz Marie Rodriguez, M.D.*  
*Program Director and Medical Officer, National*  
*Cancer Institute (NCI), Division of Cancer Prevention*

## Panel Discussion / Audience Q&A (12 minutes)

### Impact of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections on Cancer Disparities (10 minutes)

*Virginia D. Banks, M.D., M.B.A.*  
*Northeast Ohio Infectious Diseases Associates*

## Update On Disparities In Multiple Myeloma (10 minutes)

*Joseph Mikhael, M.D., M.Ed.*  
*Chief Medical Officer, International Myeloma*  
*Foundation*

## Closing Remarks (3 minutes)

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

## Myeloma Research Poster Walk and Reception

Metropolitan Ballroom East | 5:30–6:30 PM

# Participant Biographies

## Lisa A. Newman, M.D., M.P.H.

Lisa A. Newman, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, FASCO, is a distinguished Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian Hospital Network. Dr. Newman specializes in surgical oncology, focusing on breast cancer management.



In August 2018, she assumed leadership of the breast program for the Weill Cornell Medicine-New York Presbyterian Hospital Network, spanning Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn. Previously, Dr. Newman directed the breast program at the Henry Ford Health System, overseeing multiple hospitals across Michigan since 2015. She is also the Founding Medical Director of the International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes, now based at Weill Cornell Medicine following her recruitment. Throughout her career, Dr. Newman has conducted extensive research on ethnicity-related variation in breast cancer risk and outcome, with a focus on disparities in breast cancer risk and outcome. Her research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed medical journals and featured in media outlets such as CNN's documentary *Black in America 2*, NBC's *Today Show*, and CBS *Nightly News*. Dr. Newman's editorial board service includes roles in prestigious medical journals such as *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, *Cancer*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and *JAMA Surgery*. Dr. Newman earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from Harvard University and completed her undergraduate education in chemistry at Harvard University. She received her medical degree and completed her general surgery residency training at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Dr. Newman pursued fellowship training in surgical oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

### Moderator

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

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.

## Tiffany Avery, M.D., M.P.H.

Tiffany Avery, M.D., M.P.H., serves as the Chief Medical Officer at NantHealth, where she provides clinical strategic direction. Specializing in oncology, Dr. Avery initially joined NantHealth in 2019 as the Medical Director of



Oncology, bringing her expertise in breast cancer and addressing disparities in cancer survival. Prior to her role at NantHealth, she held positions as an Assistant Professor of Oncology at both Thomas Jefferson University and Wake Forest Baptist Health. Her contributions include conducting clinical trials, securing grant funding to study survival differences among breast cancer patients, and delivering lectures on various oncology topics. With numerous peer-reviewed publications, conference abstracts,



and editorials to her name, Dr. Avery has also served as an investigator on several breast cancer clinical trials. Beyond her professional endeavors, Dr. Avery is deeply committed to patient education and empowerment. She is the founder of CancerCall, a company dedicated to addressing cancer disparities through patient education. Additionally, Dr. Avery holds certification in Lifestyle Medicine and co-hosts 3 Black Docs, a podcast focused on health and cancer disparities. Dr. Avery earned her BS and MPH in Epidemiology from Tulane University and her MD from LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans. She completed fellowship training in Hematology and Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center where she focused on clinical research and patient care in breast cancer.

## Marie L. Borum, M.D., Ed.D., M.P.H., MACP

Marie L. Borum, M.D., Ed.D., M.P.H., MACP, FACG, AGAF, FRCP

currently serves as the Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases and a professor at The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Dr. Borum also oversees the Gastroenterology fellowship program and holds an associate professorship in public health at The George Washington University School of Public Health & Health Services. With an extensive scholarly portfolio, Dr. Borum has authored over 100 abstracts, articles, and chapters, and contributed to four textbooks, including *Women's Health Issues Part I and II* and *Gastroenterology Clinics in Geriatric Medicine*. She is highly regarded as a reviewer for numerous peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Borum's research interests encompass diverse areas such as physician decision-making, women's health, health disparities, acid-peptic disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, colon cancer, and liver disease. Dr. Borum is esteemed as a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology, and she actively participates in professional organizations such as the American Gastroenterology Association, American Public Health Association, American Medical Women's Association, and the National Medical Association, where she now serves as the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of the National Medical Association*. Dr. Borum's academic journey includes an undergraduate degree from Princeton University, a medical degree from UMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School), and master's and doctorate degrees from The George Washington University. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and subspecialty training in gastroenterology at The George Washington University.



## Joseph Mikhael, M.D., M.Ed.

Joseph Mikhael, M.D., M.Ed. is the Chief Medical Officer of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) and a Professor at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), affiliated with the City of Hope Cancer Center. He



conducts phase 1 clinical trials as Director of Myeloma Research at the HonorHealth Research Institute. With a distinguished career, Dr. Mikhael recently led ASCO guidelines for multiple myeloma and served as a hematologist at Mayo Clinic Arizona. Recognized for his educational contributions, he was named one of the Top 100 Doctors in the United States and received induction into the Mayo Clinic Resident and Fellow Association Hall of Fame. Trained in Ottawa, Canada, Dr. Mikhael specializes in plasma cell disorders, particularly multiple myeloma, and leads numerous clinical trials in this field. He has authored over 150 peer-reviewed articles and is a member of the IMF's International Myeloma Working Group and the editorial board of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Dr. Mikhael leads the IMF's M-Power Project, focused on improving myeloma care for African Americans, and advocates for increased access to myeloma therapies globally.

## 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.

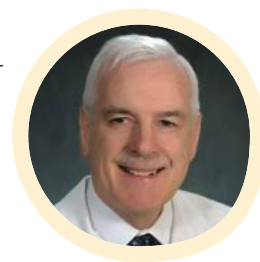
Dr. Morgan joined two of his Northwestern faculty members in their private practice in Evanston, IL, and then practiced in his hometown of Gary, IN, for 30 years. He completed a fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati. He served as Assistant Professor of Orthopedic 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.

## Peter O'Dwyer, M.D.

Peter O'Dwyer, M.D. has served as the Group Co-Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (ECOG-ACRIN) since May 2017, playing a pivotal role in its governance and contributing to various scientific committees. With a focus on gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancers, he brings extensive expertise as a medical oncologist at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia and as a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania since 1999. Dr. O'Dwyer also holds significant leadership roles, including CEO and Chair of the PrECOG, LLC Board of Managers, President of the ECOG-ACRIN Medical Research Foundation, and President of the ECOG Research and Education Foundation. Having obtained his medical degree from the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dr. O'Dwyer completed his residency at the Hammersmith Hospital in London and pursued a fellowship at the Baltimore Cancer Research Center. He later served as a senior investigator in the Division of Cancer Treatment at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. O'Dwyer's distinguished career includes leadership positions in the Developmental Therapeutics Programs at Fox Chase Cancer Center and the University of Pennsylvania. With over 350 scientific papers published in medical literature, he remains actively engaged in numerous national and international organizations. Notably, Dr. O'Dwyer co-chaired the groundbreaking precision medicine cancer trial, NCI-MATCH.



## Harlan Pinto, M.D.

Harlan Pinto, M.D. is a Professor of Hematology, Medical Oncology, Stanford University Medical Center. His clinical expertise is centered on the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers, with a particular emphasis on head and neck cancer. Dr. Pinto's research focuses on clinical investigations in head and neck cancer, with a particular interest in combined modality therapy. He leads clinical trials aimed at improving treatment outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer, employing innovative approaches such as immunotherapy, targeted therapy, and combination strategies. Dr. Pinto oversees multiple clinical trials evaluating novel treatments for various types of cancer, including head and neck cancer, lymphoma, melanoma, breast cancer, and lung cancer. These trials aim to assess the safety and efficacy



of new therapeutic agents and treatment regimens in diverse patient populations. Dr. Pinto earned his medical degree from Yale School of Medicine in 1983. He completed his fellowship in medical oncology at Stanford University School of Medicine in 1991, following his residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Pinto is board-certified in both medical oncology and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

## Luz Marie Rodriguez, M.D.

Luz Marie Rodriguez, M.D. is a board-certified general surgeon and a dual fellowship-trained surgical oncologist and colorectal surgeon. Currently serving as a Program Director and Medical Officer in the Gastrointestinal and Other Cancers Research Group within the NCI Division of Cancer Prevention, she oversees the development and support of early Phase 0-II prevention clinical trials. Dr. Rodríguez's work aims to bridge the gap between preclinical studies and Phase III trials by focusing on intervention effects on at-risk tissue-intensive collections and invasive biomarker monitoring. She manages chemoprevention



and treatment trials in various organ sites, including the liver, pancreas, stomach, and colon, utilizing study agents such as vaccines, statins, lisinopril, berberine, curcumin, metformin, and aspirin. Previously, Dr. Rodríguez served as a translational physician-scientist in the NCI Genetics Branch at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Her research focused on genome-wide gene expression profiles in colonic mucosa of populations at risk, contributing to the foundation for biomarkers of early colon cancer detection and prevention. She also established a Clinical Cancer Genetics Program dedicated to risk surveillance, genetic testing, counseling, and prevention for individuals at increased cancer risk. With over 21 years of experience as a senior staff/faculty surgeon at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUS) and Walter Reed Military Medical Center, Dr. Rodríguez has provided care for domestic and foreign families, dignitaries, and military personnel. She is an Advance Trauma Life Support (ATLS) instructor at USUS and trains medical students, residents, and fellows in oncology, surgery, and cancer prevention. Dr. Rodríguez is trilingual in Spanish, French, and English and serves as an advisor on health disparities in the U.S., Latin America, and Africa, consulting with scientific and clinical groups focused on gastrointestinal diseases and cancer intervention

# 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.

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# Event Schedule

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## Coffee & Refreshments

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### Welcome and Introduction

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

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### Introductory Provider Training & Research Workstations

*James Powell, M.D.*

*David Franklin*

*Walter Rayford, M.D.*

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### 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*

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### Stretch Break

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### Keynote Address

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

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### 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)*

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### 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*

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### Next Steps And Q&A Discussion

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### 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.



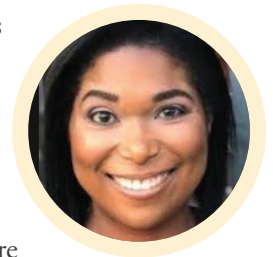
## Walter Rayford, Ph.D., M.D., M.B.A.

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.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



*In 2024, the Cobb Institute celebrates 20 years of research and focus upon the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities in health and healthcare in the U.S.*

## Spotlight on Engagement & Impact

Since 2018, our Community Partner Gateway Initiative (CPGI) outreach efforts with the NIH *All of Us* Research Program have reached over 300,000 individuals, showcasing our ongoing dedication to program awareness and community engagement. Despite facing NIH budget cuts, we are steadfast in our support for the *All of Us* Research Program and Cohort. Our strategy involves leveraging our unique position to reach Black and African American populations, engaging communities through our Strategic Engagement Journey process, hosting impactful webinars, contributing to professional education at National Medical Association events, and collaborating with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to increase participation. Despite budget challenges, we remain committed to ensuring the program's success and visibility.



*Ms. Conchita Burpee conducting outreach and engagement on behalf of the The Cobb Institute and the NIH All of Us Research Program*

## Strengthening Partnership & Collaboration

We are enhancing partnerships for the Cobb Scholars Program, including collaborations with the Baylor College of Medicine's *All of Us* Evenings with Genetics Research Program, funded by the NIH *All of Us* Research Program. The Baylor team presented with us at the 2024 NMA Region V Conference and we are teaming up to enhance access to the *All of Us* Researcher Workbench.



*Dr. Debra Murray and Dr. Randall Morgan at Baylor College of Medicine*

## HBCU Convenings



*Lester Henry M.D. Auditorium at Howard University Hospital*

The 2024 W. Montague Cobb Institute Health Disparities Symposium was a huge success! Held

at Howard University Hospital, the event featured advocacy in physician practice, disparities in surgical oncology and cancer care, firearm mortality patterns, improving access for patients with limited English proficiency, and lingering disparities in peripheral artery disease management, among others. Speakers emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing disparities to achieve health equity.

## Scientific Contribution

Over the past ten months, our *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (JREHD)* has presented a diverse collection of over 600 articles, primarily exploring medical and scientific topics that intersect with health disparities and societal determinants of health.

- Research articles comprising 90% of *JREHD* articles during this time period, including two randomized controlled trials (RCT), advancing clinical practice and evidence-based medicine.
- Nearly 60 review articles, half of them systematic reviews, including 2 meta-analyses, provide comprehensive insights.

### *Highlighted Themes and Articles:*

- Genetics, Genomics, and Precision Medicine: Notably, four research articles shed light on the complex interplay between genetics and health, addressing disparities in Alzheimer's disease incidence (Kolpakov et al.), novel genomic variants in gallstone disease (Arora et al.), the intersection of racism experiences and DNA methylation in the Black Women's Health Study (Ruiz-Narváez et al.), and a genomics and transcriptomics analysis for prostate cancer (Lee et al.). Additionally, Hong et al. investigate genetic testing perceptions among different racial and ethnic groups regarding cancer risk, while Halder et al. highlight the underrepresentation of Hispanic patients in pancreatic cancer clinical trials and genomic testing, emphasizing the importance of tailored approaches and targeted interventions.
- Cummings et al.'s 4-arm cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) of blood pressure control interventions examines patient and practice characteristics that influence antihypertensive selection and treatment intensity, prescribing

patterns, and blood pressure control among Black or African American patients with uncontrolled hypertension in the rural southeastern USA.

- Among the review articles, Marôco et al. offers a systematic review and meta-analysis on racial and ethnic disparities in cardiovascular and cancer mortality.
- Prostate Cancer Clinical Trial Concerns: Sultan et al.'s review highlights a significant concern in NIH and federally funded prostate cancer interventional clinical trials: the lack of methods to control type 2 diabetes and obesity among Black or African American men. This underscores a notable gap in therapeutic optimization that necessitates prioritization in federal funding initiatives. Obesity, affecting 41.1% of African American men, poses a risk factor for prostate cancer recurrence, progression, and increased mortality. Notably, obesity is associated

with aggressive prostate cancer specifically in African American men, underscoring the importance of addressing this disparity in clinical trial settings.

- Abdalla et al. highlight a concerning decrease in American Black or African American authorship in US medical journals across clinical specialties despite an increasing number of Black or African American physicians between 1990 and 2020 in the US, prompting reflection on systemic barriers and the need for inclusive research and publication practices.

We anticipate that *JREHD* continues as a crucial platform for scientific exploration and discourse, providing comprehensive insights and critical evaluations. Its contributions notably advance our understanding of health disparities by addressing genetic and societal determinants, while also shedding light on issues concerning healthcare access, treatment outcomes, and the impacts of discrimination and structural racism.

## New Staff

Maliek van Laar brings over 20 years of project management experience with Federal agencies, international associations, and corporations across the US and abroad. Maliek proactively engages with stakeholders and senior leadership in identifying requirements and planning to ensure that projects are executed on schedule and within budget and scope. She works diligently to ensure that the client, stakeholders, members, and team are properly informed throughout the project lifecycle. Maliek is a Certified Meetings Professional (CMP) and a Project Management Professional (PMP). Maliek earned a Certificate in Women's Entrepreneurship from Cornell University and is a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), and the Project Management Institute (PMI).



*Dr. Mitchell's legacy as a trailblazer in oncology and her exemplary service will continue to inspire generations to come.*

Renowned cancer researcher and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors at the W. Montague Cobb Institute, Dr. Edith Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP, FRCP (London) passed away unexpectedly early this year, leaving a void in the research and medical communities. Dr. Mitchell has been an outstanding Past President of the National Medical Association (NMA) and Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of the National Medical Association (JNMA), where her contributions have been immense. She provided leadership for the Cobb Institute including the establishment of the Jane Cooke Wright M.D. Cancer Symposium each year at the NMA Convention and Scientific Assembly. Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology, Dr. Mitchell served as Clinical Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and Associate Director for Diversity Programs and Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities for Sidney

Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson

Health. She served as the Vice-Chair of the W. Montague Cobb Institute and Chair of the Research Committee.

Dr. Mitchell spent her medical career helping individuals in medically underserved areas, and demonstrated the importance of community service and outreach especially to underserved populations.

Her research in breast, colorectal and pancreatic cancers

and other gastrointestinal malignancies

involved new drug evaluation and chemotherapy, development of new therapeutic regimens, chemoradiation strategies for combined modality therapy, patient selection criteria, and supportive care for patients with gastrointestinal cancer. Dr. Mitchell served as a member of the National Cancer Institute's Blue Ribbon Panel convened to advise the National Cancer Advisory Board on then Vice President Biden's National Cancer Moonshot Initiative In 2019. Dr. Mitchell began service as a member of the President's Cancer Panel and in 2020 she became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Dr. Mitchell served as the 116th President of the National Medical Association, was a member of the American Medical Association, NMA, Aerospace Medical Association, Association of Military Surgeons, Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania, ECOG/ACRIN Cancer Research Group, and Radiation Therapy Oncology Group. Last year she received the Pennsylvania Medical Society's (PAMED) Distinguished Service Award. Since it was first awarded in 1956, only 31 people have been honored with the award including C. Everett Koop, MD, and Jonas E. Salk, MD. In addition to her medical achievements, Dr. Mitchell is a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General.



*Remembering  
Dr. Edith  
Mitchell*

1947 – 2024



*Friend, Colleague,  
Mentor, and Inspiration  
— she will be missed.*



# Health Disparities *Symposium*

*Join us,* for our annual **Health Disparities Symposium** on Saturday, January 25, 2025

from 7:30am–1:00pm at  
Howard University Hospital, W.  
Lester Henry, M.D. Auditorium.

Registration will be \$75.  
Complimentary registration for  
students and residents.

***Topics will include:***

Cardiology, Cancer, Infectious diseases, Behavioral health,  
Focus on addressing disparities in internal medicine



January  
**25**  
2025

**HU**  
HOWARD  
UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL

Washington  
**DC**

Register: <https://bit.ly/cobb-hds25>





# THE COBB INSTITUTE



## ADVANCING CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

W. MONTAGUE **Cobb** NMA HEALTH **Institute**

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## ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

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## FACILITATING RESEARCH NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

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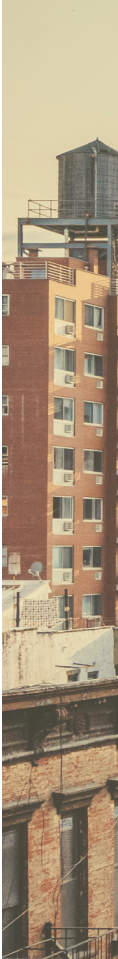
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## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS

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W. MONTAGUE NMA HEALTH  
**Cobb Institute**



▶ 1050 Connecticut N.W., 5th Floor.  
Washington, DC 20036

▶ [www.thecobbinstitute.org](http://www.thecobbinstitute.org)

▶ [info@thecobbinstitute.org](mailto:info@thecobbinstitute.org)

▶ [www.linkedin.com/company/  
w-montague-cobb-nma-health-institute](http://www.linkedin.com/company/w-montague-cobb-nma-health-institute)

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▶ **The Cobb Institute,**

a 501(c)(3) in Washington, DC

founded in 2004, engages

in innovative research and

knowledge dissemination

toward eliminating racial

and ethnic health disparities.

In addition to hosting the

*Journal of Racial and Ethnic*

*Health Disparities*, the Institute

continues to cultivate a trusted

and proven network of diverse

stakeholders.