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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
2023

Patricia Flatley Brennan, RN, PhD, is the Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health. NLM is a leader in biomedical informatics and computational health data science research and the world's largest biomedical library. Dr. Brennan holds a Master of Science in Nursing and a PhD in Industrial Engineering. Brennan is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, and she is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, the American Academy of Nursing, the American College of Medical Informatics, and the New York Academy of Medicine.

About NLM: The National Library of Medicine (NLM), on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, has been a center of information innovation since its founding in 1836. As the world's largest biomedical library, NLM maintains and makes available a vast print collection and produces electronic information resources on a wide range of topics that are searched billions of times each year by millions of people around the globe. It also supports and conducts research, development, and training in biomedical informatics and health information technology. In addition, the Library coordinates an 8,000+ member Network of the National Library of Medicine that promotes and provides access to health information in communities across the United States.

John W. Gilford, PhD, is the Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Region 4. As the senior federal public health official for HHS's largest geographic region, he performs essential functions for the Department in the areas of prevention, preparedness, and agency-wide coordination. Before joining OASH, Dr. Gilford was employed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 10 years as a Lead Behavioral Scientist. While at CDC he served as the Senior Scientist for the Prevention Practice and Translation Branch (PPTB) in the Division of Violence Prevention. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati (BA Psychology) and graduate work at the University of Georgia (MSW and PhD), where he has taught Research Methods and Program Evaluation as an adjunct professor since 2003.

About HHS/OASH/Region 4: The Region 4 Office, based in Atlanta, Georgia, serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. These states have a large swath of predominantly rural areas that provide unique challenges in promoting public health priorities and building regional relationships. The Region 4 office focuses on initiatives that address these challenges and the health inequities often prevalent in rural communities while working to foster and promote strategic federal, state, and local partnerships.

Lillie Tyson Head, is the president of the Voices For Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, which was organized in 2014 by descendants of the 623 men unethically and immorally treated in the U.S. Public Health Service's "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" in Macon County, Alabama from 1932 to 1972. Head's father, Freddie Lee Tyson, was unknowingly recruited into the study. As president of Voices For Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, Head is committed to transforming the U.S. Public Health Service's Study of Untreated Syphilis, keeping alive the men's legacies, and fostering education, medical research, and social justice.

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About the Voices For Our Fathers Legacy Foundation: Voices For Our Fathers Legacy Foundation was organized in 2014 by descendants of the 623 men unethically and immorally treated in the U.S. Public Health Service’s Syphilis Study from 1932–1972 in Tuskegee, Alabama. The organization connects descendants across generations, provides annual scholarships to descendants, participates in “The Untold Story” research project, offers support and guidance to the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, and pursues other strategic activities. It is incumbent upon the Foundation to become an agent that will promote and advocate for ethical treatment in health care. It is also important that the Foundation move forward with purposeful actions while remembering the men’s suffering and sacrifices.

Darryl B. Hood, PhD, is a Professor, Dean’s Fellow, and Environmental Public Health Neurotoxicologist in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University (OSU). Prior to joining OSU, he served on the faculty at Meharry Medical College for 20 years and led what has come to be known as the most successful minority grant initiative (S11) sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). This initiative was known as the “Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health” (ARCH) Program. The research contributed to the scientific database that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used to reassess the levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon emissions from smokestacks resulting in public policy changes that will serve to decrease the adverse health effects associated with environmental exposures. Dr. Hood recently received an EPA STAR Award to continue his work as the co-architect of the novel *Public Health Exposome* framework and analytics with an environmental justice lens. His work is focused on the high-risk and vulnerable underrepresented minority census tracts of Columbus, OH. He serves on the NIEHS National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council and the Children’s Environmental Health Committee as well as the Standing Committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

About the OSU program: The Division of Environmental Health Sciences at OSU teaches, researches, advocates, and works collaboratively and cooperatively with researchers and community partners to advance environmental public health. OSU faculty engage, train, and mentor the next generation of scientists and practitioners. These public health experts go on to careers focused on identifying, preventing, and mitigating human and animal exposures to diseases caused by harmful chemical, microbiological, and physical stressors in the environment.

Roshunda Ivory, DrPH, CHES, is the Region 4 Minority Health Analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for the Assistant Secretary for Health (HHS-OASH). In this capacity, she works with state, tribal, local, and community stakeholders to improve health, eliminate health disparities, and advance health equity in minority, underserved, and vulnerable populations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Prior to her time at HHS-OASH, Dr. Ivory worked for the Fulton County Board of Health (FCBOH) as an Environmental Health Specialist/Healthy Homes Specialist. In this role, she worked to monitor,

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investigate, and implement standard operating procedures for FCBOH programs. She also served as the program consultant for the board's Healthy Homes project, which included designing interventions and developing recommendations to reduce and/or eliminate health hazards in pediatric cases in Fulton County. Dr. Ivory holds a Doctor of Public Health from Jackson State University, a Master of Science from Mississippi Valley State University, and a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University. Additionally, she is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

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Alla Keselman, PhD, is Acting Chief of the Office of Engagement and Training (OET), National Library of Medicine (NLM). She leads OET, which links NLM and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) biomedical and health information to its users, with an emphasis on engaging populations and communities that are medically underserved, as well as professionals who serve them. Dr. Keselman holds a PhD in human cognition and learning and an MA in biomedical informatics from Columbia University. In the past, Dr. Keselman coordinated NLM efforts in evaluating the impact of its health information outreach and community engagement programs. She also conducted research into the public's understanding of complex health concepts, scientific literacy, and the provision of health information outside clinical settings. Jointly with Catherine Arnott Smith, she co-edited "Meeting Health Information Needs Outside of Healthcare: Opportunities and Challenges" (2015, Elsevier) and co-wrote "Consumer Health Informatics: Enabling Digital Health for Everyone" (2020, Chapman & Hall). She is also a co-editor of "Combating Online Health Misinformation: A Professional's Guide to Helping the Public" with Catherine Arnott Smith and Amanda Wilson (2022, Rowman & Littlefield).

About OET: NLM's OET serves as a connector linking NLM and NIH biomedical and health information to their users. In its efforts, OET emphasizes engaging populations and communities that are medically underserved and/or experiencing health disparities, as well as professionals who serve them. OET will deliver effective, equitable engagement programs to maintain relationships and build sustainable infrastructure in underrepresented communities and will complement and enhance other NLM engagement and training activities.

Patricia Matthews-Juarez, PhD, Chair of the NLM Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP). At Meharry Medical College, she serves as Professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Senior Vice President for the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation. She was the founding dean of the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development and founding vice president for the office in the College. She serves as a member of the Public Health Exposome Community of Practice (12 academic institutions) unraveling the social determinants of health through this new data analytical framework and paradigm. Dr. Matthews-

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Juarez is one of the architects of the *Public Health Exposome* framework with Paul D. Juarez, PhD and Darryl Hood, PhD. Her academic and community engagement work is in developing and implementing national and international programs including health disparities research, workforce development, and person-centered-culturally competent clinical services in chronic diseases and mental health. Her work is well funded by state, federal, and private entities. She has an impressive publication record. Her most recent publications are in the *Annals of Family Medicine* (February 2023). She holds a BA from Fisk University, an MSW from New York University, School of Social Work, and a PhD from Brandeis University, Florence Heller School of Social Policy.

About Meharry Medical College: Meharry Medical College is a global academic health sciences center advancing health equity through innovative research, transformative education, exceptional and compassionate health services, and policy-influencing thought leadership. True to its legacy, Meharry empowers diverse populations to improve the well-being of humankind. Today, Meharry receives over 7,000 applications for admission to programs, providing opportunities for people of color, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and others, regardless of race or ethnicity, to receive excellent education and training in the health sciences and conduct research that fosters the elimination of health disparities.

Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, MHSA, was appointed Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in February 2022. He was previously the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine and Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM). From 1993 through 1997, Dr. Valdez served at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (within the Public Health Service) and simultaneously as Director of Interagency Health Policy (at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Before joining HHS in 1993, he served as a Special Senior Advisor to the Clinton White House on healthcare reform. He chaired the Healthcare Reform Benefits Workgroup and was a member of the Analytic Modeling Workgroup. He previously served in the Office of Child Health for the Health Care Financing Administration during the Carter Administration.

About AHRQ: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to ensure the evidence is understood and used. AHRQ accomplishes its mission by focusing on three core competencies of health systems research, practice improvement, and data and analytics.

Rueben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, MDiv is Senior Scientific Advisor of the NLM Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP), the immediate past director of the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, and Professor of Bioethics at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. He is also Clinical Professor in the Department of Community Health/Preventive Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine and Adjunct Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, both in Atlanta, Georgia. He has served as Director of the Institute for Faith-Health Leadership and Adjunct Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Ethics at the Interdenominational Theological

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Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Warren has a prestigious career that includes holding positions of dean, community partner, policy maker, federal administrator, consultant, philosopher, minister, scholar, and academician in the United States and internationally. His public health expertise includes oral health, environmental justice, health equity, theology, and ethics. He earned his undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University, his dental degree from Meharry Medical College, and masters and doctorate degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health. He also completed a two-year residency at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Dental Public Health. He is board certified in Dental Public Health. He has also completed a Master of Divinity (M. Div) from the Interdenominational Theological Center. He has an impressive publication record. His professional associations include the Health Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States, National Dental Association, American Board of Dental Public Health, American Public Health Association, United Nations Children's Fund, and World Health Organization.

About Tuskegee University: Tuskegee University is a private, historically black land-grant university in Tuskegee, Alabama. It was founded on Independence Day in 1881 by the state legislature. The campus was designated as the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site by the National Park Service in 1974. The university has been home to a number of important African American figures, including scientist George Washington Carver and World War II's Tuskegee Airmen. Tuskegee University offers 43 bachelor's degree programs, 17 master's degree programs, and five doctoral degree programs. Tuskegee is home to nearly 3,000 students from the United States and over 30 countries.