

Justice.
Leadership.
Impact.

Advancing Health Through Service, Innovation, & Community Investment

2026 ANNUAL PROGRAM

*Second Annual
Robert Wood
Johnson
Foundation.
(RWJF)/
W. Montague
Cobb Symposium*



Featuring Ayoola Carleton
Program Officer
Leadership for Better Health
RWJF

Special Session in Partnership
with Morehouse School of
Medicine: *"Building Wealth,
Serving Strengthening Care:
Investing in Physicians Serving
Communities with the Greatest
Needs"*



Opening Video by
Garnesha Ezediaro of
Bloomberg Philanthropies'
Greenwood Initiative

featured events...

Second Annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)/W. Montague Cobb Symposium: “Health Justice and Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health”

2 CME Credits

Featuring Cobb Lecturer
Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.
American Public Health Association

Special Session of the W. Montague Cobb Institute in Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine: “Building Wealth, Strengthening Care: Investing in Physicians Serving Communities with the Greatest Needs”

2 CME Credits

Opening Video by Bloomberg
Philanthropies’ Greenwood Initiative

Fourth Annual Cobb Scholars Convening: “What We Can’t Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Chat on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity”

1.75 CME Credits

Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium “Challenges in Chaotic Times: Science, Policy and Accountability Shaping the Future of Clinical Trials”

2 CME Credits

Featured Presentation by
Vence Bonham, Jr., J.D.
Meharry Medical College

Jane Cooke Wright, MD, Oncology Symposium: “Screening and Early Cancer Detection to Advance Care and Improve Outcomes”

1 CME Credits

Featured Session from
Joseph Mikhael, M.D., M.Ed.
International Myeloma Foundation

NMA Basic Science Section Preliminary Program: Basic Science vs Basic Finance: Ensuring the Security of Health Science

4.5 CME Credits

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D.
Anderson Cancer Center

Table of Contents

Welcome from the President & CEO and Board Chairman	4
About the W. Montague Cobb Institute	5
Faculty & Staff	5
Sponsors and Contributors	6
Schedule of Events	7
Disclosures of Commercial Relationships	8
Planning Committee	8
Annual Honoree Programs	9
Signature Programs	15
2026 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)/W. Montague Cobb Symposium: Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health	16
Morehouse School of Medicine & W. Montague Cobb Institute Special Session: Building Wealth, Strengthening Care: Investing in Physicians Serving Communities with the Greatest Needs	22
Annual Convening of the Cobb Scholars Program: What We Can't Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Conversation on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity	29
Additional Convenings	37
NMA Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium	38
Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Oncology Symposium & Poster Walk	42
NMA Basic Science Section Preliminary Program: Basic Science vs Basic Finance: Ensuring the Security of Health Science	47

Welcome from the President & CEO and Board Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Whether you are joining us in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the 2026 National Medical Association Convention and Scientific Assembly or engaging virtually, we are honored to welcome you to the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute's (W. Montague Cobb Institute) Annual Program. As we celebrate 22 years of advancing health equity, The W. Montague Cobb Institute remains committed to convening leaders across research, medicine, and public health to address today's most pressing challenges.

First, we are proud to honor Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., recipient of the 2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, and James E.K. Hildreth, Sr., Ph.D., M.D., recipient of the Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award.

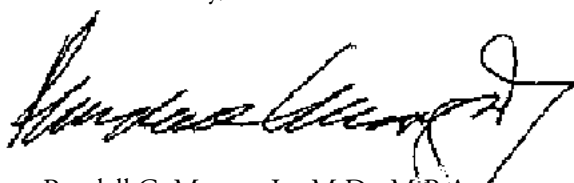
This year's program features two important national conversations. The Second Annual RWJF/W. Montague Cobb Symposium, *Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health*, will examine strategies for advancing health justice and addressing the structural drivers of inequity. We are honored to welcome Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., as our 2026 Cobb Lecturer. We are also pleased to present a Special Session in partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, *Building Wealth, Strengthening Care: Investing in Physicians Serving Communities with the Greatest Needs*. Together, these programs reflect our commitment to strengthening both the health and economic vitality of the communities we serve.

Our signature programs, including the Cobb Scholars Convening, and additional collaborative symposia demonstrate our enduring commitment to leadership development, scientific excellence, inclusive research, and the advancement of health equity.

We extend our congratulations to the newest class of Cobb Scholars, Myeloma Research Scholars, and student leaders from the Student National Medical Association, the NMA Postgraduate Section, and our partner institutions. Their commitment to scholarship, service, and leadership reflects the bright future of medicine, public health, and biomedical research.

Thank you for your continued support of the W. Montague Cobb Institute. Amid rapid change, our commitment to health equity remains steadfast. Through rigorous inquiry, principled leadership, and community engagement, we are strengthening the physician and scientific workforce, expanding opportunity, and improving health outcomes. We invite you to join us in advancing a future defined by excellence, opportunity, and health equity.

Sincerely,



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



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



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

About the W. Montague Cobb Institute

The W. Montague Cobb/National Medical Association Health Institute (W. Montague 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.

Faculty & Staff

Board of Directors

Mallory Williams, M.D., *Chair*
Rodney Hood, M.D., *Vice-Chair*
Audra Meadows, M.D., *Secretary*
Kevin Sneed, Pharm.D., *Treasurer*
Rose Blackburne, M.D.
Alvin Crawford, M.D.
Dexter Frederick, M.D.

Terrance Fullum, M.D.
Debra Furr-Holden, M.D.
Lynne Holden, M.D.
Lonnie Joe, M.D.
Yolanda Lawson, M.D.
Kevin McDonald, J.D., Ed.D.
Leon McDougale, M.D., M.P.H.

Elizabeth Ofili, M.D.
Richard Allen Williams, M.D.
Roger Mitchell, M.D., *NMA President*
Melanie Hannah-Johnson, M.D., *Speaker of the House of Delegates, NMA*
Nina Uzoiwige, M.D. *Candidate, President - Elect, Student National Medical Association (SNMA)*

The Cobb Senior Fellows

Donald E. Wilson, M.D., *Chair*
Michael Lenoir, M.D., *Vice Chair*
Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., *Chair Emeritus*
Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.
Joseph Betancourt, M.D., M.P.H.
Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., M.S.
W. Michael Byrd, M.D., M.P.H. (*deceased*)
Donna Christensen, M.D.
Linda Clayton, M.D., M.P.H.
James P. Comer, M.D., M.P.H.
Lisa A. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H.
Alvin H. Crawford, M.D.
James Gavin III, M.D., Ph.D.

George Hill, Ph.D.
Rodney Hood, M.D.
Sonja Hutchins, M.D., M.P.H.
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

Winston Price, M.D., *Chair*
Evelyn Lewis, M.D.
Sharon Jackson, M.D.
Bonnie Simpson Mason, M.D.
Lisa Merritt, M.D.
Mark Murray, M.D., Ph.D.
Brian Rivers, Ph.D.
Christine Joseph, Ph.D.

Lori Bateman, Ph.D.
Cedric Bright, M.D.
Virginia Caine, M.D., M.P.H.
Elizabeth Ofili, M.D.
George Hill, Ph.D.
Marja Hurley, M.D.
Brandi Freeman, M.D.
Lee Green, Ph.D.

Lovell Jones, Ph.D.
Derrick West, M.D., M.S.
Alvin Crawford, M.D.
Betty Crutcher, Ph.D.
Terone Green, M.P.A.
Earlexia Norwood, M.D.
Yashika Watkins, Ph.D.
Lynne Richardson, M.D.

Executive and Administrative Leadership

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A.,
President & CEO; 96th President, National Medical Association (NMA)
Sir Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D., K.C.S.L.,
Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H., *118th President, NMA; Deputy Director; Executive Director, Project IMPACT 2.0 (PI2.0)*
Winston Price, M.D., *VP Education & Technology and Chair of the Cobb Scholars Program; 105th President, NMA*

Conchita Burpee, M.B.A., *Director of Marketing and Community Engagement*
Maliek van Laar, P.M.P., C.M.P., *Operations & Program Manager*
Rolf Taylor, *VP Communications & Development; Program Director, Project IMPACT 2.0*
Tiffany North Reid, M.P.H., *Consultant*

Sponsors and Contributors

UConn

THE CATO T. LAURENCIN
INSTITUTE FOR
REGENERATIVE ENGINEERING



INTERNATIONAL
MYELOMA FOUNDATION

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

rwjf robert wood johnson
foundation

Bronze Sponsor

Genentech

A Member of the Roche Group

Contributors



Springer

Partners



National
Medical
Association

Service. Excellence. Accountability.



MOREHOUSE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Department
of Surgery



**Sidney Kimmel
Cancer Center**
Jefferson Health.
NCI – designated



**NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE**



**American
Diabetes
Association®**



Prudential



BeOne



**International
Medical Exchange**

Schedule of Events

*All times in Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

Saturday, July 25, 2026

7:00 AM

Registration

Location: Puerto Rico Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C

8:00–9:00 AM

17th Annual Walk a Mile with a Child

9:00 AM–12:00 PM

STEM Health Fair

Location: Puerto Rico Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C

6:00–7:00 PM

Honoring of Cobb Awardees at NMA Opening & Awards Ceremony

Location: TBD

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1:45–3:45 PM

RWJF/W. Montague Cobb Symposium: *Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health* (2 CME)

Presented in collaboration with Cato T. Laurencin
Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the
University of Connecticut

Location: Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC),
Ballroom B & C

5:30–7:30 PM

Exhibit Hall Opening

Location: PRCC

7:00–8:30 PM

W. Montague Cobb Institute Invitational Reception

Sponsored by BeOne and the *Journal of Racial and
Ethnic Health Disparities*, a Springer Publication



Monday, July 27, 2026

9:00–11:00 AM

2026 NMA Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium: Challenges in Chaotic Times: *Science, Policy, and Accountability Shaping the Future of Clinical Trials* (2 CME)

A program of Project IMPACT 2.0 and W. Montague
Cobb Institute

Location: PRCC, Room 208B

1:00–2:45 PM

Cobb Scholars Convening and Myeloma Research Scholars Forum: *What We Can't Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Conversation on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity* (1.75 CME)

Presented in collaboration with the International
Myeloma Foundation (IMF)

Location: PRCC, Room 208B

3:45–5:30 PM

Jane Cooke Wright, MD Oncology Symposium and Poster Walk: *Screening and Early Cancer Detection to Advance Care and Improve Outcomes* (1 CME)

A program of the NMA Oncology Section, NMA
Internal Medicine Section, International Myeloma
Foundation (IMF), and W. Montague Cobb Institute

Location: PRCC, Room 209



Schedule of Events (continued)

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

9:00–11:00 AM

2026 Special Session: Building Wealth,
Strengthening Care: *Investing in Physicians Serving
Communities with the Greatest Needs* (2 CME)

Presented in collaboration with Morehouse School of
Medicine and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies'
Greenwood Initiative

Location: Sheraton Convention Center, San Juan 8

1:00–6:00 PM

NMA Basic Science Section Preliminary
Program: Basic Science vs Basic Finance,
Ensuring the Security of Health Science (4.5
CME)

A Program of the National Medical Association Basic
Science Program Section in collaboration with the Cobb
Scholars Program of the W. Montague NMA Health
Institute

Location: San Juan 8 (S), Sheraton Hotel

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 (W. Montague Cobb Institute)
96th President, National Medical Association (NMA)

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

Committee Members

Valerie Montgomery-Rice, M.D.
President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine

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

Gualberto Ruaño, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Special Projects
The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering
University of Connecticut

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.
118th President, NMA
Deputy Director, W. Montague Cobb Institute
Executive Director, Project IMPACT 2.0

Winston Price, M.D.
VP Education & Technology and Chair of the Cobb Scholars Program, W. Montague Cobb Institute
105th President, NMA

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Immunology and Director of Interprofessional Education, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – South Georgia

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology and Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Morehouse School of Medicine

Creshema Murray, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff for the Office of the President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine

Charmaine L. Green, D.Min., M.Div., M.S.
Former Director, Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson

Conchita Burpee, M.B.A.
Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, W. Montague Cobb Institute

Rolf Taylor
VP Communications and Development; Program Director, Project IMPACT 2.0

Maliek van Laar, P.M.P., C.M.P.
Operations & Program Manager, W. Montague Cobb Institute

Tanya Levy, M.H.A., Consultant

Tiffany North Reid, M.P.H., Consultant

Annual Honoree Programs

Each year, the W. Montague 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.

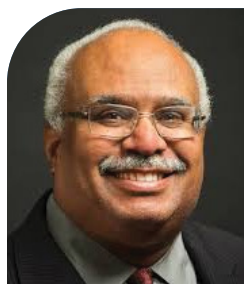
2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.

CEO

American Public Health Association (APHA)

We are honored to present the 2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Georges C. Benjamin in recognition of a distinguished career dedicated to advancing public health, promoting health equity, and improving the health and well-being of communities across the nation.



For more than four decades, Dr. Benjamin has been one of the most respected and influential physician leaders in American public health. Since 2002, he has served as Executive Director of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the nation's oldest and largest public health organization. Under his leadership, APHA has championed prevention, health equity, emergency preparedness, and evidence-based public policy while elevating the national dialogue on the social and structural factors that shape health outcomes.

Prior to joining APHA, Dr. Benjamin served as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene after serving as the state's Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services. Throughout his career, he has held leadership roles spanning military medicine, emergency medicine, hospital administration, public health practice, and health policy. His unique ability to bridge clinical medicine and population health has made him a trusted voice during some of the nation's most consequential public health challenges.

Dr. Benjamin earned his undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He completed residency training in internal medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center and went on to serve in a variety of leadership positions within military and civilian healthcare systems. A board-certified internist, he is a Master of the American College of Physicians, a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

An accomplished scholar and communicator, Dr. Benjamin has authored more than 200 scientific publications, book chapters, and policy commentaries. His work has influenced generations of public health professionals and informed national conversations on prevention, health disparities, healthcare access, and public health infrastructure. Widely recognized for his leadership, he has repeatedly been named among the most influential individuals in healthcare and health policy in the United States.

Named for Dr. W. Montague Cobb—physician, scientist, educator, and civil rights advocate—this award honors individuals whose careers exemplify sustained excellence, leadership, and service. Dr. Benjamin's lifelong commitment to advancing health equity, strengthening public health systems, and improving the lives of underserved populations embodies the spirit and legacy of Dr. Cobb.

By honoring Dr. Benjamin with the 2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, we celebrate a visionary physician, public health leader, and advocate whose impact will continue to shape medicine and public health.

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.

History: 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:

2025	Terry Mason, M.D., Former Chief Operating Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health
2024	Joan Y. Reede, M.D., MS, M.P.H., M.B.A., Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School
2023	Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A., President, Howard University; Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
2022	Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
2021	Hannah Valentine, M.D., 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., M.D., Former Chairman and Honorary Trustee, Meharry Medical College; Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Virginia Union University
2019	Carolyn Barley-Britton, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons
2018	Nelson Adams, M.D., 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, M.D., MACP, 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, M.D., Managing Director, Tuckson Health Connections
2015	Alma R. George, M.D., Past President, NMA
2014	John Ruffin, Ph.D., Former Director, NIH Office of Minority Health
2013	Roselyn Payne Epps, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Child Health, Howard University School of Medicine
2012	Louis Sullivan, M.D., Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Former President, Morehouse School of Medicine
2011	LaSalle Leffall, M.D., Past President, American Cancer Society; Former Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, Howard University Hospital
2010	John Nelson, M.D., M.P.H., Past President, American Medical Association (AMA)
2009	Vivian W. Pinn, M.D., Past President, NMA; Former Director, NIH Office of Women's Health; Chair, Department of Pathology, Howard University College of Medicine
2008	David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Former U.S. Surgeon General; President, Meharry Medical College; Former Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
2007	Edith Irby Jones, M.D., Past President, NMA
2006	W. Michael Byrd, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Scientist, Harvard School of Public Health

2026 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D.

**President and Chief Executive Officer
Meharry Medical College**

We are proud to present the 2026 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award to Dr. James E.K. Hildreth in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to biomedical research, scientific innovation, academic leadership, and the advancement of health equity through discovery and education.



An internationally recognized physician-scientist, Dr. Hildreth has devoted his career to expanding scientific knowledge while ensuring that research serves the needs of communities disproportionately affected by disease. His pioneering investigations into HIV biology transformed understanding of viral infection and identified the critical role of cholesterol in HIV entry and replication. These discoveries generated multiple patents and contributed to translational advances that ultimately informed FDA-approved therapies.

Dr. Hildreth's distinguished academic journey began at Harvard University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree before being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford, where he earned a doctorate in immunology. He subsequently earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and remained at Johns Hopkins for more than two decades as a student, researcher, professor, and academic leader.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hildreth has combined scientific excellence with a commitment to mentorship and institutional transformation. As Dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of

California, Davis, he expanded interdisciplinary research initiatives and pioneered innovative educational programs that enhanced student success and scientific collaboration. Since becoming President and CEO of Meharry Medical College, he has led the continued growth of one of the nation's premier historically Black academic health science centers, strengthening its research enterprise, expanding strategic partnerships, and advancing its mission to improve the health of underserved communities.

Beyond his scientific accomplishments, Dr. Hildreth emerged as one of the nation's most trusted voices during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping translate complex scientific concepts into accessible public guidance. His service has included appointments to the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, President Biden's Health Equity Task Force, and numerous national scientific and advisory boards. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has received widespread recognition for his leadership, mentorship, and contributions to science and society.

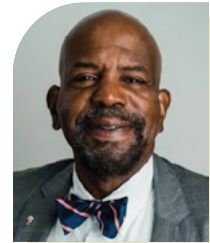
Named for Sir Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD, KCSL—surgeon, engineer, scientist, inventor, and internationally renowned research leader—this award recognizes individuals whose careers have advanced scientific discovery while addressing society's most pressing health challenges. Dr. Hildreth's career exemplifies these ideals through groundbreaking research, transformative leadership, and an unwavering commitment to developing future generations of scientists and physicians.

By honoring Dr. Hildreth with the 2026 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award, we celebrate a physician-scientist whose contributions have advanced biomedical knowledge, strengthened academic medicine, and expanded opportunities for countless students, trainees, and researchers.

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

Named for Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., KCSL, 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 to reducing health disparities through research and inquiry.

Previous Recipients:

2025	Paula A. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., President, Wellesley College
2024	Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., President and CEO, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
2023	Neil Powe, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Chief of Medicine, University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medicine Service, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
2022	Ezra Griffith, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and African American Studies, Yale University
2021	Richard Allen Williams, M.D., Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Founder and President, Minority Health Institute; Founder, Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC)
2020	Mae C. Jemison, M.D., Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut; Principal, 100 Year Starship Project
2019	Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., MACP, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
2018	Camara P. Jones, M.D., Ph.D., 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, M.D., M.P.H., 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, M.D., Ph.D., 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, M.D., M.S., Chancellor Emeritus, University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center; President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology, Wayne State University
2014	Alvin Poussaint, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
2013	Beny J. Primm, M.D., Addiction Research Treatment Corporation (ARTC) Founder; Founding President, Urban Resource Institute
2012	Kenneth Olden, Ph.D., Sc.D., L.H.D., Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
2011	Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Former Professor of Surgery, Head of the Cancer Chemotherapy Department, and Associate Dean at New York Medical College

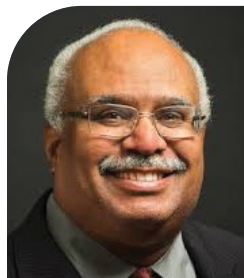
2026 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.

CEO

American Public Health
Association (APHA)

The W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute is honored to welcome Dr. Georges C. Benjamin as the 2026 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer.



As CEO of the American Public Health Association and recipient of the 2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Benjamin has spent his career advancing public health, health equity, and evidence-based policy. His Cobb Lecture, The Moral Architecture of Public Health: Ensuring Equity and Justice, reflects a lifelong commitment to improving the health and well-being of communities across the nation.

For a full biography of Dr. Benjamin, please see the 2026 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award section.

Previous Distinguished Cobb Lecturers:

2025	Alison J. Whelan, M.D. Chief Academic Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
2024	Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., KCSL University Professor CEO, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering University of Connecticut Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
2023	Ruth J. Simmons, Ph.D., 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, M.D., President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
2021	Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA, President, Howard University; Distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
2020	Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., Dean and Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
2019	Kimberly Gregory, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
2018	Dara Richardson-Heron, M.D., Former Chief Engagement Officer - All of Us Research Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
2017	Edith P. Mitchell, M.D., MACP, 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, Ph.D., M.D., President & CEO, Meharry Medical College
2015	Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.B.A., Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School
2014	Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D, 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, M.D., Founder, Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute
2012	Virginia Caine, M.D., M.P.H., Past President, APHA; Director and Chief Medical Officer, Marion County Public Health Department; Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine

continued...

Previous Distinguished Cobb Lecturers (continued):

2011	LaSalle Leffall, Jr., M.D., 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, M.D., Ph.D., 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, Ph.D., M.D., Director of National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at NIH
2008	Augustus A. White III, M.D., Ph.D., 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

Signature Programs

at the 2026 National Medical Association Annual Convention

Presented by the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

2026 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)/W. Montague Cobb Symposium: *Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health*

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1:45 – 3:45 PM AST

Puerto Rico Convention Center – Ballroom B & C

Presented in partnership with the Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the University of Connecticut and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this symposium explores the structural drivers of health inequities and strategies for advancing health justice, featuring the 2026 Cobb Lecture by Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.

2026 Special Session in Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine: *Building Wealth, Strengthening Care: Investing in Physicians Serving Communities with the Greatest Needs*

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

9:00 – 11:00 AM AST

Sheraton Convention Center – San Juan 8

Presented in collaboration with Morehouse School of Medicine and sponsored by the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative, this session examines how investments in physicians, medical education, and community-based healthcare.

About the President and CEO and Convener of the Programs



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

President and CEO
W. Montague Cobb/
NMA Health Institute
96th President,
National Medical
Association

Dr. Randall C. Morgan Jr. is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and leading voice in addressing racial health disparities through research, mentorship, and workforce development. Under his leadership, the Institute has expanded its influence through high-impact partnerships with the NIH, CDC, and other major institutions. He serves as co-chair of the Committee on Mentoring and Advising for the National Academies' Roundtable on Black Men and Black Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Morgan played a pivotal role in launching the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, and has led multiple national initiatives to support underrepresented scholars in pursuing NIH funding and academic careers. He has also contributed to the NIH *All of Us* Research Program as a national engagement partner, promoting inclusive participation in biomedical research. A graduate of Grinnell College and Howard University College of Medicine, Dr. Morgan completed his orthopedic training at Northwestern University and later earned his MBA from the University of South Florida. He has held academic appointments at multiple institutions, and he has published widely on health policy, musculoskeletal disparities, and DEI in medicine. Dr. Morgan is the 96th President of the National Medical Association and also served as the Executive Director of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society. His lifelong commitment to justice, mentorship, and community-driven innovation continues to shape national conversations on equity in healthcare and medical education.

2026 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)/ W. Montague Cobb Symposium

Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health

Date & Time:

Sunday, July 26, 2026,
1:45–3:45 PM AST

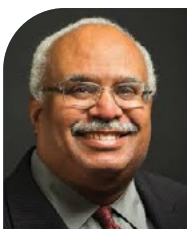
A Program of the W. Montague Cobb Institute in partnership with the Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the University of Connecticut and sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

Venue:

Puerto Rico Convention Center – Ballroom B & C
Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 2

Livestream Available:

Facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live or
YouTube.com/BlackDoctorOrg



2026 COBB LECTURER
Georges Benjamin, M.D.
American Public Health
Association (APHA)



MODERATOR
Joan Reede, M.D., M.S.,
M.P.H., M.B.A.
Harvard Medical School



Ayoola Carleton
Robert Wood
Johnson
Foundation
(RWJF)



Sir Cato T.
Laurencin, M.D.,
Ph.D., KCSL
University of
Connecticut



Tony Iton, M.D.,
J.D., M.P.H.
The Health Trust



Laura Morgan
Roberts, Ph.D.
University of
Virginia



Derek Griffith,
Ph.D.
University of
Pennsylvania



Paris Adkins-
Jackson, Ph.D.,
M.P.H.
Columbia
Mailman School of
Public Health



Randall Morgan, M.D.,
M.B.A.
President and CEO
W. Montague Cobb Institute



Roger Mitchell, M.D.
President
National Medical Association

*With Welcome and
Closing Remarks from...*

Event Details

Overview

This symposium, Health Justice & Equity: A National Consensus on Racism and Health, is part of the ongoing partnership with the Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the University of Connecticut (UConn) and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Building on a decade of national efforts—including National Academies consensus work on representation in medicine and UConn's 2017 Symposium on Racism in Medicine and Health—this convening advances a shared vision for health justice. Through keynote remarks and a multidisciplinary panel moderated by Dr. Joan Reede, participants will examine the historical and structural roots of racism, its impact across institutions and the life course, and evidence-informed strategies for advancing equity through leadership, organizational change, and systems-level action. Drawing on perspectives from philanthropy, public health, academic medicine, and community leadership, the symposium will identify actionable pathways toward achieving health equity at scale.

Event Schedule

Welcome and Opening Remarks (10 minutes)

Randall Morgan, M.D., M.B.A.
President and Founding CEO
W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

Framing The Challenge: Health Justice, Equity and National Priorities (15 minutes)

Ayoola Carleton
Program Officer, Leadership for Better Health
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Special Perspective (10 minutes)

Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., KCSL
University Professor, Albert and Wilda Van Dusen
Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery,
Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering,
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering,
Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Chief Executive Officer,
The Cato T. Laurencin Institute on Regenerative Engineering (University of Connecticut)

Learning Objectives

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

- Define and distinguish health equity and health justice, recognizing the historical and structural roots of racism across social, institutional, and policy domains.
- Explain how structural racism is experienced across the life course, including psychosocial, institutional, and health-related dimensions, and how these experiences shape health outcomes and health equity.
- Identify intersectional and anti-racism strategies to address health inequities, including approaches that account for race, gender, organizational culture, and structural context.
- Apply evidence-informed clinical, community, organizational, and systems-level strategies to advance health justice.

2026 W. Montague Cobb Lecture: The Moral Architecture of Public Health: Ensuring Equity and Justice (10 minutes)

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.
CEO, American Public Health Association (APHA)

The Cobb Consensus Panel on Structural Racism and Health (55 minutes)

Moderator:

Joan Reede, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., M.B.A.
Dean for Culture and Community Engagement
Harvard Medical School

A discussion on health equity research, policy, institutional leadership, and the implications of sustaining equity-focused inquiry in the current climate.

Panelists

Place-Based Strategies for Health Equity

Tony Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.
CEO, The Health Trust.

Sustaining Equity Through Institutional

Laura Morgan Roberts, Ph.D.
Frank M. Sands Associate Professor of Business Administration,
University of Virginia Darden School of Business.

Anti-Racism and Intersectionality in Health

Derek M. Griffith, Ph.D.

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Population Health and Health Equity University Professor; Professor in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy in the Perelman School of Medicine; Fellow and Senior Advisor on Health Equity and Anti-Racism in The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics; Director of the Program for Research on Men's Health (UPenn).

Measuring Structural Racism in Health

Paris Adkins-Jackson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Audience Engagement: Toward A Shared Understanding (15 minutes)

Closing Remarks: The NMA Charge (5 Minutes)

Roger Mitchell, M.D.

President, National Medical Association

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.

Participant Biographies

2026 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D. is CEO of the American Public Health Association (APHA), where he has served since 2002, leading national efforts to advance public health, health equity, and prevention. A nationally recognized physician leader, Dr. Benjamin previously served as Secretary of the Maryland Department of

Health and Mental Hygiene and held senior public health leadership roles in the District of Columbia and the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the author of more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters. Dr. Benjamin served as co-chair and editor of *Unequal Treatment Revisited: The Current State of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, helping shape the national dialogue on racism, health equity, and systems change. A board-certified internist, Dr. Benjamin

earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and trained in internal medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center. He is a Master of the American College of Physicians, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and an honorary fellow of both the Faculty of Public Health and the Royal Society of Public Health. He is the 2026 recipient of the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award.

Featured Speaker

Ayoola Carleton

Ayoola Carleton is a Program Officer in the Leadership for Better Health portfolio at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), where she advances initiatives focused on building healthier, more equitable communities through leadership development, systems change, and cross-sector collaboration. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Carleton brings a multidisciplinary and global perspective to health equity work shaped by experience across philanthropy, research, and community-based public health practice. Prior to joining RWJF, she served as Associate Director of Research at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where she oversaw diabetes prevention research and led innovative community-engaged initiatives to address health disparities, including culturally responsive public health efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier in her career, she worked at the Ford Foundation, supporting higher education and equity initiatives across the United States, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Her international experience also includes educational and service work in India and Namibia, which helped shape her commitment to the intersections of education, health, and social justice. She earned her undergraduate degree from CUNY Hunter College and pursued graduate training at Columbia University.

Special Perspective

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

Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., KCSL is University Professor at the University of Connecticut, where he serves as the Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Chief Executive Officer of The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering. An internationally renowned physician-scientist, engineer,

and academic leader, Dr. Laurencin is a pioneer in regenerative engineering and a nationally recognized leader in advancing health equity and addressing racial and ethnic health disparities. He co-founded the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute and has been a longstanding advocate for equity in medicine and science. Dr. Laurencin earned his BSE in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, his MD from Harvard Medical School, and his PhD in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation and is the first surgeon elected to the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Medicine, and National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Laurencin is Principal Investigator of the RWJF-supported national initiative, “Exploring Multifaceted Solutions That Can Increase and Support Black Representation in Science, Engineering, and Medicine,” under which this symposium is convened.

Panel Moderator

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

Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., M.B.A. is Dean for Culture and Community Engagement at Harvard Medical School and one of the nation’s most influential leaders in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in academic medicine and the health professions. A pediatrician, psychiatrist, educator, and policy leader, Dr. Reede has created more than 20 programs at Harvard Medical School focused on expanding pathways into medicine, biomedical research, and health leadership for historically underrepresented populations. Her national leadership has included service on numerous advisory bodies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Minority Health, the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director, and the Association of American Medical Colleges Board of Directors. Dr. Reede earned her undergraduate degree from Brown University, her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, completed residency training at Johns Hopkins Hospital and fellowship training at Boston Children’s Hospital, and holds graduate degrees from Harvard and Boston University. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She is the 2024 recipient of the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award.

Panelist

Paris “AJ” Adkins-Jackson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Paris “AJ” Adkins-Jackson, Ph.D., M.P.H. is a multidisciplinary, community-partnered health equity researcher and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Her research examines how structural racism shapes health across the life course, with particular focus on healthy aging among historically marginalized communities, including Black and Pacific Islander populations. Her work explores the effects of adverse community-level exposures—including policing, segregation, and structural inequities—on psychological well-being, cognitive function, and biological aging, while also advancing anti-racist, community-engaged interventions to strengthen institutional trust and improve health outcomes. She is widely recognized for her scholarship on measuring structural racism in public health research and academic medicine and serves on the board of the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues. Dr. Adkins-Jackson earned a B.A. from Humboldt State University, an M.A. from the California Institute of Integral Studies, an M.P.H. from Claremont Graduate University, and a Ph.D. from Morgan State University.

Panelist

Derek M. Griffith, Ph.D.

Derek M. Griffith, Ph.D. is the Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Population Health and Health Equity University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is Professor of Family and Community Health in Penn Nursing and Professor of Medical Ethics and Health Policy in the Perelman School of Medicine. A public health psychologist trained in psychology, community-based participatory research, and health disparities, Dr. Griffith’s work focuses on advancing anti-racism approaches to achieve racial, ethnic, and gender equity in health. His research has been particularly influential in centering the experiences of Black men to inform population health, chronic disease prevention, and intersectional health policy. Dr. Griffith is Director of the Program for Research on Men’s Health, Fellow and Senior Advisor on Health Equity and Anti-Racism in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Men’s Social & Community Health. He earned his B.A. from the University of Maryland, his Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology from DePaul University, and completed postdoctoral training in community-based participatory health disparities research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Panelist

Anthony “Tony” Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Anthony “Tony” Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. is Chief Executive Officer of The Health Trust and a nationally recognized public health leader whose work has focused on advancing health equity through place-based and systems-level change. Over a career spanning medicine, public health, philanthropy, law, and policy, Dr. Iton has championed efforts to address the structural drivers of health disparities, particularly among historically marginalized communities. Prior to joining The Health Trust, he served as Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment, where he led the landmark Building Healthy Communities initiative, one of the nation’s most ambitious philanthropic efforts to advance health equity through community transformation. He previously served as Director and Health Officer for the Alameda County Public Health Department, where he pioneered innovative approaches to addressing the social determinants of health. Dr. Iton earned his BS from McGill University, his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and both his J.D. and M.P.H. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Panelist

Laura Morgan Roberts, Ph.D.

Laura Morgan Roberts, Ph.D. is the Frank M. Sands Associate Professor of Business Administration at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, where she specializes in leadership and organizational behavior. Her scholarship focuses on leadership development, diversity, organizational culture, and the science of maximizing human potential in diverse institutions and communities. Roberts is widely recognized for her work on race, work, leadership, authenticity, and positive organizational scholarship, and her research has been featured in Harvard Business Review and other major outlets. She is the co-editor of *Race, Work and Leadership: New Perspectives on the Black Experience* and has published more than fifty scholarly articles, teaching cases, and practitioner-oriented tools. Roberts earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology from the University of Michigan. She has held faculty appointments at Harvard Business School, Georgetown University, and other leading academic institutions.

Special Session in Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine

*Building Wealth, Strengthening Care: Investing in Physicians
Serving Communities with the Greatest Needs*

Date & Time:

Tuesday, July 28, 2026,
9:00–11:00 AM AST

A Program of the W. Montague Cobb/ NMA Health
Institute (W. Montague Cobb Institute) in Partnership
with the Morehouse School of Medicine and Supported
by the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative

Venue:

Sheraton Convention Center – San Juan 8

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 2

Livestream Available:

Facebook.com/BlackDoctor.org/Live or

YouTube.com/BlackDoctorOrg



Opening Video
Garnesha Ezediario
*Bloomberg Philanthropies'
Greenwood Initiative*



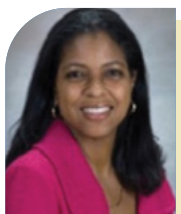
Convener
Valerie Montgomery Rice,
M.D.
*Morehouse School of
Medicine*



Featured Guest
Laura Veroneau, M.B.A.
Optum Ventures



**2026 Laurencin
Awardee**
James Hildreth,
M.D., Ph.D.
*Meharry Medical
College*



Andrea Hayes
Dixon M.D.
*Howard University
College of
Medicine*



David M. Carlisle,
M.D., Ph.D.
*Charles R. Drew
University of
Medicine and
Science*



Jamal Lawrence,
M.D.
*Harvest Health
MD*



Tiffany Bates,
D.O.
Femelle



E. Nicole Parson,
M.D.
Femelle



Moderator
Wayne Frederick, M.D.,
M.B.A.
Howard University



Moderator
Mallory Williams, M.D.,
M.P.H.
*John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of
Cook County; W. Montague
Cobb Institute*



Facilitator
Winston Price, M.D.
W. Montague Cobb Institute

Event Details

Overview

Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative seeks to expand economic opportunity and strengthen pathways to wealth creation in communities that have historically faced barriers to economic mobility. Through transformative investments in historically Black medical schools and the physician workforce pipeline, the Initiative recognizes the critical role that physicians, scientists, and medical institutions play in advancing both community health and economic prosperity.

The nation's four historically Black medical schools—Morehouse School of Medicine, Howard University College of Medicine, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science—have long served as engines of opportunity, innovation, and community advancement. This discussion will explore how investments in education, research, leadership development, entrepreneurship, and strategic partnerships can strengthen the pipeline of physicians, scientists, and community leaders while expanding economic opportunity and improving health outcomes nationwide.

Event Schedule

Welcome And Opening Remarks (5 minutes)

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
President and CEO, W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute
96th President, National Medical Association (NMA)

Opening Video by Garnesha Ezediaro:
Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative

From Investment To Impact: Why This Conversation Matters (10 minutes)

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.
President and CEO
Morehouse School of Medicine

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe the role of physicians, scientists, and historically Black medical schools in strengthening the healthcare workforce and expanding access to care.
- Examine how investments in medical education, research, and healthcare infrastructure can advance both health equity and economic mobility.
- Identify barriers to physician sustainability, including educational debt, practice ownership, access to capital, and workforce challenges.
- Discuss strategies to support physician leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, and community-based healthcare delivery in underserved communities.

Fireside Chat | From Pipeline To Prosperity: Investing In Physicians, Scientists, And Medical Institutions (15 minutes)

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.

In Conversation With:

Laura Veroneau, M.B.A.
Managing Partner, Optum

Panel I | Black Physicians As Economic Anchors: Building Wealth Through Care Delivery (25 minutes)

Session Moderator

Mallory Williams, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, Department of Trauma and Burn, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County; Board Chairman, W. Montague Cobb/National Medical Association Health Institute

Panelists:

“The Story of Launching and Growing a Co-Led, Physician-Led Practice” – Tiffany Bates, D.O. and E. Nicole Parson, M.D., Founders and Co-Owners, *Femelle*

“Building a Practice, Building a Community: Lessons from Harvest Health MD” – Jamal Lawrence, M.D., Founder, Harvest Health MD

Panel II | Investing In Institutions: Building The Next Generation Of Physicians, Scientists, And Community Leaders (25 minutes)

Session Moderator:

Wayne Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.
Interim President, Howard University

Panelists:

James Hildreth, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, Meharry Medical College
2026 Cato Laurencin M.D. Ph.D. Award

Andrea Hayes Dixon M.D.
Dean and Vice President of Clinical Affairs,
Howard University College of Medicine

David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU)

Audience Q&A | From Practice To Prosperity: Understanding What Physicians Need Now (15 minutes)

Facilitator:

Winston Price, M.D.
VP Education & Technology and Co-Chair of the Cobb Scholars Program, W. Montague Cobb Institute
105th President, National Medical Association (NMA)

Closing Reflections | Building Health, Building Wealth: The Future Of Investing In Physicians, Scientists, And Communities (20 minutes)

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.
President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine

Laura Veroneau, M.B.A.
Managing Partner, Optum

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.

Participant Biographies

Convener

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D. is President and Chief Executive Officer of Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and one of the nation's leading voices on health equity, physician workforce development, and medical education. Since assuming the presidency in 2014, she has led a period of unprecedented growth and national visibility, expanding the institution's educational programs, research portfolio, clinical partnerships, and community engagement initiatives. Under her leadership, MSM has strengthened its role as a national leader in health equity, physician workforce development, and the training of healthcare professionals committed to serving underserved communities. A nationally recognized infertility specialist and academic physician, Dr. Montgomery Rice has spent her career advancing women's health, medical education, and health equity. She is a strong advocate for diversifying the healthcare workforce and has championed innovative approaches to preparing physicians, researchers, and public health leaders to address persistent disparities in health outcomes. Her leadership has helped position Morehouse School of Medicine as a key voice in national conversations about healthcare access, workforce shortages, community health, and the future of medical education. Dr. Montgomery Rice serves on numerous national boards and advisory committees and is widely recognized for her contributions to medicine, education, and public service. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology and her Doctor of Medicine degree from Harvard Medical School. She is a recipient of the 2022 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2022 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award.

Featured Guest

Laura Veroneau, M.B.A.

Laura Veroneau, M.B.A. is a Managing Partner and founding team member of Optum Ventures. Under Laura's guidance and leadership, Optum Ventures has gained recognition as a leading platform in healthcare investing — now with 65+ portfolio companies and over \$2 billion in assets under management. Laura's experience, which ranges from a healthcare startup to UnitedHealth Group, CVS Health, and Transformation Capital, has enabled Laura to develop a deep understanding of the healthcare system with an

eye on how innovation can integrate into and transform the overall industry. Laura received her undergraduate degree in economics and legal studies from Williams College, received an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and currently sits on the Board of Overseers for Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Co-Convener and Panel Moderator

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

Randall C. Morgan Jr., M.D., M.B.A. is President and Chief Executive Officer of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute and a nationally recognized orthopaedic surgeon, educator, and healthcare leader. Throughout his distinguished career, he has combined clinical excellence with a deep commitment to advancing health equity, physician leadership, and workforce development. As CEO of the W. Montague Cobb Institute, he has expanded the organization's national footprint through innovative programs focused on research, education, mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement. Also 96th Past President of the National Medical Association and former Executive Director of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, Dr. Morgan has long been a champion for increasing representation in medicine and strengthening pathways for physicians serving historically underserved communities. His leadership has helped foster strategic collaborations with academic institutions, philanthropic organizations, federal agencies, and healthcare systems to address disparities in healthcare access, physician workforce shortages, and research participation. Dr. Morgan is widely respected for his ability to bridge medicine, business, and public policy to advance sustainable solutions for healthcare delivery and physician development. Through his work with the W. Montague Cobb Institute, he continues to promote initiatives that support future generations of physicians, scientists, and healthcare leaders. He earned his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and his Master of Business Administration degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Moderator

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A., FACS (B.S. '92, M.D. '94, MBA '11) was appointed interim president

of Howard University in September 2025. A proud Howard alumnus and accomplished surgeon, he also holds the title of president emeritus of Howard and the title of Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery at the Howard University College of Medicine, where he continues to care for cancer patients and mentor future physicians.

Dr. Frederick previously led the American Cancer Society and its Cancer Action Network as interim CEO and served as Howard's interim president (2013) and as the 17th president from 2014–2023. His leadership strengthened student success, expanded research, increased the University's endowment to nearly \$1 billion, and guided Howard's return to Research One status. He also championed community-focused real estate projects that created affordable housing and jobs in Washington, D.C. The University's Board of Trustees honored his impact by naming the Wayne A. I. Frederick Undergraduate Library in his name.

Internationally recognized for advancing health equity, Dr. Frederick is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He is widely published and has earned numerous honors, including the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Washingtonian of the Year, Carnegie Corporation's "Great Immigrants, Great Americans" award, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.'s 2025 Chairman's Award. In November 2025, Junior Achievement of Greater Washington inducted him into the Washington Business Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Laureates. He was recently honored by the HBCU Executive Leadership Institute with the 2026 Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, Sr. Leadership Award.

Panel Moderator

Mallory Williams, M.D., M.P.H.

Mallory Williams, M.D., M.P.H. is a nationally respected trauma surgeon, healthcare executive, and advocate for equitable healthcare delivery. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute and Chair of the Department of Trauma and Burn at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County. Throughout his career, he has focused on improving outcomes for vulnerable patient populations while advancing physician leadership, quality improvement, and healthcare system transformation. In addition to his clinical and administrative leadership, Dr. Williams has been a strong advocate for mentoring future physicians and promoting diversity within the healthcare workforce. His work has emphasized the importance of building systems that improve access, reduce disparities, and support high-quality care for all patients. As Board Chairman of

the W. Montague Cobb Institute, he helps guide initiatives that address health equity, medical education, workforce development, and community engagement. A recognized leader in trauma and critical care, Dr. Williams has contributed extensively to clinical innovation, healthcare operations, and physician leadership development. He earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Audience Engagement Facilitator Winston Price, M.D.

Winston Price, M.D., FAAP, FACPE, is a board-certified pediatrician, educator, and nationally recognized physician leader dedicated to advancing health equity, workforce development, community health, and medical education. He serves as Co-Chair of the Basic Science Section, 105th President of the National Medical Association, and Vice President of Education and Technology for the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, where he supports programs that advance equity, research, technology, and community impact. Dr. Price holds academic appointments at PCOM South Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia and remains actively engaged in clinical practice, providing preventive care to communities in Southwest Georgia. He also serves as President and Chair of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition and on the Steering Committee of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. Dr. Price has received numerous honors, including the 2021 National Medical Association Practitioner of the Year Award and multiple Distinguished Service Medallions from the Georgia State Medical Association. He earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and completed his pediatric residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Tiffany Bates, D.O.

Tiffany Bates, D.O. is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, physician entrepreneur, and advocate for physician-led healthcare innovation. As co-founder and co-owner of Femelle, she has helped create practice models that empower physicians, improve patient access, and support long-term sustainability in community-based healthcare. Drawing on her experience as both a clinician and business leader, Dr. Bates has worked to demonstrate how physician ownership can promote quality care while strengthening local healthcare ecosystems. She is particularly interested in helping physicians develop the leadership, operational, and financial skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. Through her work,

Dr. Bates has become a strong voice for physician entrepreneurship, workforce sustainability, and the importance of supporting independent practice models that serve diverse communities. She earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D.

David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) in the Watts-Willowbrook area of Los Angeles County since 2011. Dr. Carlisle is a published author in health policy, quality of care, medical education diversity and eliminating health disparities. A board-certified Internal Medicine specialist, his clinical work has always revolved around caring for the underserved. Dr. Carlisle has been affiliated with the UCLA Department of Medicine for approximately thirty-one years, becoming a tenured Associate Professor in 1998. He is presently a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at CDU and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at UCLA. In 2007, Dr. Carlisle became a Senior Fellow at UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs and presently is also a member of the Advisory Council of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. In 2018 he was appointed as a member of the California Future Health Workforce Commission. In 2018, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees for the California Health Care Foundation, is a member of the Futuro Health Community Board, and served as a founding member of the BioscienceLA Board. President Carlisle graduated from Wesleyan University, majoring in chemistry. He then earned his Medical Degree from Brown University, his Master of Public Health and his PhD in Health Services Research from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He completed a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program fellowship at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in 1990.

Garnesha Ezediario

Garnesha Ezediario has over two decades of experience serving as a catalyst for individual, community and organizational transformation. With a passion for agility, Garnesha has worked across the public, private and philanthropic sectors to design, direct and scale mission-focused programs and content that inspire change and build brands. She currently leads Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative. Prior to her current role, Garnesha led Global Leadership Development Programs at Verizon Media. Her career in public service includes serving as a Senior Program Officer for Government Innovation at Bloomberg

Philanthropies; the Communications Director and spokesperson for New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and as Director of Marketing at Brick City Development Corporation in Newark, NJ under the leadership of former Mayor Cory Booker. Garnesha serves on the boards of The Center for an Urban Future, Prosperity Now, and Step Up. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from American University with a double undergraduate major in Public Communication and Interdisciplinary Studies: Communications, Law, Economics and Government. Garnesha is a trained facilitator with over 15 years of experience and holds coaching certifications for the Leadership Circle Profile, Insights Discovery, and the Energy Leadership Index.

Andrea Hayes Dixon, M.D

Andrea Hayes Dixon, M.D. is Dean of Howard University College of Medicine and Vice President of Clinical Affairs, where she leads one of the nation's most historic institutions dedicated to training physicians committed to serving underserved communities. An internationally recognized pediatric surgeon, educator, and researcher, she has built a distinguished career advancing surgical innovation, academic medicine, and health equity. Dr. Hayes Dixon is widely known for her pioneering work in melanoma research and for her contributions to improving outcomes for pediatric patients. Throughout her career, she has combined excellence in patient care with a commitment to mentoring future physicians and advancing opportunities for underrepresented groups in medicine. Her leadership at Howard University has focused on strengthening medical education, expanding research opportunities, and preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders. As both a surgeon and academic leader, Dr. Hayes Dixon continues to advocate for equitable access to high-quality healthcare and the development of a diverse physician workforce. She earned her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed both her general surgery residency and pediatric surgery fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital.

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D.

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D. is President and Chief Executive Officer of Meharry Medical College and an internationally recognized physician-scientist. A Rhodes Scholar and member of the National Academy of Medicine, his pioneering HIV research contributed to major advances in understanding viral infection and treatment, while generating multiple patents and translational discoveries. Prior to joining Meharry, Dr. Hildreth served as Dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Davis, where he expanded interdisciplinary research

initiatives and strengthened student success programs. Since becoming President of Meharry Medical College, he has overseen substantial growth in the institution's research enterprise, strategic partnerships, and national influence while advancing its mission to improve the health and well-being of underserved communities. A trusted public voice during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hildreth has served on numerous national advisory bodies, including the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee and President Biden's Health Equity Task Force. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University, a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Jamal Lawrence, M.D.

Jamal Lawrence, M.D. is a visionary leader in healthcare and the founder and CEO of Harvest Health MD. Double board-certified in both Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine, Dr. Lawrence brings a unique blend of expertise and compassion to his practice. A New York native, he earned a B.A. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Sociology from Binghamton University (SUNY). He then graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Memorial Health's Savannah Family Medicine Residency Program. Throughout his career, Dr. Lawrence has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, earning both local and national recognition for his dedication to serving his community. Driven by a passion for social justice, business acumen, and a commitment to patient well-being, Dr. Lawrence founded Harvest Health MD. Inspired by the Direct Primary Care (DPC) model, he created a practice dedicated to providing affordable and accessible healthcare to all, regardless of insurance status. Harvest Health MD reflects Dr. Lawrence's belief in holistic care, integrating Lifestyle Medicine and Plant-Based

Nutrition to improve patient outcomes and the overall healthcare experience. Dr. Lawrence is deeply committed to serving the Savannah community, actively bridging the gap between healthcare and community organizations. As a recent Health Equity Achieved through Lifestyle Medicine (H.E.A.L.) Scholar, he utilizes lifestyle medicine and behavior change strategies to address health disparities among underserved populations. He currently resides in Savannah with his family. His leadership extends to his role as President of the South Atlantic Medical Association and his local chapter of the National Medical Association (NMA). He also serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at Mercer University School of Medicine and holds memberships in the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.

E. Nicole Parson, M.D.

E. Nicole Parson, M.D. is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, physician entrepreneur, and healthcare executive. As co-founder and co-owner of Femelle, she has helped build innovative physician-led practice models that support clinical excellence, physician autonomy, and sustainable healthcare delivery. Throughout her career, Dr. Parson has been committed to advancing women's health while helping physicians navigate the increasingly complex business environment of healthcare. Her leadership experience includes practice development, operational strategy, and physician mentorship, with a focus on creating systems that support both patient care and long-term organizational success. Her work demonstrates how physician ownership and entrepreneurial leadership can strengthen healthcare access while contributing to economic development within local communities. She earned her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Cobb Scholars Convening at the 2026 National Medical Association Annual Convention

Presented by the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

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

This convening provides a valuable space for networking, knowledge exchange, and mentorship, reflecting the Institute's ongoing commitment to developing the next generation of leaders in biomedical research and medicine.

Cobb Scholars Convening Preliminary Program: *What We Can't Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Conversation on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity*

Monday, July 27, 2026

1:00 – 2:45 PM

Puerto Rico Convention Center – Room 209 A-C

NMA Basic Science Section Preliminary Program: *Ensuring the Security & Health of Science*

Convened by the National Medical Association Basic Science Section and is included later in the official program booklet.

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

1:00 – 6:00 PM

Sheraton Hotel – San Juan 8 (S)

About the Convener



Winston Price, M.D.

Chair, Cobb Scholars Program
VP Education & Technology, W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute
Co-Chair, Basic Science Section, NMA
105th President, NMA

Winston Price, M.D., FAAP, FACPE, is a board-certified pediatrician, educator, and nationally recognized physician leader dedicated to advancing health equity, workforce development, community health, and medical education. He serves as Co-Chair of the Basic Science Section, 105th President of the National Medical Association, and Vice President of Education and Technology for the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, where he supports programs that advance equity, research, technology, and community impact. Dr. Price holds academic appointments at PCOM South Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia and remains actively engaged in clinical practice, providing preventive care to communities in Southwest Georgia. He also serves as President and Chair of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition and on the Steering Committee of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. Dr. Price has received numerous honors, including the 2021 National Medical Association Practitioner of the Year Award and multiple Distinguished Service Medallions from the Georgia State Medical Association. He earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and completed his pediatric residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Annual Convening of the Cobb Scholars Program

What We Can't Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Conversation on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity

Date & Time:

Monday, July 27, 2026,
1:00 – 2:45 PM AST

Venue:

Puerto Rico Convention Center – 209 A-C

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 1.75

A Program of the Cobb Scholars Program of the W. Montague Cobb/ NMA Health Institute (W. Montague Cobb Institute) in Collaboration with the National Medical Association (NMA) Basic Science Section



Convener

Winston Price, M.D.
*W. Montague Cobb/ NMA
Health Institute*



Stacie Fairley, Ph.D.
*Philadelphia
College of
Osteopathic
Medicine
(PCOM) - South
Georgia*



Cedric Bright,
M.D.
*Brody School
of Medicine at
East Carolina
University*



Jacqueline Powell,
Ph.D.
*Morehouse School
of Medicine*



Robert Walker,
Ph.D.
*PCOM South
Georgia*



Aletha Maybank,
M.D., M.P.H.
*NovellaWells,
LLC*



Ronnie Sebro,
M.D., Ph.D.
*Anderson Cancer
Center*



Maureen Bell,
M.D.
Vituity



Gary Butts, M.D.
*Mount
Sinai Health
System*



Jennifer Jenkins
*PCOM South
Georgia*



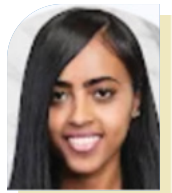
Cailin Ingram
*PCOM South
Georgia*



Rose Francois
*Georgetown
University*



Sydney Baltimore
*American
University of
Antigua College of
Medicine, Student
National Medical
Association*



Danait
Gebreselassie
*PCOM South
Georgia*

Event Details

Overview

The Fourth Annual Cobb Scholars Convening, *What We Can't Say, What We Must Say: A Fireside Chat on Protecting Language in Medical Education, Research, and Health Equity*, brings together physician leaders, educators, researchers, trainees, and Cobb Scholars to examine how evolving policy and institutional environments are shaping scientific communication in medicine and public health. As academic and healthcare institutions navigate changes in the language used to discuss health disparities, population health, and related topics, participants will explore the implications for medical education, research, faculty development, funding, admissions, and clinical training. Drawing on perspectives from academic medicine, biomedical research, healthcare leadership, and student advocacy, the convening will highlight practical strategies for preserving scientific rigor, supporting evidence-informed decision-making, and advancing excellence in education, research, and patient care.

Event Schedule

Welcome and Framing (10 minutes)

Winston Price, M.D.
Chair, Cobb Scholars Program
VP Education & Technology, W. Montague Cobb/
NMA Health Institute
Co-Chair, Basic Science Section, NMA
105th President, NMA

Panel I | Admissions And Institutional Gatekeeping (15 minutes)

Perspectives on how language constraints affect holistic review and admissions practices.

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Microbiology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Cedric Bright, M.D., Associate Dean for Admissions, Professor of Internal Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Morehouse School of Medicine

Rose Francois,we, Georgetown University

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe how constraints on language in medical education, research, and institutional settings affect the communication of scientific evidence, population health data, and health equity-related information.
- Explain the impact of language limitations on admissions practices, curriculum design, research framing, faculty development, and clinical training, and their implications for educational and research environments.
- Apply evidence-based strategies to maintain scientific rigor, educational integrity, accurate scientific communication, and evidence-informed decision-making in research, teaching, and professional practice within evolving policy and institutional contexts.

Panel II | Curriculum Design And Learner Assessment (15 minutes)

Impact of language limitations on curriculum content and case-based learning.

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Morehouse School of Medicine

Robert Walker, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physiology, Assistant Dean for Transformational Learning, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Aletha Maybank, M.D., M.P.H., Founder, Novel-laWells, LLC

Sydney Baltimore, M.S. III, American University of Antigua College of Medicine, Immediate Past President, Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

Panel III | Research, Funding And Faculty Development (15 minutes)

How language restrictions influence research framing, grant writing, and funding priorities.

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Radiology, Epidemiology, and Imaging Physics, Anderson Cancer Center

Maureen Bell, M.D., Physician Director, Community Impact, Vituity; Founding Board Member, Vituity Cares Foundation

Sydney Williams, M.S. II, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Panel IV | Clinical Training And Health Equity Outcomes (15 minutes)

Downstream effects of constrained language on clinical training, decision-making & AI tools.

Gary Butts, M.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Mount Sinai Health System; Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Medical Education, and Environmental Medicine/Public Health

Danait Gebreselassie, M.S. II, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Audience Q&A/Interactive Session: Solution Focused Discussion (25 minutes)

Moderator:

Winston Price, M.D.

Closing Reflections: Key Takeaways And Closing Remarks (10 minutes)

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D.

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D.

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 *1.75 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 1.75 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.

Participant Biographies

Panel Moderator

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D.

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D. is a microbiologist, immunologist, educator, and advocate for interdisciplinary medical education. She serves as Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of Interprofessional Education at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia. Her research has focused on infectious diseases, immunology, vaccine development, and public health, resulting in numerous publications, research grants, and presentations at national and international conferences. Beyond her academic work, Dr. Fairley is actively engaged in initiatives addressing rural health disparities, opioid misuse prevention, and diversity in healthcare education. She is recognized for her leadership in fostering inclusive learning environments and mentoring future healthcare professionals. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Microbiology from Alabama State University and completed postdoctoral training at the Center for NanoScience Research in Grenoble, France.

Panelist

Maureen Bell, M.D.,

Maureen Bell, M.D., FACEP is Physician Director of Community Impact at Vituity. She previously served as Emergency Department Medical Director at Howard University Hospital, where she helped lead clinical operations and physician development while serving diverse patient populations. A passionate advocate for improving health outcomes in underserved communities, Dr. Bell became a founding board member of the Vituity Cares Foundation in 2020. Through her leadership with the Foundation, she works to expand access to care, strengthen community partnerships, and create pathways for a more diverse and inclusive healthcare workforce. In 2024, she was elected to Vituity's Board of Directors, reflecting her commitment to physician leadership, organizational excellence, and community impact. Drawing on her experience as a clinician, administrator, and advocate, Dr. Bell brings valuable insight into the intersection of healthcare delivery, workforce development, and community well-being. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from New York University School of Medicine and completed her residency in Emergency Medicine at New York City Health + Hospitals/Jacobi Medical Center.

Panelist

Cedric Bright, M.D.

Cedric Bright, M.D. is Associate Dean for Admissions, Professor of Internal Medicine, and Interim Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A nationally respected physician leader and patient advocate, he previously served as Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Director of Special Programs at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Bright served as the 112th President of the National Medical Association and has been a prominent advocate for health equity, diversity in clinical trials, and expanding pathways into medicine for underrepresented students. He has advised national organizations on workforce development, veterans' health, STEM education, and health disparities and is widely recognized for his contributions to advancing diversity and inclusion in medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Panelist

Gary Butts, M.D.

Gary Butts, M.D. is Dean Emeritus and Senior Advisor for Equity, Engagement, and Institutional Strategy for the Mount Sinai Health System. From 2014 to 2025, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Mount Sinai and Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy and Community Affairs at the Icahn School of Medicine. Over a career spanning more than four decades, Dr. Butts has provided care to underserved communities while leading transformative efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in medical education, graduate medical education, and faculty development. He has held leadership positions with the Association of American Medical Colleges, National Medical Fellowships, and the National Medical Association and has received numerous honors recognizing his contributions to health equity and medical education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and completed residency and fellowship training in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Panelist

Jennifer Manson Jenkins, Ed.D.

Jennifer Manson Jenkins, Ed.D. is a leader in community-engaged medical education and rural health innovation. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Georgia State University, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Thomas University, and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. Her doctoral research examined how race and gender shape the experiences of Black mothers navigating predominantly white institutions, informing her commitment to systems-level change. With more than 20 years of experience in mental health, community engagement, and higher education, Dr. Jenkins brings an interdisciplinary approach to physician education. She previously served for eight years at Florida State University as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Accessibility Services, leading initiatives that advanced student success, accessibility, and inclusive learning environments. As Director of the Office of Campus and Community Partnerships at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia, Dr. Jenkins develops innovative programs that connect medical education with rural community health through experiential learning, trauma-informed care, and workforce development. She leads multi-sector partnerships, including a multi-year initiative with Resilient Communities of Southwest Georgia, advancing community-based training and student engagement. Dr. Jenkins also received the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Innovation in GME Development Grant for creating the Rural Health Track Certificate, which bridges undergraduate and graduate medical education to prepare physicians for rural practice. Through her leadership and scholarship, she is helping shape a new generation of physicians who are clinically skilled, community-connected, and equipped to improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

Panelist

Aletha Maybank, M.D., M.P.H.

Aletha Maybank, M.D., M.P.H. is a nationally recognized physician leader, public health expert, and advocate for health equity. She previously served as Chief Health Equity Officer and Senior Vice President of the American Medical Association, where she led efforts to embed equity throughout the organization's work. Prior to joining the AMA, she founded the Center for Health Equity at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and established the Office of Minority Health in Suffolk County. Dr. Maybank is widely recognized for advancing community-centered approaches to public health, physician advocacy, and

organizational transformation. She is a sought-after national speaker and commentator on health equity and has appeared in major media outlets including NPR, MSNBC, and The New York Times. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University, a Doctor of Medicine degree from Temple University School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Panelist

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D.

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D. is Professor of Physiology and Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Department of Physiology at Morehouse School of Medicine. A respected medical educator and national leader in advancing inclusive excellence in health professions education, she has served in numerous leadership roles within the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE), including Founding Chair of both the Racial Equity Committee and the Equity and Advocacy Committee. Dr. Powell is committed to advancing diversity-related curricula and cultural humility in medical education and co-authored IAMSE's guide on addressing racial and ethnic health disparities in health professions training. Through her teaching, scholarship, and advocacy, she continues to shape national conversations on equity and excellence in medical education. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Physiology.

Panelist

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D.

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D. is a physician-scientist, radiologist, and internationally recognized expert in artificial intelligence, statistical genetics, and musculoskeletal imaging. He currently serves as Deputy Editor of Radiology: Artificial Intelligence and is a Senior Associate Consultant at Mayo Clinic. His research integrates imaging, genomics, radiomics, and machine learning to identify novel biomarkers for disease prognosis and therapeutic response. Dr. Sebro has trained at Stanford University School of Medicine, the University of California, San Francisco, and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. His work focuses on ensuring that advances in artificial intelligence and precision medicine are scientifically rigorous, clinically meaningful, and equitable. He earned both a Doctor of Medicine degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biostatistics.

Panelist

Robert Walker, Ph.D.

Robert Walker, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Physiology and Assistant Dean of Transformational Learning at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. A neuroscientist, educator, and mentor, he is widely recognized for developing innovative approaches to medical education that promote academic success, resilience, and professional growth. He is the founder of Brothers in Medicine, an initiative dedicated to increasing the representation, visibility, and success of Black men in medicine through mentorship and community building. Dr. Walker's work spans education, scholarship, advocacy, and artificial intelligence, with a focus on preparing future physicians to address the challenges of modern healthcare. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Alcorn State University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Neuroscience from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Student Panelist

Sydney Baltimore, M.S. III

Sydney Baltimore, M.S. III is a third-year medical student at the American University of Antigua College of Medicine and a national student leader committed to advancing diversity and representation in medicine.

She currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and has been active in national initiatives focused on mentorship, professional development, and expanding pathways into medicine for underrepresented students. Through her leadership within SNMA, she has advocated for equitable educational opportunities and strengthened engagement among medical students across the country. Prior to medical school, she earned a Master of Science degree from Hampton University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee University.

Student Panelist and Pre-Cobb Scholar Rose Francois, Pre-Med

Rose Francois, Pre-Med with a Major in Human Science and Minor in Black Studies, Georgetown University

Student Panelist

Danait Gebreselassie, M.S. II

Danait Gebreselassie, M.S. II, PCOM South Georgia

Student Panelist

Cailin Ingram, M.S. II

Cailin Ingram, M.S. II, PCOM South Georgia

Scientific Contributions and Institutional Highlights

In 2026, the W. Montague Cobb Institute celebrates 22 years of research and focus upon the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities in health and healthcare in the U.S.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION

Across its 2025 volume, the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (JREHD)* published 363 substantive articles, excluding corrections, reflecting both the breadth and depth of scholarship in the field. This included 321 empirical studies, 38 evidence-synthesis articles, and 4 perspectives, collectively underscoring *JREHD*'s interdisciplinary contributions to understanding and addressing racial and ethnic health disparities.

Key advances emerged in genomics, epigenomics, and computational research. Kolpakov et al. examined genome-related mechanisms contributing to racial differences in Alzheimer's disease incidence, while Ruiz-Narváez et al. explored perceived racism, genome-wide DNA methylation, and epigenetic aging in the Black Women's Health Study. Criss et al. analyzed ChatGPT-generated HIV advice, Fatemi et al. and Prochnow et al. used network analysis to examine maternal and chronic disease disparities, and Brown et al. investigated algorithmic fairness in low-birthweight predictive models.

Several articles strengthened the evidence base for equity-focused action. Ross et al. highlighted culturally responsive strategies for NIH trial recruitment, while Kader et al. examined community-informed approaches to disaggregated race and ethnicity data collection in health care settings. Rattan et al. contributed evidence on patient-provider racial concordance and postpartum care, and Zubizarreta et al., Bell et al., and Fraiman et al. advanced structural racism research through policy analysis, conceptual frameworks, and the development of the Healthcare Racial Justice Assessment Tool.

2025 Articles by Primary Focus Area

Top thematic areas shown: 347 of 363 substantive articles

58	42	41	40	40
Health care access, utilization, quality, and treatment disparities	COVID-19 and infectious disease outcomes	Structural racism, discrimination, measurement, and social inequity	Mental health, behavioral health, substance use, and stigma	Social determinants and place-based disparities
37	34	33	17	5
Cardiovascular, metabolic, kidney, and chronic disease outcomes	Maternal, reproductive, infant, child, and family health	Cancer screening, outcomes, and prevention	Research methods and representation	Genomics and precision medicine

Footnote: Articles were coded by primary title-level theme; some could fit multiple categories. Sixteen cross-cutting equity studies are included in the 363 total but are not shown as a separate card.

The volume also examined inequities in clinical care, quality, and treatment across multiple disease areas and care settings, including ALS diagnosis and prognosis (Raymond et al.), regional anesthesia (Powell et al.), non-elective cesarean delivery (Kausar et al.), and total knee arthroplasty outcomes (Balachandran et al.).

JREHD continues to demonstrate strong growth and scholarly impact. In 2025, the journal recorded 1.2 million downloads and maintained strong citation performance, including a Scopus CiteScore of 7.5 and a Journal Impact Factor of 2.2, as reported on the SpringerLink journal homepage. It also ranks in the top tier of Scopus-indexed Anthropology journals and supports timely dissemination, with a median 5 days to first decision. In 2025, Editor-in-Chief Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., K.C.S.L. received the Springer Nature Editor of Distinction Award in recognition of the quality, volume, and efficiency of the journal's peer review process.

Now in its 12th year, *JREHD* continues to serve as a crucial platform for rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship that identifies, measures, and addresses racial and ethnic health disparities.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Leadership growth defined 2025. The Institute expanded its role in health equity, research engagement, student mentorship, and national programming, while the Board of Directors reached full capacity at 17 members, strengthening connections across NMA leadership, SNMA leadership, academic medicine, surgery, health policy, and community-based research.

National convening remained central to the Institute's visibility. At the 2025 NMA Convention in Chicago, the Institute hosted the Cobb Lectureship and Symposium, Artificial Intelligence: Code, Context, Care: AI at the Crossroads of Healthcare, Research and Workforce Development, in partnership with the Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the University of Connecticut (UConn) and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The symposium brought together national experts to examine AI in health care, research, and workforce development and was livestreamed to broaden access.

Partnerships also continued to deepen. The Institute expanded its collaboration with the International Medical Exchange to explore AI-driven strategies for improving health care delivery and public health outcomes in Africa, the United States, and other underserved communities. This work included a hybrid convening with academic leaders, subject matter experts, institutional directors, and participants from Africa, Canada, and the Caribbean.

Student mentorship remained a core priority.

Through the International Myeloma Foundation's Myeloma Scholars and Mentorship Program, the W. Montague Cobb Institute and SNMA identified 12 student scholars, who presented research posters, met with mentors, and shared abstracts during the Cobb Scholars Convening. The Institute also launched a two-year financial literacy program in partnership with Prudential and continued support for the Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan Research Fund.

Research engagement expanded through NMA

Project IMPACT 2.0, which supported educational content, symposium planning, annual report development, community engagement, and Steering Committee leadership. Cobb also created and beta tested an NMA member survey to better understand physicians' experiences, interests, and engagement in clinical trials and clinical research.

Public education remained another important pillar of the Institute's work.

The monthly webinar series with BlackDoctor.org continued to feature subject matter experts and patient advocates on topics including vaccine hesitancy, FDA regulations, maternal health, and clinical trial diversification. The *Cobb & Company* podcast also highlighted thought leaders and industry leaders aligned with the mission of the W. Montague Cobb Institute and the NMA.

Community and academic partnerships further

extended the Institute's reach. Through collaboration with Howard University Hospital and the Howard University College of Medicine Department of Surgery, the Institute held its Third Annual W. Montague Cobb Health Disparities Symposium, which highlighted artificial intelligence, chronic disease, and health disparities.

2026 Staff Highlight



Rolf Taylor, VP of Communications and Development for the Cobb Institute, is a healthcare engagement and communications leader with more than 30 years of experience developing patient advocacy initiatives and strategic partnerships. As Program Director for the Project IMPACT 2.0 Initiative and a member of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute team, he supports strategic communications, stakeholder engagement, webinars, surveys, needs assessments, and special initiatives. Rolf is the host and producer of *Cobb & Company*, the W. Montague Cobb Institute's podcast highlighting leaders, innovators, and conversations shaping the future of health and healthcare. Prior to specializing in healthcare communications, he began his career with the BBC in London and later held leadership roles with organizations including the American Liver Foundation, COPD Foundation, and HealthUnlocked.

Additional Convenings

Presented in collaboration with the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

NMA Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium: *Transforming Clinical Trials Toward Health Equity*

A Collaboration between the National Medical Association and the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

Monday, July 27, 2026

9:00 – 11:00 AM

208 B, Puerto Rico Convention Center

Jane Cooke Wright, M.D. Oncology Symposium & Poster Walk: *Precision Medicine: Using Innovation to Move Cancer Care Forward*

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

Monday, July 27, 2026

3:45 – 5:30 PM

209, Puerto Rico Convention Center

About the Convener



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

President and CEO,
Browne and Associates
LLC
Deputy Director,
W. Montague Cobb
Institute
Chair, Oncology
Subsection, Internal
Medicine Section – NMA
118th President,
National Medical
Association (NMA)

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H., is President and CEO of Browne and Associates, LLC, a health consulting firm that manages programs focused on disease prevention, health equity, and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations in the United States and abroad. She is also Deputy Director of the W. Montague Cobb Institute and Chair of the Oncology Subsection within the National Medical Association's Internal Medicine Section. Dr. Browne served as the 118th President of the National Medical Association and as Principal Investigator of the W. Montague Cobb Health Institute. Throughout her career, she has championed initiatives that have significantly advanced the health of underserved and vulnerable communities. A medical oncologist, she has particular expertise and passion in women's health, cancer prevention and treatment—especially breast cancer—sickle cell disease, other chronic illnesses, environmental health, clinical trials research, and radiation-related health effects. Dr. Browne retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of Colonel. She also retired from the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute, where she managed the breast cancer portfolio within the Division of Cancer Prevention. She is widely recognized for her leadership in health equity, cancer prevention, global public health, and community engagement. A strong advocate for increasing minority participation at every level of clinical research, Dr. Browne is a trusted resource for community-based health programs and continues to convene national and international forums that advance inclusive innovation in medicine, clinical research, and public health. Dr. Browne earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College, a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Georgetown University. She is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and numerous professional organizations. Her many honors include the NIH Merit Award and the 2018 Top Blacks in Healthcare Award.

NMA Project IMPACT 2.0 Symposium

Date & Time:

Monday, July 27, 2026

9:00–11:00 AM

National Medical Association in Collaboration with the
W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute

Venue:

208 B, Puerto Rico Convention

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 2

**Keynote Speaker**

Vence L.
Bonham, Jr.,
J.D.
*Meharry
Medical
College*

**Moderator**

Doris Browne,
M.D., M.P.H.
*President and
CEO, Browne
and Associates
LLC*



Lucile Adams-
Campbell,
Ph.D.
*Georgetown
University*



Harlan Pinto,
M.D.
*Stanford
University
Cancer
Institute*



Regine
Veillard,
Pharm.D.,
BCACP
GSK



Rochelle
Williams-
Belizaire
*BeOne
Medicines*

Event Details

Overview

The 2026 NMA Project IMPACT (Increase Minority Participation and Awareness of Clinical Trials) 2.0 addresses key challenges in clinical trials and advancing health equity. Given growing awareness of disparities in health and disproportionate disease burden across populations and communities, this session will highlight innovative strategies, tools, and approaches designed to promote diversity and inclusion in clinical trials. Through

expert-led discussions, keynote addresses, and interactive presentations, attendees will gain actionable insights into improving diverse participation, leveraging predictive tools for recruitment and retention, and exploring the evolving role of precision medicine and artificial intelligence (AI) in creating more inclusive research environments. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with thought leaders from industry, academia, and advocacy organizations who are committed to transforming clinical trials and advancing health equity.

Learning Objectives

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

- 1 Understand the systemic, cultural, and logistical barriers that hinder the inclusion of diverse populations in clinical trials, and explore effective strategies to overcome these challenges.
- 2 Learn actionable approaches and best practices to enhance the recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups in clinical trials, including outreach, trust-building, and partnership models.
- 3 Gain insights into how predictive tools, including AI and precision medicine, can optimize clinical trial recruitment, reduce attrition, and promote more personalized, effective trial designs.
- 4 Analyze how advancing health equity in clinical trials contributes to better scientific outcomes, improved public health policies, and broader access to emerging treatments.
5. Discover emerging technologies and innovative trial designs that promote inclusivity, reduce biases, and improve the representation of diverse populations in clinical research.

Event Schedule

Coffee & Continental breakfast

Welcome and Introduction (10 minutes)

Randall Morgan, M.D., M.B.A.
Executive Director and CEO, Cobb Health Institute

Roundtable Discussion: Upholding Strategies while adhering to Clinical Trials Policies (50 minutes)

Moderator:

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, Project IMPACT 2.0

Lucile Adams Campbell, Ph.D.
Professor, Associate Director, Health Disparities Research, Founding Director, Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Prevention, Lombardi CCC, Georgetown University

Harlan Pinto, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical Oncologist, Stanford University Cancer Institute

Regine Veillard, Pharm.D., BCACP
Medical Science Liaison – Respiratory
U.S. Medical Affairs, GSK

Rochelle Williams-Belizaire
Data-Driven Driven Equity Strategist, Head, Collaborative Operations for Health Engagement, Representation and Enrollment (COHERE), BeOne Medicines

Questions & Answers (15 minutes)

Data, Accountability and Ethics in Science: Impact on CT Recruitment (30 minutes)

Vence L. Bonham, Jr., J.D.
President and CEO, Diaspora Human Genomics Institute, Founding Director, Meharry Center for Bioethics, Social and Behavioral Research, former Acting Director, National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.,
President and CEO, Browne and Associates LLC

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.

Participant Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Vence L. Bonham, Jr., J.D

Vence L. Bonham, Jr., J.D. is President and CEO of the Diaspora Human Genomics Institute at Meharry Medical College and Founding Director of the Meharry Center for Bioethics, Social and Behavioral Research. A nationally recognized expert in bioethics, genomics, health equity, and health policy, he previously served as Acting Deputy Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at the National Institutes of Health and as Director of the NHGRI Health Disparities Unit. His work has focused on the ethical, legal, and social implications of genomic science, with particular emphasis on ensuring equitable access to precision medicine and advancing diversity in biomedical research. Widely recognized for his contributions to genomics, sickle cell disease research, and data ethics, Mr. Bonham has helped shape national conversations on representation, trust, and the responsible application of emerging technologies in healthcare. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctor degree from Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Panelist

Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D.

Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D. is a nationally recognized cancer epidemiologist and health disparities researcher whose work has transformed understanding

of cancer risk, prevention, and outcomes among underserved populations. She serves as Professor, Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research, and Founding Director of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Prevention at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Adams-Campbell has led groundbreaking research focused on cancer prevention, survivorship, and reducing disparities in cancer outcomes among racial and ethnic minority populations. Her leadership has helped advance national efforts to improve representation in research and expand access to cancer prevention and treatment services. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Panelist

Jonca Bull-Humphries, M.D., M.P.H.

Jonca Bull-Humphries, M.D., M.P.H. is Principal of Strategic Regulatory Consultants, LLC, where she advises organizations on clinical development, regulatory strategy, patient engagement, and approaches to improving diversity and representation in clinical trials. Previously, she served as Vice President and Therapeutic Area Director for Ophthalmology at PPD Consulting, where she provided strategic guidance in clinical and regulatory affairs across therapeutic areas and supported the ethical and inclusive design of

clinical trials for innovative medical products. Dr. Bull-Humphries previously served as Assistant Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), leading initiatives to strengthen the inclusion of underrepresented populations in biomedical research and advance public health policy. She has also held senior leadership positions in regulatory affairs at Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Genentech. Dr. Bull-Humphries serves on the Board of Directors of CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and on the Research, Education, and Innovation Committee of Children's National Hospital. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and her Doctor of Medicine degree from Duke University School of Medicine. She completed residency training in both Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology at George Washington University Hospital and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Panelist

Regine Veillard, Pharm.D., BCACP

Regine Veillard, Pharm.D., BCACP is a clinical pharmacist and healthcare professional dedicated to advancing patient-centered care, health equity, and access to innovative therapies. She serves as Medical Science Liaison, Respiratory, within the U.S. Medical Affairs at GSK, where she collaborates with healthcare

professionals and researchers to support evidence-based approaches to respiratory disease management. Dr. Veillard brings expertise in clinical practice, medication management, and patient education, with a strong interest in improving healthcare outcomes among diverse patient populations. Her work bridges clinical care, scientific communication, and industry partnerships that support improved health outcomes. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and is board certified in ambulatory care pharmacy.

Panelist

Rochelle Williams-Belizaire

Rochelle Williams-Belizaire is a healthcare strategist and advocate for advancing diversity, representation, and inclusion in clinical research. She serves as Head of Collaborative Operations for Health Engagement, Representation and Enrollment (COHERE) at BeOne Medicines, where she leads initiatives designed to strengthen community engagement and improve participation in clinical trials among historically underrepresented populations. Throughout her career, she has focused on leveraging data-driven approaches to address barriers to research participation and build trust between healthcare organizations and the communities they serve. Her work supports the development of more representative clinical studies and equitable access to emerging therapies.

Jane Cooke Wright, M.D., Oncology Symposium & Poster Walk

Date & Time:

Monday, July 27, 2026

3:45–5:30 PM

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

Venue:

Puerto Rico Convention Center – Room 209

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 1

**Keynote Speaker**

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

*International Myeloma
Foundation*

**Co-Convener/Planning
Support**

Charmaine L. Green,
D.Min., M.Div., M.S.
Palmer Theological Seminary

**Moderator**

Marie L. Borum,
M.D., Ed.D.,
M.P.H., MACP
*George Washington
University School
of Medicine and
Health Sciences*



Reverend Richard
Lockette
*American Cancer
Society's Our Voices*



Quyen D. Chu,
M.D.
*Howard University
Hospital*



Amanda Blair
Spence, M.D.
*Georgetown
University Hospital*

Event Details

Overview

The Jane Cooke Wright, MD Oncology Symposium honors the legacy of one of the nation's pioneering oncologists by convening leaders in cancer research, clinical care, public health, and patient advocacy to explore emerging approaches to cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and treatment. This year's symposium, Screening and Early Cancer Detection to Advance Care and Improve Outcomes, highlights innovations that have the potential to improve survival, reduce disparities, and expand access to high-quality cancer care. Through expert presentations and multidisciplinary discussion, participants will examine advances in multi-cancer early detection technologies, pancreatic cancer diagnosis and management, HIV-associated malignancies, and emerging developments in multiple myeloma. The program also incorporates the perspectives of patients and survivors, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, early intervention, and equitable access to care. Together, these discussions underscore the critical role of innovation, collaboration, and patient-centered approaches in improving cancer outcomes and advancing health equity.

Event Schedule

Introduction/Welcome (5 minutes)

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, Oncology Subspecialty/Internal Medicine Section
Medical Oncologist and 118th NMA President

Roundtable Discussion: Innovations in Cancer Care (55 minutes)

Moderator

Marie L. Borum, M.D., Ed.D.
Professor, Medicine, Prevention and Community Health, Division Director, Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases, George Washington University

American Cancer Society, Our Voices: Patient Perspective

Reverend Richard Lockette
Pancreatic Cancer Survivor

Learning Objectives

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

- 1 Describe emerging approaches to cancer screening and early detection, including advances in multi-cancer early detection technologies and their potential impact on patient outcomes.
- 2 Discuss current challenges and opportunities in the prevention, diagnosis, and management of cancers that disproportionately affect underserved and high-risk populations, including pancreatic cancer and HIV-associated malignancies.
- 3 Examine the role of patient engagement, survivorship perspectives, and community outreach in improving cancer awareness, screening uptake, and access to care.
- 4 Apply current evidence and best practices to support earlier diagnosis, improve treatment outcomes, and reduce disparities across the cancer care continuum.

Pancreatic Cancer

Quyen Chu, M.D.
Roy L. Schneider Endowed Professor of Surgery,
Chief, Surgical Oncology Associate Director of
Cancer Center Howard University Hospital and
College of Medicine

HIV and Malignancies

Amanda Blair Spence, M.D.
Attending Physician, Division of Infectious Dis-
eases and Tropical Medicine, Assistant Professor,
Department of Medicine, Georgetown University
Hospital

Panel Discussion / Audience Q&A (15 minutes)

Update In Multiple Myeloma (20 minutes)

Joseph Mikhael, M.D., M.Ed.
Chief Medical Officer, International Myeloma
Foundation (IMF)

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

Randall C. Morgan, Jr. M.D., M.B.A.
President and CEO, W. Montague Cobb/NMA
Health Institute, 96th NMA President

Myeloma Research Poster Walk And Reception | “Mentorship and Myeloma – A Joint Effort between the Cobb Institute and the NMA” (60 minutes)

Welcome and Introductions

About the Cobb Scholars Program

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

The Importance of Mentorship

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

Medical Student Abstract Presentations (15 minutes)

Jonathan Low
Meharry Medical College, 3rd Year

Rebecca Metellus
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, 2nd
Year

Q & A and Closing

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 *1 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 1 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.

Participant Biographies

Keynote Speaker

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.

Co-Convener/Planning Support

Charmaine L. Green, D.Min., M.Div., M.S.

Charmaine L. Green, D.Min., M.Div., M.S. previously served as Community Program Coordinator and Administrator for the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University, where she developed and led cancer awareness, prevention, and outreach programs focused on underserved and disproportionately affected populations. Working closely with national leaders in oncology and health equity, including Dr. Edith P. Mitchell, Dr. Green has played a key role in strengthening community partnerships and expanding access to cancer education and screening services. In addition to her healthcare leadership, Dr. Green serves as Adjunct Faculty at Palmer Theological Seminary and is an ordained minister committed to integrating faith, service, and community engagement. She earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Black Church Studies from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, a Master of Divinity degree from Palmer Theological Seminary, a Master of Science degree in Health Administration from Saint Joseph's University,

and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Planning and Administration from The Pennsylvania State University.

Moderator

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

Marie L. Borum, M.D., Ed.D., M.P.H., MACP, FACP, AGAF, FRCP is Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases and Professor of Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, where she also directs the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program. An accomplished clinician, educator, and researcher, Dr. Borum has authored more than 100 scientific abstracts, articles, and book chapters and has contributed to multiple textbooks. Her research interests include health disparities, women's health, colon cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, liver disease, and physician decision-making. A leader in organized medicine, she serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the National Medical Association and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology. Dr. Borum earned her undergraduate degree from Princeton University, her medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and both her Master of Public Health and Doctor of Education degrees from The George Washington University.

Reverend Richard Lockette

Reverend Richard Lockette is a pancreatic cancer survivor, patient advocate, and community leader who uses his personal journey to raise awareness about the importance of early detection, patient education, and survivorship. Through his partnership with the American Cancer Society's Our Voices initiative, he shares his experiences navigating diagnosis, treatment, and recovery to help empower patients and families facing cancer. Reverend Lockette is committed to increasing awareness of pancreatic cancer and strengthening community engagement around cancer prevention, screening, and support services. His perspective highlights the critical role of patient voices in shaping cancer care and improving health outcomes.

Quyen D. Chu, M.D.

Quyen D. Chu, M.D., FACS is Roy L. Schneider Endowed Professor of Surgery, Chief of Surgical Oncology, and Associate Director of the Cancer Center at Howard University Hospital and Howard University College of Medicine. A nationally recognized surgical oncologist, Dr. Chu specializes in the treatment of gastrointestinal, pancreatic, hepatobiliary, and breast cancers. His clinical and research efforts focus on improving cancer outcomes, reducing disparities in cancer care, and expanding access to high-quality treatment for underserved populations. An accomplished educator, researcher, and mentor, he has authored numerous scientific publications and has dedicated his career to advancing excellence in cancer care, research, and surgical education. Dr. Chu earned his medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine and completed advanced surgical and oncology training at leading academic medical centers.

Amanda Blair Spence, M.D.

Amanda Blair Spence, M.D. is an Attending Physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital. Her clinical and academic work focuses on HIV medicine, infectious diseases, and the prevention and management of HIV-associated malignancies. Dr. Spence is committed to improving outcomes for individuals living with HIV through comprehensive, patient-centered care, education, and research. Her work addresses the evolving intersection of infectious diseases, cancer prevention, and health equity, with particular attention to populations disproportionately affected by HIV and related cancers. She earned her medical degree and completed postgraduate training in internal medicine and infectious diseases.

NMA Basic Science Section Preliminary Program

*Basic Science vs Basic Finance:
Ensuring the Security of Health Science*

Date & Time:

Tuesday, July 28, 2026,
1:00–6:00 PM AST

A Program of the National Medical Association (NMA)
Basic Science Program Section in Collaboration with
the Cobb Scholars Program of the W. Montague Cobb/
NMA Health Institute (W. Montague Cobb Institute)

Venue:

San Juan 8 (S), Sheraton Hotel

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits: 4.5

Livestream Available:

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

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



Keynote Speaker

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D.



Convener

Winston Price,
M.D.



Moderator

Nicola "Nicky"
Chin, M.D.



Moderator

Stacie Fairley,
Ph.D.



Moderator

Marcine
Pickron-Davis,
Ph.D.



Moderator

Jacqueline
Powell, Ph.D.



Gary C. Butts,
M.D., M.P.H.



Faith Akovi
Cooper, M.P.A.



Darryl O.
Crenshaw,
M.D., M.B.A.



Owen Garrick,
M.D., M.B.A.



Cheryl Holder,
M.D.



Karen Walker
Jefferson, M.D.



Jennifer Manson
Jenkins, Ed.D.



Pablo A.
Méndez Lázaro,
Ph.D.



Maisha
Standifer,
Ph.D., M.P.H.



Robert Jason
Walker, Ph.D.



Kimberly
Williams, Ph.D.



Sydney
Baltimore



Cailin Ingram



Lydia Jiles



Sydney
Williams

Event Details

Overview

The Basic Science Section Program will explore the theme “Basic Science vs. Basic Finance: Ensuring the Security of Health Science” through discussions on scientific ethics, climate-related health risks, the role of basic science in medical education, equitable financing of medical research, and trauma-informed learner support. The session will bring together leaders, educators, researchers, clinicians, and students to examine how health science can remain ethical, sustainable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of communities and future physicians.

Event Schedule

Welcome And Introduction To The Section (5 minutes)

Winston Price, M.D.

Co-Chair, Basic Science Section, National Medical Association (NMA); VP Education & Technology, W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute; 105th President, NMA

Keynote: The Ethics Of Sound Scientific Principle (20 minutes)

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Radiology, Epidemiology, and Imaging Physics, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Q&A (5 minutes)

Panel: Extreme Heat: A Deadly Climate Risk (60 minutes)

Moderator

Nicky Chin, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics, Morehouse School of Medicine; President, American Academy of Pediatrics Georgia Chapter

Learning Objectives

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

- Examine the ethical, financial, and institutional factors that influence the security, integrity, and sustainability of health science research.
- Describe the health impacts of extreme heat and climate-related risks, with attention to environmental health equity and vulnerable communities.
- Identify strategies to strengthen basic science education and support medical learners through clinically relevant, equity-centered, and trauma-informed approaches.

“Turning the Heat Up and the Impact on Health”, Cheryl Holder, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

“Obstetric Impact of Extreme Heat - US and Caribbean Perspective”, Karen Walker Jefferson, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Virginia Health System

“The Cobb Scholars & Research Opportunities in Environmental Health & Justice”, Kimberly Williams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action

Panel Transition (5 minutes)

Panel: From Bench to Blackboard to Bedside: What Future Physicians Actually Need From Basic Science (65 minutes)

Moderator

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education for Curriculum; Professor of Physiology and Vice-Chair of Physiology for Educational Affairs; Dean’s Cabinet, Morehouse School of Medicine

Darryl Crenshaw, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Nephrology, Florida State University School of Medicine and PCOM South Georgia

Gary Butts, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health; Dean Emeritus, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Robert Walker, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Physiology; Assistant Dean of Transformational Learning, PCOM South Georgia

Cailin Ingram

Medical Student, OMS II, PCOM South Georgia

Q&A (5 minutes)

Panel Transition (5 minutes)

Panel: Financing Medical Research - Making Cents Out of the Chaos (60 minutes)

Moderator

Marcine Pickron-Davis, Ph.D.

Chief Campus and Community Partnerships Officer, PCOM

“Cobb Scholars Research Project on the Environmental Health Equity- Implications of the Hurricanes in Puerto Rico”, Maisha Standifer, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director of Health Policy, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine

“Safeguarding the Future of Science: Security, Integrity, and Global Health”, Faith Akovi Cooper, M.P.A., Executive Director, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)

“Financing Equitable Basic Science Research in PR”, Pablo A. Méndez Lázaro, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Health, University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health

“A Cobb Scholars Economic Reality on Sustainable Research Careers”, Sydney Baltimore, Medical Learner, AUA Class of 2027; Past President, Student National Medical Association

“Sustainable Research and Maintaining the Quest for Equity in Clinical Trials”, Owen Garrick, M.D., Past Chair, Clinical Trials Program, Mayo Clinic

Q&A (5 minutes)

Panel Transition (5 minutes)

Panel: Supporting Learners Through a Trauma-Informed Lens: Practical Strategies for Medical Educators (35 minutes)

Moderator

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Basic Science Section, National Medical Association; Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, PCOM South Georgia

Jennifer Jenkins, Ed.D., Director, Office of Campus and Community Partnerships, PCOM South Georgia

Lydia Jiles, Graduate Student, New York University

Sydney Williams, Medical Student, OMS II, PCOM South Georgia

Q&A (5 minutes)

Focus On Solutions & Closing Remarks (10 minutes)

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Basic Science Section, National Medical Association; Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, PCOM South Georgia

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education for Curriculum; Professor of Physiology, Morehouse School of Medicine

Optional Networking Event

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 *4.5 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 4.5 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.

Participant Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D.

Ronnie Sebro, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor of Radiology, Epidemiology, and Imaging Physics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is a physician-scientist, tenured professor, board-certified musculoskeletal radiologist, statistical geneticist, and biostatistician whose work bridges radiology, epidemiology, imaging physics, artificial intelligence, and quantitative methods. Dr. Sebro has expertise in medical imaging, AI validation, radiomics, opportunistic screening, oncology imaging, musculoskeletal disorders, and the ethical application of scientific methods. His keynote, “The Ethics of Sound Scientific Principle,” will address the responsibilities of scientists and clinicians to apply rigorous, ethical, and reproducible approaches in research and clinical translation. He earned his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco and his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Harvard University.

Convener

Winston Price, M.D.

Winston Price, M.D., FAAP, FACPE, is a board-certified pediatrician, educator, and nationally recognized physician leader dedicated to advancing health equity, workforce development, community health, and medical education. He serves as Co-Chair of the Basic Science Section, 105th President of the National Medical Association, and

Vice President of Education and Technology for the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute, where he supports programs that advance equity, research, technology, and community impact. Dr. Price holds academic appointments at PCOM South Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia and remains actively engaged in clinical practice, providing preventive care to communities in Southwest Georgia. He also serves as President and Chair of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition and on the Steering Committee of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. Dr. Price has received numerous honors, including the 2021 National Medical Association Practitioner of the Year Award and multiple Distinguished Service Medallions from the Georgia State Medical Association. He earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College and completed his pediatric residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Moderator

Nicola “Nicky” Chin, M.D.

Nicola “Nicky” Chin, M.D., is a pediatrician and faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine. A native of Jamaica, West Indies, she has practiced pediatrics in the Atlanta community for many years and is known for her commitment to child health, community-centered care, and pediatric advocacy. Dr. Chin also serves as President of the Georgia Chapter of the American

Academy of Pediatrics. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earned her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, and completed her pediatrics residency at Hasbro Children's Hospital, Brown University School of Medicine.

Moderator

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D.

Stacie Fairley, Ph.D., is Co-Chair of the Basic Science Section of the National Medical Association, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Director of Interprofessional Education at PCOM South Georgia. She is a biomedical science educator, microbiologist, immunologist, and academic leader who teaches medical microbiology and immunology to first-year osteopathic medical students and supports interprofessional learning. Her research interests include nanoscience and nanotechnology, particularly intracellular trafficking of nanoparticles. Dr. Fairley's work reflects a commitment to student support, professional formation, interprofessional education, and pathways into the health professions. She earned her B.S. and Ph.D. from Alabama State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MINATEC.

Moderator

Marcine Pickron-Davis, Ph.D.

Marcine Pickron-Davis, Ph.D., is Chief Campus and Community Partnerships Officer at PCOM, where she leads strategic initiatives that connect institutional resources with community health priorities, clinical education, and public impact. With more than 20 years of executive leadership experience, she has advanced organizational transformation, inclusive strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and mission-focused partnerships across complex academic and healthcare settings. Since joining PCOM in 2017, Dr. Pickron-Davis has strengthened community relationships, expanded clinical training partnerships, and supported initiatives addressing social drivers of health. Previously, she served as Widener University's inaugural Chief Community Engagement and Diversity Officer, where she elevated the university's civic engagement profile and led award-winning community partnerships. She serves on several nonprofit and healthcare boards and has received numerous honors for leadership in diversity, higher education, and community impact. Dr. Pickron-Davis earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, her Master of Social Work from Temple University's School of Social Administration, and her bachelor's degree from The Pennsylvania State University.

Moderator

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D.

Jacqueline Powell, Ph.D., is Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education for Curriculum, Professor of Physiology, Vice-Chair of Physiology for Educational Affairs, and a member of the Dean's Cabinet at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is an academic leader, physiology educator, and advocate for equity in medical education whose work spans curriculum development, student learning, diversity-related curricula, cultural sensitivity, and inclusive teaching in the biomedical sciences. Dr. Powell has held faculty roles in physiology and medical education and has contributed to national conversations on equity and advocacy in academic medicine. She earned an Honors Bachelor of Science in Biology from McMaster University and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from Morehouse School of Medicine.

Gary C. Butts, M.D., M.P.H.

Gary C. Butts, M.D., M.P.H., is Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, Dean Emeritus, and Senior Advisor for Equity, Engagement, and Institutional Strategy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is a nationally recognized physician leader in pediatrics, public health, diversity, equity, and medical education. At Mount Sinai, Dr. Butts has served in major leadership roles advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, community engagement, and institutional strategy. His work has focused on building pathways into medicine, supporting underrepresented learners and faculty, and developing institutional systems that promote equity. He completed premedical studies at Columbia College, earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College, and completed pediatrics training at The Mount Sinai Hospital.

Faith Akovi Cooper, M.P.A.

Faith Akovi Cooper, M.P.A., Executive Director of United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), is a humanitarian, global health, and international development leader with more than two decades of experience across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. She previously served as Senior Director of Community Engagement at the International Rescue Committee. Her work has included refugee advocacy, resettlement, community engagement, disaster preparedness, and global health programming. She has also held leadership roles with the International Rescue Committee, including work related to refugee resettlement and country-level programming. Ms. Cooper earned her Master of Public Administration in Health Policy and Administration from George Mason University.

Darryl O. Crenshaw, M.D., M.B.A.

Darryl O. Crenshaw, M.D., M.B.A., FACP, FASN, FASH, is Clinical Professor of Nephrology at Florida State University School of Medicine and PCOM South Georgia. He is a board-certified nephrologist and medical educator with expertise in kidney disease, hypertension, internal medicine, and community health. Dr. Crenshaw has served in academic and clinical leadership roles and has contributed to discussions about kidney disease and its impact on African American communities in Georgia. He earned his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and completed his nephrology fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine.

Owen Garrick, M.D., M.B.A.

Owen Garrick, M.D., M.B.A., is a physician executive, clinical research leader, and health equity advocate. Mayo Clinic selected him as Dean of Clinical Trials in 2023, where he was charged with strengthening the institution's clinical trials enterprise and expanding access to innovative research opportunities. His leadership experience includes clinical research, drug development, ethics, regulatory science, health system management, and efforts to improve outcomes for underserved populations. Dr. Garrick earned an AB in Psychology from Princeton University, a medical degree from Yale School of Medicine, and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Cheryl Holder, M.D.

Cheryl Holder, M.D., FACP, is Professor of Internal Medicine at Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. She is an internist, educator, climate-health advocate, and leader in health equity whose work focuses on underserved communities, social determinants of health, diversity in the health professions, and the health effects of climate change. Dr. Holder is the founder and executive director of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action and has served in multiple leadership roles addressing climate, health, and equity. She earned an AB in Psychology from Princeton University, a medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine, and completed internal medicine training at Harlem Hospital.

Karen Walker Jefferson, M.D.,

Karen Walker Jefferson, M.D., is Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia Health System and an obstetrician-gynecologist whose work focuses on women's health across the lifespan. She brings extensive clinical experience in obstetrics and gynecology, including

preventive care, reproductive health, and the management of complex health needs affecting women and families. Dr. Walker Jefferson earned her medical degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University and completed her residency at the Medical College of Virginia.

Jennifer Manson Jenkins, Ed.D.

Jennifer Manson Jenkins, Ed.D. is a leader in community-engaged medical education and rural health innovation. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Georgia State University, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Thomas University, and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. Her doctoral research examined how race and gender shape the experiences of Black mothers navigating predominantly white institutions, informing her commitment to systems-level change. With more than 20 years of experience in mental health, community engagement, and higher education, Dr. Jenkins brings an interdisciplinary approach to physician education. She previously served for eight years at Florida State University as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Accessibility Services, leading initiatives that advanced student success, accessibility, and inclusive learning environments. As Director of the Office of Campus and Community Partnerships at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia, Dr. Jenkins develops innovative programs that connect medical education with rural community health through experiential learning, trauma-informed care, and workforce development. She leads multi-sector partnerships, including a multi-year initiative with Resilient Communities of Southwest Georgia, advancing community-based training and student engagement. Dr. Jenkins also received the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Innovation in GME Development Grant for creating the Rural Health Track Certificate, which bridges undergraduate and graduate medical education to prepare physicians for rural practice. Through her leadership and scholarship, she is helping shape a new generation of physicians who are clinically skilled, community-connected, and equipped to improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

Pablo A. Méndez Lázaro, Ph.D.

Pablo A. Méndez Lázaro, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Environmental Health at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health in San Juan. He is an environmental health scholar and climate scientist specializing in climate change, equitable climate adaptation, climate and health, social-ecological systems, and extreme weather. Dr. Méndez Lázaro has worked in the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus and

has contributed to major climate assessments, including work related to the U.S. Caribbean. His research connects climate data, public health, environmental justice, and community resilience. His training spans geography, marine sciences, environmental sciences and water resources, climate change, extreme events, and remote sensing across Puerto Rico, Spain, and the United States, and he completed postdoctoral work on climate change and extreme weather events at the University of South Florida College of Marine Science and the San Juan Bay Estuary Program.

Maisha Standifer, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Maisha Standifer, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Director of Health Policy at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is a public health scholar and applied researcher whose work focuses on health policy, population health, health disparities, HIV prevention, and evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes in under-resourced communities. At the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Dr. Standifer has led and contributed to research and initiatives addressing inequities that affect racially and ethnically vulnerable populations. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Spelman College, an M.P.H. from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and a Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology with a concentration in Medical Anthropology from the University of South Florida.

Robert Jason Walker, Ph.D.

Robert Jason Walker, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Physiology, Director of Student Progression and Off-Cycle Curriculum, and Assistant Dean of Transformational Learning at PCOM South Georgia. He is a physiology educator and academic leader who teaches physiology and supports student progression, transformational learning, and academic development. Dr. Walker's work includes mentoring students, designing engaging learning experiences, and contributing to medical education that connects foundational science to clinical readiness. He earned a BS in Biochemistry from Alcorn State University, an MS in Cellular, Molecular, and Systemic Physiology from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Kimberly D. Williams, Ph.D.

Kimberly D. Williams, Ph.D., is Executive Director of Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action and a health equity advocate, organizational leader, and climate-health professional. She has worked to build alliances, develop partnerships, support health equity advocacy,

and engage clinicians around climate-related health concerns. Dr. Williams brings experience connecting organizational leadership, public communication, and climate-health advocacy to advance community-centered solutions. She earned a Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Management/Organization and Management and a master's degree in Public Communication from American University.

Sydney Baltimore

Sydney Baltimore is a medical learner in the AUA Class of 2027 and a past president of the Student National Medical Association. Her perspective centers on the realities faced by students and early-career researchers who are working to build sustainable careers in medicine, research, and health equity. She is currently pursuing her medical education as a member of the AUA Class of 2027.

Cailin Ingram

Cailin Ingram is a second-year osteopathic medical student at PCOM South Georgia. As a learner participant, she will offer a student perspective on how basic science instruction supports the development of future physicians and how medical education can better connect classroom learning to clinical application. Her participation brings an important voice from the current generation of medical students, particularly in discussions of what learners need to thrive academically, professionally, and clinically. She studied at the Georgia Institute of Technology and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at PCOM South Georgia.

Lydia Jiles

Lydia Jiles is a graduate student at New York University with interests connected to public health, health equity, and learner support. She brings a learner perspective to discussions about the support systems, environments, and educational approaches that help students thrive. She is an MPH candidate at New York University School of Global Public Health and is an alumna of Howard University.

Sydney Williams

Sydney Williams is a second-year medical student at PCOM South Georgia. As a learner participant in the trauma-informed education session, she will provide insight into the experiences of medical students navigating rigorous academic expectations, professional identity formation, and the need for supportive learning environments. She is currently pursuing her medical education as a second-year medical student at PCOM South Georgia.

W. MONTAGUE NMA HEALTH
Cobb Institute

1050 Connecticut Ave., NW

Fifth Floor, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20036

202.722.4274

info@thecobbinstitute.org

www.thecobbinstitute.org