



# Health Disparities Symposium

## Presenters

NYU Langone's 2023 Health Disparities Symposium features Raina M. Merchant, MD, MSHP, FAHA as the keynote speaker and other esteemed presenters.

### Keynote Speaker

Dr. Merchant is Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer for the University of Pennsylvania Health System. She is also a tenured Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and has secondary appointments in the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Division of General Internal Medicine, and Division of Health Policy. Dr. Merchant received a BA from Yale University, MD from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, and Masters of Science in Health Policy Research from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an alumnus of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. Her research and operations portfolio are at the intersection of digital media and health and aim to bridge new technologies in the fields of cardiovascular health, mental health, cancer care, surgical care, public health, health equity, and resuscitation science.

Dr. Merchant has been continuously funded by the NIH since 2011. She has over 185 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as NEJM, JAMA, Circulation, and Health Affairs. Her work has been featured in Wired, the Economist, New York Times, the Atlantic and others. She is a member of the editorial board of JAMA and co-founded Accelerate Health Equity a Philadelphia collaborative connecting health systems, payors, the Philadelphia Department of Health, and civic organizations. She is an Aspen Health Innovators Fellow and was recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one of 10 investigators likely to have a significant impact on the future of health and healthcare in the US. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

### Panelists

Jenna Blind serves as the Director of Education, Professional Development, and Quality Improvement at the NYU Langone Home Health Care Agency and the Home Hospital Program. Aside from her current position, she has held a variety of roles in her nursing career in the specialties of Nursing Quality, Clinical Informatics, and Critical Care. Dr. Blind earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing Administration with Informatics from Molloy University, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Healthcare Systems Leadership from Chamberlain University. She is an Adjunct Professor at Molloy University in the Undergraduate Nursing Program. Dr. Blind is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) and is a recent graduate

of the Clinical Quality Fellowship Program sponsored by the Greater New York Hospital Association and the United Hospital Fund.

Silas Buchanan is the Founder and CEO of the Institute for eHealth Equity, a social impact consulting firm. Silas is an experienced underserved-community engagement strategist, dedicated to building equitable partnerships and crafting web-based ecosystems that solve for known, outreach and engagement failure points. Silas has worked with various healthcare payer, provider, government and academic stakeholders across the United States and has expertise in equitably connecting, partnering, and activating trusted faith and community-based organizations. Silas has contributed thought leadership to the National Academies of Medicine, the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative, Morehouse School of Medicine, HIMSS, Accenture, American Telemedicine Association, Digital Medicine Society, and the Kraft Precision Medicine Accelerator at Harvard Business School, among many others.

Kenrick Cato is a clinical informatician whose research focuses on mining electronic patient data to support decision-making for clinicians, patients, and caregivers. Operationally, he spends his time mining and modeling Nursing data to optimize Nursing value in Healthcare. He is also involved in several national-level informatics organizations, including as a board member of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), Chair of the Nursing Informatics Working Group (NIWG) of AMIA, as well as a convening member of the AMIA-sponsored 25 x 5 initiative to reduce documentation burden. Dr. Cato received his BSN, MS, and Ph.D. in Clinical informatics at Columbia University.

Rumi Chunara is Associate Professor of Biostatistics, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Tandon, and Director of Center for Health Data Science at the NYU School of Global Public Health. Dr. Chunara's research focuses on computational and statistical approaches for acquiring, integrating and using data to improve population-level public health. She focuses on the design and development of data mining and machine learning methods to address challenges related to data and goals of public health, as well as fairness and ethics in the design and use of data and algorithms embedded in social systems. Previously, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow and Instructor at HealthMap and the Children's Hospital Informatics Program at Harvard Medical School. She completed her PhD at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and BSc at Caltech.

Caitlin Cronk is a health IT strategist at NYU Langone Health. She leads the Digital Product and User Experience Design teams in strategy and delivery of digital experiences for patients, clinicians, researchers and staff. Caitlin serves as a technology co-lead for the Beyond Bridges program, facilitating digital solution strategy and delivery of equitable product offerings for all members of the Sunset Park community. Prior to joining NYU Langone, Caitlin was a healthcare consultant with Accenture where she helped her clients understand and assess the digital health market as well as plan for and execute large system implementations. Caitlin has a BS and MS in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the Pennsylvania State University, and an MBA from Columbia University.

Hye J. Heo, MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYU Long Island School of Medicine. From early childhood, her career goal was always to become a physician. She has been inspired by all the doctors she has known throughout my life. Academically, she was also drawn to mathematics, science, and human biology. She chose to subspecialize in maternal–fetal medicine because it provides her the rare opportunity to care for the unique needs of expecting mothers. It also affords her the chance to practice preventive medicine at the earliest stages of human development. She offers advanced ultrasound diagnosis, fetal testing and diagnosis, and management of a wide range of maternal and fetal complications of pregnancy.

Bonnie Kerker, MPH, PhD, is an associate professor of population health and child/adolescent psychiatry at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the director of Together Growing Strong, a community-partnered initiative that aims to enhance the health, wellbeing, and development of young children and their families in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Trained in health policy and epidemiology, Dr. Kerker studies initiatives and policies that prevent and mitigate the impact of adverse experiences among young children and families, particularly in immigrant and low-resourced communities. Her work emphasizes centering community voice and equity, creating equitable systems, strengthening community assets, and adapting evidence-based programs for different populations and settings.

Katharine Lawrence is an assistant professor in the Departments of Medicine and Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, and faculty in the NYU Healthcare Innovation Bridging Research, Informatics, and Design (HiBRID) Lab. An internist by training, Dr. Lawrence completed her residency in primary care at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, staying on after residency to complete a Fellowship in Healthcare Delivery Science with a focus on digital health care delivery. Dr. Lawrence's work in the HiBRID lab focuses on the intersections of digital health, implementation science, and health equity across both research and health systems operational initiatives. Clinically, Dr. Lawrence works as a teaching hospitalist in the Manhattan VA Hospital.

In her career, Jeanmarie Moorehead, EdD, MA, RN, NEA-BC, has held various clinical, administrative, and education positions. In her current role, Dr. Moorehead is the Senior Director of Operations at NYU Langone Health, overseeing the Certified Home Health Agency and the Home Hospital program. Dr. Moorehead is currently the President–elect of the Greater New York Organization for Nurse Leaders and an active member of the New York State Action Collation for the Future of Nursing and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. Dr. Moorehead is a past Margaret McClure Scholar recipient. She is passionate about healthy work environments, population health nursing, and the promotion of health equity.

Angel Mui, MEd, is a Project Coordinator in the Section for Health Equity within the Department of Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where she coordinates and oversees research studies and community recruitment efforts at the Center for the Study of Asian American health (CSAAH). Her current work focuses on

culturally responsive and community-engaged research to advance health equity in the immigrant Chinese community. She earned her B.A. in Psychology and Asian Studies at Cornell University and completed her Masters of Education in Mental Health Counseling at Teachers College at Columbia University.

Charlene Ngamwajasat, MD is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Clinical Informatics and is a New York State licensed physician. Her path was a direct route. At 18, she decided to forego traditional college education and opted for a 7 year combined BS/MD program because she wanted to help people stay healthy and/or mitigate the effects of their health problems. She chose a program that focused on providing care to underserved communities because I come from humble means and she believes that everyone deserves good quality care regardless of where they come from. After residency, she decided to take some time off to travel, discover new ideas, meet interesting people, and really delve into the dynamic changes that were occurring in medicine -especially those related to the use of technology. She really wanted to understand the topic and devised a learning plan. In the years since that time, she has mentored startups and entrepreneurs, spoken on panels related to design and innovation in digital health, and continues to write about the issues and the people who are making waves in the space. Currently, she serves as the senior physician informaticist at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Kerry O'Brien is Senior Director, Clinical Systems at NYU Langone Health with responsibility for the Nursing Informatics and Epic Training Teams. She has clinical experience in cardiovascular and critical care nursing, as well as extensive program development experience – leading Winthrop University Hospital – now NYU Long Island – to be one of the first hospitals in NY State to be designated as a Primary Stroke Center. Kerry has been an informaticist for 17 years and led numerous clinical system implementations and Meaningful Use/Promoting Interoperability initiatives. She played a key leadership role in the Epic integrations for the NYU Long Island and Long Island Community Hospital campuses. Kerry is involved with emerging technologies related to improving the quality, safety, and efficiency of nursing care and improving clinician digital experience. She is pursuing part-time PhD in Nursing studies at Molloy University, planning to combine her passions for technology, public health and intervention research to help close health literacy and digital health equity gaps for the patients we serve.

As President & CEO, Catina O'Leary, PhD, LMSW, oversees Health Literacy Media's core activities and programs to set and maintain the strategic vision for the organization. Her primary focus has been on building sustainable health literacy programming to address systemic challenges in the delivery of health care and clinical research, and making health and science information accessible and meaningful to the people who need it most.

Kellie Owens, PhD, is Assistant Professor in NYU Langone's Department of Population Health. She is a medical sociologist and empirical bioethicist whose work focuses on the ethical use of health information technologies. She is particularly interested in understanding when and how new technologies worsen or improve health inequities.

Her most recent projects explore the actionability of genomic data for healthy populations, and she is also interested in developing better social and technical infrastructures to support artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) tools in healthcare.

Joseph E. Ravenell, MD, is an associate professor in NYU Langone's Departments of Population Health and Medicine, Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs and Inclusion, and Director of Diversity in Research at the Perlmutter Cancer Center. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, completed his internal medicine residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and finished a clinical epidemiology and health services research fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Ravenell has been a principal investigator of multiple NIH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant-funded clinical trials to test community-based strategies to improve colon cancer screening and cardiovascular disease prevention among Black men in urban settings. This work has led to a research network of more than 200 community-based sites including churches, barbershops, mosques, and social service agencies. Dr. Ravenell's community-based research was the subject of an invited TED talk he delivered in Vancouver, BC, in February 2016, which has received over 1 million views. Dr. Ravenell is also an established mentor for students, trainees, and junior faculty seeking careers in academic medicine and health disparities research. He continually cultivates a holistic approach to promoting health equity through research, scholarship, and mentorship.

Brita Roy, MD, MPH, MHS, is Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health, Section of Health Equity, and in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine. She also serves as the Director of Community Health and Clinical Outcomes for Beyond Bridges, a transformative initiative in Brooklyn, NY that aims to improve population health and well-being in a diverse immigrant community through community-clinical partnerships. Her scholarly work uses epidemiologic methods to identify health-promoting positive psychosocial factors that influence health outcomes and health equity at the individual and community levels. Dr. Roy then applies community-based implementation science and systems science strategies to facilitate the design of collaborative, effective and efficient, assets-based interventions that foster these health-promoting factors to support population health and well-being. She co-leads the Collective WELL Research Team and previously co-led the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) 100 Million Healthier Lives measurement team and served as lead faculty for the IHI Pathways to Population Health Action Community. Additionally, Dr. Roy enjoys caring for patients and teaching medical students and residents as an academic hospitalist. Dr. Roy received a Bachelors in Engineering from Vanderbilt University, followed by a Masters in Engineering from Wayne State University. She then completed a combined MD/MPH at the University of Michigan before completing residency and Chief Residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Roy was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at Yale University from 2013-2015.

Mark D. Schwartz, MD is a Professor in NYU Langone's Departments of Population Health and Medicine. His research focuses at the interface of health services research, primary care practice transformation, and health policy. He leads a VA research team conducting epidemiologic studies of novel predictors of Type 2 diabetes among veterans. He leads a NIDDK-funded R18 randomized trial of a community health worker intervention to prevent diabetes among those with prediabetes at VA NY Harbor and Bellevue Hospitals. He is Co-PI of an HRSA-funded project to transform primary care practice at Bellevue Hospital with a team training intervention. He recently led a VA-funded project; PROVE (Program of Research on Outcomes of VA Education), a controlled trial of panel management support and clinical microsystem education to improve outcomes among veterans with hypertension and smoking. And he was recently Co-PI of an AMA-funded project to integrate health system science education into the medical school curriculum at NYU School of Medicine. He has over twenty years of educational leadership, having led NYU School of Medicine's General Internal Medicine Fellowship Program since 1995. He directed NYU's NIH Clinical Research Training Program and founded its Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation Program. He directed the CDC-funded Fellowship in Medicine and Public Health Research. He was founding Director of the Translational Research Education and Careers core in NYU's Clinical Translational Science Institute. He has been PI of three HRSA-funded Faculty Development Programs in Primary Care grants. He is Co-PI of an AHRQ-funded T32 fellowship in Population Health Science and is Program Director of a HRSA-funded T32 in Primary Care Research. He has successfully mentored numerous faculty, fellows, residents and students.

Dr. Paul Testa is the Chief Medical Information Officer at NYU Langone Health. Dr. Testa leads the MCIT Department of Health Informatics, which stewards clinical, nursing, and research informatics; digital health innovation; informatics educational programs; digital health equity; applied AI; and health IT safety efforts. He and the team of informaticists work with all levels of leadership, clinicians, researchers, educators, and operations to transform and advance care delivery via innovative and equitable digital health solutions. The informatics team is critical in the health system's strategic efforts; he is an Assistant Professor in the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine at NYU Langone Health. His areas of academic interest include digital health, health informatics, risk management, and emergency medicine.

Kathleen Zavotsky is a PhD prepared nurse researcher with over 20 years of clinical, research, leadership and education experience. Award recognized educator and national speaker on research, clinical and quality and safety topics. She is a graduate of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey for her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and earned a PhD in Nursing Philosophy from Seton Hall University. She is board-certified as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) in Adult Gerontology and was Inducted as a fellow in the Academy of Emergency Nursing (FAEN) by the Emergency Nurses Association and as a Fellow in the Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute (FCNS) by the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. She is currently the System Senior Director of Nursing Research and Program Evaluation at NYU Langone Health in New York City.