



NYU Langone Health

2024 Health Disparities Symposium

Presenters

NYU Langone's 2024 Health Equity Symposium features Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, MPH, as the keynote speaker, along with many other esteemed presenters.

Keynote Speaker

Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, MPH, is the inaugural and founding director of the Institute for Excellence in Health Equity (IEHE) at NYU Langone Health. He is the Dr. Adolph & Margaret Berger Professor of Medicine and Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He is a leading NIH-funded scientist in health equity research. He has led numerous NIH-funded studies for cardiovascular disease risk reduction with a focus on developing and evaluating clinic-community linkage models of care to address inequities in health outcomes.

Dr. Ogedegbe is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the United States Prevention Services Task Force (USPSTF). He is a Fellow of many scientific organizations including the American Heart Association, American College of Physicians and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine.

After obtaining his MD degree in Ukraine, Dr. Ogedegbe completed his residency in internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, followed by a fellowship training in Health Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology at Cornell University, during which received his MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Prior to his current position, he was a faculty member at both Cornell Weill Medical College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Panelists

Alzahraa (Zahra) Ahmed is a Community Health Representative/Patient Navigator at the Perlmutter Cancer Center who has long been deeply passionate about exploring the social constructs of health and communal, vernacular methods of disease prevention. Her professional tenure has involved providing social services to diverse Arabic-speaking communities originally from the Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region, including LGBTQ+ sub-communities, in the United States and internationally. As part of her dedication to addressing public health disparities and social determinants of health among immigrant communities, Alzahraa serves as Health Equity Ambassador (HEA) for the American Cancer Society and Ambassador for the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW). Additionally, she is pursuing a Master of Clinical Social Work (MSW) to expand her impact in this field.

Kevin Fiori, MD, MPH, MS, is the Vice Chair for Community Health & Engagement and inaugural Division Chief for the Division of Community and Population Health within the Department of Pediatrics, Director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Montefiore Health System, Director of Social Determinants of Health for Montefiore Health System's Office of Population and Community



Health, and Associate Professor in both Pediatrics and Family and Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Co-Founder and Senior Advisor at Integrate Health. His research aims to address health disparities in communities both in the Bronx and abroad and is primary investigator on multiple ongoing implementation research studies in Togo, West Africa and the Bronx, particularly focused on community health worker integration within health systems. Dr. Fiori completed residency training in Social Pediatrics and served as Chief Resident at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. He completed a MD at the University of Washington, MPH at Boston University School of Public Health as part of a 3 year Peace Corps Service in Togo, and MS in Clinical Research Methods at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

LaTasha Fraser, PhD, is a dedicated STEM educator with over a decade of experience teaching students at various educational levels. She holds a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in Molecular Genetics from Rutgers University, an M.S. in Cell Biology from the University of Connecticut, and dual BS degrees in Forensic Science and Biology from the University of New Haven. As the Program Manager for Pathway Programs within the Office of Diversity Affairs, Dr. Fraser directs the Science & Technology Entry Program and manages the Office of Diversity Affairs (ODA) Visiting Elective Fund at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Additionally, she teaches Anatomy and Physiology as an adjunct instructor at Montclair State University. Dr. Fraser's research in molecular genetics, focusing on gene expression variability, has been published and presented at numerous national and international conferences. Her accolades include multiple NIH Diversity Supplements, international travel fellowships, and the Janssen Cardiovascular & Metabolism Award from the Executive Women of New Jersey. She is passionate about inspiring students to become the next leaders in STEM, and continues to support those students through her curriculums and programs.

Amy Freeman, PhD, MPH, is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and serves as co-Director of the Community Health Worker Research & Resource Center (CHW-RRC) and senior advisor to the Health x Housing Lab. Her work has been focused on place-based initiatives to address health inequities, as well as developing and evaluating interventions aimed at improving social determinants of health. She has extensive experience collaborating with community health workers, developing community partnerships, and conducting community-based research. She is committed to elevating the voices of CHWs and advancing policies to ensure greater recognition of and support for this workforce. She is currently Principal Investigator on a qualitative study assessing facilitators and barriers to the integration of CHWs into clinical care across New York State.

Dina Pimenova, MPH, is Senior Project Coordinator at NYU Langone's Community Health Worker Research & Resource Center (CHW-RRC), where she supports program development, research, policy initiatives, and professional growth for the CHW workforce at NYU Langone and beyond. With expertise in patient advocacy, care management, and social service navigation for diverse populations, including refugees and asylees, Medicaid recipients, and patients with complex needs, Dina strives to amplify the voices of CHWs who navigate siloed health and social services systems, aiming to ensure they receive the acknowledgment and resources they deserve. Holding an MPH in Global Health and Infectious Disease from Emory University and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Maryland, Dina has supported research grants, organized educational webinars and town halls for frontline workers, and hosted conferences on CHW workforce sustainability.

Alexandr (Alex) Trifonov joined his role as a Program Coordinator of the LGBTQ+ Cancer Care and Research Program at Perlmutter Cancer Center in April 2023, previously serving in a role of Community Health Representative with Stamp Out Cancer Brooklyn program. He also serves as a



Co-Chair of PCC's LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty Task force. Alex actively navigates LGBTQ+ patients and refugees to proficient care and advocates for them addressing issues in health care settings as well as social determinants of health. In addition, he trains PCC staff and faculty in LGBTQ+ community knowledge and proficiency. Originally from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Alex has held multiple clinical roles and worked in Emergency department, multispecialty clinics and other departments. He is passionate in LGBTQ+ cancer-related research and is an active member of GLMA and WPATH professional organizations.

Safiya Voss is a recent Community Health Worker of the Montefiore Medical Center system who has worked very closely with the Bronx's diverse community to help patients reach their goals to improve their quality of life. She has since transitioned into a Training Specialist role that allows her to educate new and current employees of the Community Health Worker Institute program on how to navigate different social needs of today's society and those living in less fortunate neighborhoods of New York City. Working as a Community Health Worker for over a year greatly prepared her for this role. Living in the same neighborhood as some of her patients has given her the drive and compassion to continue providing exceptional services.

Amin Yakubov, MPH, MBA, ACRP-CP, currently serves as the Associate Director of Research Operations at the Clinical Research Center within NYU Langone Health Brooklyn. Amin is dedicated to advancing and creating access to innovative clinical research to underserved and diverse populations. His over 10 years of career experience spans roles at the NYU Langone Health (NYULH) Clinical and Translational Science Institute, NYULH Perlmutter Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Institute of Precision Medicine, Leica Biosystems and Weill Cornell/NY Presbyterian Hospital. Amin holds a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Administration from the Zicklin School of Business and a Master of Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology and Healthcare Policy from the CUNY School of Public Health. His educational foundation, complemented by a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from CUNY Hunter College, forms the cornerstone of his expertise in clinical research, research strategy, community engagement, research educational, and clinical trials. Amin has published in fields of clinical research including, developing programs that increased access to cancer therapeutic research, implicit bias training in cancer research, implementation of cancer screening programs, developing and implementing clinical research infrastructure, and educational programs for all careers levels geared at improving clinical research training in staff and research education literacy among community health workers. Amin's professional affiliations, board memberships, and consulting engagements including Association of Clinical Research Professionals, American Public Health Association, and American College of Healthcare Executives among others, underscore his commitment to advancing the practice of healthcare and clinical research and shaping industry standards, while his active involvement in mentorship programs highlights his passion for nurturing future leaders in clinical research.