

# Maternal and Child Health Disparities



HBCUs ERADICATING  
ECONOMIC & HEALTH  
DISPARITIES

*4th Annual*  
**HEEHD**

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

December 9th & 10th, 2022



**JUXTOPIA GROUP, INC.**

## **HEEHD 2022 Conference Chair**

Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD, Juxtopia®, USA

## **HEEHD 2022 Conference Co-Chairs**

Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III, USA

Bridgie A. Ford, PhD, USA



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University of Missouri





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***Greetings and Welcome to the 4th Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Eradicating Economic and Health Disparities (HEEHD) Conference – Maternal and Child Health Disparities.***

The leadership of Juxtopia® extends a heartwarming welcome to all presenters and conference participants. Our 4th HEEHD conference is a virtual two-day scientific conference that presents diverse perspectives from congressional leaders, academicians, researchers, and a broad range of stakeholders representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Faith-Based Organizations, Health Care Organizations, Small Businesses, and Community Based Organizations.

The 2022 HEEHD Conference is designed to address economic and health disparity issues with the aim of accomplishing the following objectives:

1. Enhance participant understanding of the influence of structural barriers and social determinants on maternal and child health outcomes.
2. Engage audience participation in the discussion of diverse viewpoints about influencing factors that spur the disproportionate rates of morbidity and mortality in African American communities and communities of colors relative to Maternal and Child Health.
3. Analyze barriers that prevent HBCUs from securing significant funding awards to support translational research in maternal and child health.
4. Assess opportunities for deploying innovative biotechnology solutions to reduce excess maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, and disability.

Our distinguished conference faculty will highlight factors that present challenges to the health and wellness of pre-conception, pregnant and postpartum women, and infants and children of color. In many instances, the challenges will reflect the effects of medical racism, social injustices, and structural barriers in critical social determinants of health. Disparities in healthcare in communities of color in the U.S. have persisted for decades despite advancements in medical care. Underrepresentation of women and children of color in clinical research contributes to this problem as does basic access to quality care. Historically communities of color are disproportionately excluded and/or experience harms more frequently than dominant groups. This is well documented for Blacks, Hispanics, and Native American women. Pregnancy-related mortality rates among Black and Alaska Native women are over three and two times higher, respectively, compared to the rate for White women (40.8 and 29.7 vs. 12.7 per 100,000). Maternal health disparities for these minority groups increase by maternal age and persist across education levels. Black maternal mortality rates at five times those of non-Hispanic women. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that 60% or more of maternal deaths could have been prevented.

It is imperative that we work collaboratively with cross-sector stakeholders, including our appointed Congressional Leaders, to develop health policies that ensure equitable access to care by all communities. Furthermore, it is essential that HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions are resourced so they can be effective and instrumental in mitigating the consequences of social injustices in racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Thank you for your participation in the 2022 HEEHD Conference! Your active participation and commitment will make the difference!

Sincerely,

*Jayfus T. Doswell*  
Jayfus T. Doswell, PhD  
Conference Chair

*Diane L. Adams*  
Diane L. Adams, MD  
Conference Co-Chair

*Bridgie A. Ford*  
Bridgie A. Ford, PhD  
Conference Co-Chair

*“Power properly understood is nothing but the ability to achieve purpose.  
It is the strength required to bring about social, political and economic change.”*  
Martin Luther King, Jr.



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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Day One

(Time)	(Description)
9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	<b>Conference Welcome &amp; Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Chair</li> <li>• <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> <li>• <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> </ul>
9:05 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	<b>Introduction of Special Guest Speaker</b> <b>Polly S. Turner, DrPH MPH, RPh</b> , HEEHD Conference Advisor
9:15 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.	<b>Special Guest Speaker</b> <b>The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee</b> , United States House of Representatives
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker: Urmeka T. Jefferson, PhD, RN</b> , Associate Professor, Rush University, Department of Women, Children and Family Nursing, College of Nursing, Chicago, IL.  Includes a 10-minute Q&A Session.  Moderator: <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>
10:35 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	<b>Ethical Issues Associated with Assisted Reproductive Technologies.</b> Presentation describing the interplay of overlapping health, social and/or cultural contexts while highlighting contemporary ethical issues associated with Assisted Reproductive Technologies.  <b>Brenda A. Leath, DPS, MHSA, PMP</b> , President & CEO of Leath & Associates.  Includes a 10-minute Q&A Session.  Moderator: <b>Iris Zachery, PhD</b> , Director Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center, Associate Professor, University of Missouri
11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<b>Birth Justice (Video): Perspectives from the Audience</b> <a href="https://vimeo.com/699867951/a8423204ea">https://vimeo.com/699867951/a8423204ea</a>  Moderator: <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	
12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.	<b>Featured Speaker: Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN</b> , Director, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health  Includes a 10-minute Q&A Session.  Moderator: <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>

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Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Day One

(Time)	(Description)
12:55 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	<p><b>Aftershock (Video Trailer):</b> When a Black mother dies, there is a ripple effect. AFTERSHOCK, an original documentary from Onyx Collective and ABC News Studios that premiered July 19th on Hulu.</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/k63RCorJEd8">https://youtu.be/k63RCorJEd8</a></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b></p>
1:15 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.	<p><b>MOMCares, Serving Black Women Navigating High-Risk Pregnancies.</b> This presentation will review our focus, our methods, and our results for supporting Black birthing folks in Baltimore City and the Greater Maryland area.</p> <p><b>Ana Rodney</b>, MOMCares, Founder &amp; Executive Director</p> <p>Includes a 10-minute Q&amp;A Session.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b></p>
<b>BREAK</b>	
2:10 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	<p><b>Relationship Between Sensory Distortion During Pregnancy (SDDP) and Maternal Mental Health.</b> This research describes emerging approaches for determining risk factors in maternal mental health (MMH) and a unique approach to maternal health research, disrupting or preventing the impact of discrimination, bias, indifference; taking women's reports of smelling things, feeling different, and loss of sensation during pregnancy, seriously.</p> <p>Includes a 10-minute Q&amp;A Session.</p> <p><b>Kay Hamlin, President/CEO</b>, Sustainable Wellness, LLC</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Brenda A. Leath, DPS, MHSA, PMP</b></p>
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Charleta Guillory, MD, MPH, FAAP</b>, Director, Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, Texas.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b></p>
<b>DAY ONE WRAP UP &amp; Online Evaluation Survey</b>	
3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Chair</li> <li>• <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> <li>• <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> </ul>

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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Day Two

(Time)	(Description)
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	<b>HEEHD Team Welcomes Participants - Recap and Day Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Chair</li> <li>• <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> <li>• <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b>, HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> </ul>
9:20 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	<b>Artificial Intelligent enabled Wearable Pregnancy Monitoring to Prevent Maternal and Fetal Mortality and Morbidity:</b> Presentation on how Juxtopia's preliminary research in continuous monitoring combined with artificial intelligent (AI) culturally competent, ethical and empathic (CCEE) clinical decision support systems (CDSS) can, potentially, reduce infant/maternal mortality & morbidity to millions of African American women with improved methods of early identifying, analyzing, and delivering culturally competent care to African American pregnant women anywhere, anytime.  <b>Jayfus T. Doswell, PhD</b> , President & CEO, Juxtopia LLC  Moderator: <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III</b>
<b>Maternal and Child Health Abstract Reviews</b>  Moderator: <b>Jayfus T. Doswell, PhD</b> , President & CEO, Juxtopia LLC	
9:55 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.	<b>JiBi, A Wearable Artificial Intelligent Conversational Assistant to E-Validate earliest signs of Preeclampsia among African American Pregnant Women.</b> The Idhini, an African American (AA) owned clinical trial patient recruitment (CTPR) company, will discuss a novel CTPR intervention JiBi as an artificial intelligent (AI) culturally competent, empathetic, and ethical (CCEE) speech response software service to facilitate interactive conversations with pregnant.  <b>Gerad Charlot</b> , President/CEO, Idhini, Inc. (Baltimore, Maryland)
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<b>WAM: Wearable Asthma Monitor for Preventing Asthma Exacerbations among Black Asthmatic Children.</b> To mitigate asthma non-adherence and disparities, Abeona Group researchers will present the WAM product prototype.  <b>Kimberly Armstrong</b> , President/CEO, Abeona Group, LLC, (Baltimore, Maryland)
11:05 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.	<b>Socio-Economic Factors to K-12 COVID-19 reporting.</b> This abstract examines the impact of socio-economic status on the rate of positive Covid-19 cases among the K-12 schools in Maryland. This research attempted to find out how indices such as median income, poverty level, health insurance status etc. affects the rate of Covid-19 cases among schools in different areas of the State of Maryland.  <b>Aderonke Oduwole</b> , Research Assistant, Bowie State University
<b>BREAK</b>	

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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Day Two

(Time)	(Description)
11:55 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.	<p><b>MyArete, a mHealth Intervention to Early Identify SAD among Child Athletes.</b> To identify the earliest signs of social anxiety disorder (SAD) among adolescent athletes, the Beyond My Expectation researchers will present MyArete.</p> <p><b>Ms. Kellye Jones, President/CEO,</b> Beyond My Expectations, LLC</p>
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<p><b>JUICE Economic Process. Supplier Management Best Practices to Sustain Organizational Resiliency During Disruptions.</b> This presentation will impact organizations by providing evidence-based organization resilience best practices that can improve supplier relationship management during supplier disruption by regulating business processes, increasing productivity, increasing revenue, improving customer loyalty, improving competitive advantage, and reducing operating costs.</p> <p><b>Cyrus Green, M.S., MBA, DBA, Co-Director,</b> The JUICE Network, The Juxtapia Group, Inc.</p>
(Post Conference Delivery Format)	<p><b>The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative.</b> The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) created the Cycle of Engagement Well Visit approach to break down these barriers by empowering families to partner in care.</p> <p><b>Shoshana Oppenheim,</b> Graduate Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) (Baltimore, Maryland)</p>
<p><b>Online Evaluation Survey (1:00 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.)</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD</b></p>	
<p><b>Juxtapia® HEEHD 2022 Closing Session</b></p>	
1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD,</b> HEEHD Conference Chair</li> <li>• <b>Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III,</b> HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> <li>• <b>Bridgie A. Ford, PhD,</b> HEEHD Conference Co-Chair</li> </ul>

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## Special Guest Speaker Biography



### **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee**

[jacksonlee.house.gov](http://jacksonlee.house.gov)

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is an influential and forceful voice in Washington. She is serving her fourteenth term as a member of the United States House of Representatives. She represents the 18th Congressional District of Texas, centered in Houston, which is the energy capital of the world. Considered by many as the “Voice of Reason,” she is dedicated to upholding the Constitutional rights of all people.

She sits on three Congressional Committees — a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security and a member of the crucial Budget Committee. Jackson Lee has been the primary sponsor of 10 bills that were enacted. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee was Chair of the Congressional Coronavirus Task.

In the previous Congress, she authored, introduced and saw passage of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Additionally, she introduced several bills including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, H.R. 71, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2015, and H.R. 4660, an Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015 affirming the authority of the Attorney General to reduce prison overcrowding by developing and implementing lawful policies relating to requests for executive clemency from deserving petitioners.

She is the past Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee for Maritime and Border Security wherein she co-authored HR 1417, a bipartisan bill which has been touted as the best vehicle for accomplishing comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee is also the past Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection which under her leadership she passed the Transportation Security Act of 2007 which increased the funding for America’s transportation security. As Chairwoman, Congresswoman Jackson Lee supported enhanced technology, better intelligence, increased airplane cargo inspections, increased security for railroads, and implementation of the 9/11 Commission report.

She was named by ‘Congressional Quarterly’ as one of the 50 most effective Members of Congress and the ‘U.S. News and World Report’ named her as one of the 10 most influential legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives. Also, the Center for Effective Lawmaking, a joint initiative between the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University, named her the 2nd most effective Democrat in Congress during the 114th Congress, the 15th most effective Democrat in Congress during the 115th Congress, and the most effective Democrat in the Texas delegation during the 115th Congress.. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee earned a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University with honors in the first graduating class including females, followed by a J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School.

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# Keynote Speaker Biography



**Urmeka T. Jefferson, PhD, RN**  
[Urmeka\\_Jefferson@rush.edu](mailto:Urmeka_Jefferson@rush.edu)

Urmeka Jefferson is an Associate Professor at Rush University College of Nursing who is passionate about reducing breastfeeding disparities and improving health outcomes in women and infants. She has over 16 years of clinical experience caring for women and critically-ill infants that revealed the impact of implicit bias on the provision of breastfeeding support. Dr. Jefferson seeks to expand best practices in maternal-child health that promote equity and social justice for African American women. Dr. Jefferson has advanced the body of knowledge regarding infant feeding attitudes and intentions of college students and illuminated determinants of breastfeeding for African American women. She has developed the Mother's Milk Connection app now called LatchOn which combines multiple components to bridge the gap in breastfeeding support from hospital to home and promote convenient access to community services. Dr. Jefferson is dedicated to leading breastfeeding research focused on interventions that resonates with the cultural and contextual traditions of African American mothers. The aims of her current project are to refine the LatchOn design, conduct usability testing, and examine breastfeeding outcomes in a clinic setting. Dr. Jefferson's mHealth breastfeeding care coordination model holds promise for engendering effective change in breastfeeding outcomes for African American women that can yield health benefits for generations to come.

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## Featured Speaker Biography



**Charleta Guillory, MD, MPH, FAAP**  
[exguillo@texaschildrens.org](mailto:exguillo@texaschildrens.org)  
[guillory@bcm.edu](mailto:guillory@bcm.edu)

Dr. Guillory is Professor of Pediatrics, Neonatology Section, Baylor College of Medicine, and Director of the Texas Children's Hospital Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program. She is the past Director of the Texas Children's Hospital Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She has invaluable experience caring for newborns, including those with genetic and metabolic disorders. Her primary research addresses the issue of decreasing Black infant mortality and morbidity. Dr. Guillory earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Louisiana State University Medical School and completed her pediatric residency at Louisiana State University Medical Center and the University of Colorado. She received her post-doctoral fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. She received her master's degree in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Dr. Guillory's leadership in community initiatives distinguishes her as a warrior for babies. She championed landmark legislation in Texas on Newborn Screening and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Dr. Guillory is the Past Chair of the Texas Department of State Health Services Newborn Screening Advisory Committee and Past Co-Chair of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mother and Babies-Neonatal Committee. She was one of six physicians nationally to receive the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship Award from The Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences for Outstanding Health Science Professionals.

Dr. Guillory is the recipient of many awards, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Special Achievement Award, for her co-development of the Texas Pulse Oximetry Project Patient Care Toolkit to initiate implementation of statewide screening for critical congenital heart disease; the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) Sidney Kaliski Award for substantial contribution to the health of children; the American Academy of Pediatrics President's Cup Award, in recognition of her contributions to improve access to healthcare for children; and Dr. Guillory was named a Women of Excellence and received the Master Clinician Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, the highest institution-wide honor by Baylor College of Medicine. Recently, she was appointed to the AAP National Committee on Fetus and Newborn and served as President of the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) of the American Academy of Pediatrics for 2021. She currently serves as Chapter Chair President, TPS/AAP.

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# Featured Speaker

## Biographies



**Brenda A Leath, DPS, MHSA, PMP**

[brenda@leathassociates.com](mailto:brenda@leathassociates.com)

Dr. Brenda A. Leath is President & CEO of Leath & Associates. She is a biomedical ethicist and health policy strategist. Dr. Leath earned her Doctorate in Professional Studies degree in Biomedical Ethics and Health Policy from the Albany Medical College, Alden March Bioethics Institute; Master of Health Services Administration degree in Health Policy and Planning from The George Washington University, School of Government and Business Administration; and Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Georgetown University, College of Arts and Sciences. She has maintained her Project Management Professional (PMP)

certification from the Project Management Institute since 2006. Dr. Leath's career spans more than 30 years and reflects a continuous and piercing focus on the pursuit of health equity through her work in diverse public and private sector settings--academic medical centers, public policy, corporate research, and nonprofit organizations and her steadfast focus on efforts that are anchored in Community Health; Patient Centered Care; Population Health; Cultural and Linguistic Competency; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Public Health. Dr. Leath is the recipient of various honors, esteemed recognitions, federal and private sector awards, and gubernatorial and mayoral citations for her work.



**Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN**

[info@ninr.nih.gov](mailto:info@ninr.nih.gov)

Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN is Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). Her background is in nursing and public health. Dr. Zenk's own research focuses on community environments as a social determinant of health and health inequities. She and her team conducted pioneering research on food deserts in the United States.

Dr. Zenk is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and was inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in 2019. She earned her bachelor's in nursing, from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington; her master's degrees in public health nursing and community health sciences from the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC); and her doctorate in health behavior and health education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Zenk was previously Nursing Collegiate Professor in the Department of Population Health Nursing Science at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing, and Fellow in the UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy.

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# Conference Chair Biography



**Jayfus Tucker Doswell, PhD, Juxtopia®**

[jayfus@juxtopia.com](mailto:jayfus@juxtopia.com)

<http://www.juxtopia.org/>

Dr. Doswell is the founder, president, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Juxtopia®; a privately held for-profit biomedical and information technology company with a mission for improving human performance®. Dr. Doswell earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Oberlin College with degrees in Cognitive Neuro-Psychology and Computer Science; a Master's degree in Systems and Computer Science from Howard University; and a Ph.D. degree in Information Technology from George Mason University. His Dissertation, defended in 2005, created the world's first culturally adaptive artificial intelligent (AI) virtual instructor software architecture to deliver personalized instruction to underserved populations in mixed reality (e.g., augmented reality, virtual reality) environments. Prior to starting Juxtopia®, Dr. Doswell led several commercial engineering teams at Fortune 500 companies ranging from Lockheed

Martin and SAIC to KPMG as their senior software engineer. Dr. Doswell also contributed to early biomedical and nanotechnology informatics algorithms while working at the National Cancer Institute to help create better cancer treatments.

Dr. Doswell invented and successfully led Juxtopia® to secure research and development (R&D) funding for the development of Juxtopia's innovative wearable technology products for improving human health and learning. Dr. Doswell invented and successfully developed Juxtopia's innovative wearable technology products for improving human health and learning. The Juxtopia® Augmented Reality (AR) platform is one wearable technology platform from which various wearable AR products are created for improving human training ranging from neurosurgery to public health response training. From this platform, Dr. Doswell led Juxtopia to secure an unprecedented 1st of its kind contract to engineer innovative e-training technology to train all U.S. Army 68W medical personnel to improve their tactical combat casualty care (TC3) skill proficiency. Recently, Dr. Doswell led Juxtopia® to secure a NIH SBIR Phase I grant entitled "Artificial Intelligent Augmented Reality Police E-Trainer for Culturally Competent De-Escalation and Non-Lethal Force Police Training to Eradicate Police Against Police Violence Against Black Males." <https://bit.ly/3EMCu4M>. Dr. Doswell was one of 20 competitors, nationwide, in the National Institutes of Aging Healthy Aging Start-Up Challenge and Bootcamp to Foster Diversity and Accelerate Innovation.

Observing the problems that prevent untapped, underrepresented communities/companies around the world, to achieve high-growth markets, Dr. Doswell created the Juxtopia® Urban Innovation and Cooperative Entrepreneurship (JUICE) Network. The JUICE Network guides minority companies, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority institutions (OMI), and federal labs to transition their innovative concepts to commercial products; at which those underrepresented populations may increase their skill proficiency to contribute to improving human performance® eradicating economical and health disparities.

To aid in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in Black and other minority communities, Dr. Doswell served as Principal Investigator, Juxtopia® Strategic Partner to Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM)/National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN).

Dr. Doswell is former Chair of the American Public Health Association Health Informatics and Information Technology (HIIT) Section. He is a member of several professional organizations and Boards, including: the American Telemedicine Association; the Association of Computing Machinery; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering; Maryland Cybersecurity Counsel; and Maryland Telemedicine Committee. Dr. Doswell also sits on external advisory committees at colleges/universities across the United States.

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# Conference Co-Chair

## Biography



**Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III**  
[adamsd481@aol.com](mailto:adamsd481@aol.com)

*“Achieving Global Trust and Respect Requires Sharing Meaningful Knowledge and Wisdom Over the Course of a Lifetime”*

Diane L. Adams MD, MPH, DABCHS, CHS-III is a Physician-Scientist, retired Commissioned Corps Veteran, Office of the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service (USPHS). Her background includes family and preventive medicine and public health. Dr. Adams earned her Bachelor's of Science degree from Howard University, her Doctor of Medicine degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, completed a three-year Family Medicine Residency at Howard University Hospital, followed by a General Preventive Medicine Residency and Master of Public Health (MPH) from John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health., now Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Diplomat and Board Certified in Homeland Security with a concentration in Cybersecurity. Dr. Adams is the President of Juxtapia® Life Division.

Dr. Adams served as a LEGIS Fellow in the Office of former Congressman Louis Stokes (D-OH), Washington, DC. Dr. Adams created and established a grant program valued over \$35 million dollars to support the development of eleven minority health services research centers throughout the U.S., known as the MEDTEP (Medical Treatment Effectiveness Program). Sage Publications, Inc., listed Dr. Adams book, Health Issues for Women of Color: A Culture Diversity Perspective as a best seller. A manuscript is now in process for a book on telehealth. She has been a faculty member at Howard University College of Medicine; The George Washington University Physician Assistant Program; and the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore Physical Therapy Program. She is the Founder and Chair Emeritus of the Health Informatics and Information Technology (HIIT) group, the only technology component of the American Public Health Association (APHA)—a globally recognized professional association with a history of more than 150 years.



**Bridgie Alexis Ford, PhD**  
[alexis2@uakron.edu](mailto:alexis2@uakron.edu)

Dr. Ford earned her doctorate degree from Purdue University. She is Professor Emerita, LeBron James Family Foundation School of Education, University of Akron. Dr. Ford served as full Professor, Department Chair, and Director of the university's Center for Urban and Higher Education. Dr. Ford was the recipient of the University of Akron's Excellence in Teaching Award. With a Master's degree in Speech Pathology, Dr. Ford held the position of Speech and Language Clinician (Chicago Public Schools).

She is author/co-author of numerous educational publications and two textbooks - Effective Education of African American Exceptional Learners: New perspectives and Creating Successful Learning Environments for African American Youth with Disabilities. She has presented at many national conferences and workshops. She served on the Board of Directors, National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). She is co-founder and first editor of the referred journal, Multiple Voices for Ethnically

Diverse Exceptional Learners, and co-developer (2017) of a research-based culturally responsive mentoring program curriculum to improve retention/graduation rates of Black males attending predominately White universities/colleges. She has served as Principal Investigator on innovative health research projects including prevention of obesity and Type 2 Diabetes in Black youth and teen-age pregnancy in Black Females and Senior Investigator on several Teacher Preparation Grants. She served as Co-Principal Investigator, Juxtapia® Strategic Partner to Morehouse School of Medicine National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (MSM/NCRN) project (2020-2022). Dr. Ford has held several leadership positions in national and state educational organizations and frequently served in advocacy roles in community-based initiatives supporting youth and families.

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## Conference Advisor Biography



**Polly S. Turner, DrPH MPH, RPh**  
[pollyrx@aol.com](mailto:pollyrx@aol.com)

Polly S. Turner, DrPH MPH, RPh, a native Houstonian, earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and both the master's and doctorate degrees from The University of Texas School of Public Health. She received further educational training at Rice University and Leadership Texas. Dr. Turner is the first African American of many positions: Director of Pharmacy Services (in a majority hospital) at Beaumont City Hospital, Twelve Oaks Hospital and Doctors Hospital in Houston, Texas; Bureau Chief of Health Center Administration and the Office of Assessment and Evaluation, City of Houston Health and Human Services Department; A tenured Associate Professor (retired) at Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Dr. Turner served as assistant vice president of Alumni Affairs and chairman of the Health Sciences Department. She was also the first director of the Health Administration graduate program. Additionally, she served as Director and Principal Investigator of the college's Center of Excellence, Health Careers Opportunity Program, and Minority Faculty Fellowship Program and the Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness in Aging Program. Dr. Turner is a member of the American Public Health Association, American Colleges of Healthcare Executives, Texas Allied Health Association, and UTHealth Development Board of Directors. Lastly, Dr. Turner is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and is the 20th South Central Regional Director and served on the Board of Directors of the sorority's Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF). She is also a member of Missouri City Chapter of Links, Incorporated, Top Ladies of Distinction Houston Chapter; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Ensemble Theater; Houston Chapter of Girl Friends, Incorporated; and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.

# Conference Sponsor

## Biography



**Iris Zachery, PhD**  
[zacharyi@health.missouri.edu](mailto:zacharyi@health.missouri.edu)

Dr. Zachary's research is focused on cancer informatics and surveillance and public health informatics to maximize the use of data to improve health outcomes. She is the Director of the Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center MCR and has led the effort for MCR to be added as one of seven Central Cancer Registries to the NCI SEER Program as MCR SEER Research Registry. Dr. Zachary's cancer research collaboration aids the study of cancer diagnoses patterns and evaluation of cancer prevention plans.

Dr. Zachary leads the Graduate Certificate Program for Informatics for Public Health IPH with continued work and collaborations to connect communities, organizations, and stakeholders, through informatics tools and information technology to address disparities and build capacity to respond and prepare for future public health challenges and opportunities.

# 4th Annual HEEHD CONFERENCE

 Division of Inclusion,  
Diversity & Equity  
University of Missouri



# Maternal and Child Health Disparities

HBCUs ERADICATING  
ECONOMIC & HEALTH  
DISPARITIES

4th Annual

# HEEHD VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

December 9th & 10th, 2022



JUXTOPIA GROUP, INC.

## 2022 Event

### *Sponsors*

The HBCUs Eradicate Economic and Health Disparities (HEEHD) Conference  
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH DISPARITIES is SUPPORTED by the following:

University of Missouri  
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# 4th Annual HEEHD CONFERENCE



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Diversity & Equity  
University of Missouri

# A Healthy Baby Begins with You

## Contributing Factors

An infant's survival and long-term health is influenced by many factors, including the mother's age, health status and behavior during and after pregnancy.

Health researchers have identified the following nine risk factors that contribute to infant mortality:

- Late Prenatal Care
- Smoking
- Substance Abuse
- Poor Nutrition
- Obesity
- High Stress
- Domestic Violence
- Low Maternal Weight Gain
- Preterm Labor

## African American Infant Mortality

Celebrating a baby's birth should be a joyous and momentous time for a family. Unfortunately, the celebration ends too soon when a baby doesn't live to see his first birthday. Infant mortality rates among African Americans are more than double that of the United States as a whole. That's more than 7,500 infant deaths per year.

## A Healthy Baby Begins with You!

The Office of Minority Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services wants you to know that infant mortality is preventable.

Step up and help end infant mortality!

Call **1.800.444.6472**

[www.omhrc.gov](http://www.omhrc.gov)





# Tips for a Healthy Start for Mothers and Babies

Being healthy before, during and after pregnancy is important for the mother and her baby and starts by making a commitment to prenatal care.

## Taking Care of Yourself Before Pregnancy

- Get a check-up for high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, seizures and thyroid disease.
- Get tested for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Take a vitamin with folic acid every day.

## During Pregnancy

- Make yourself a priority. Find a support group.
- Get information about healthy pregnancy from your health care provider.
- Make and keep your prenatal care appointments. Ask about complications or risks you may have.
- Take your prenatal vitamins.

## After Pregnancy

- Get a six-week check-up after having your baby.
- Wait at least six weeks before having sex.
- Breastfeed your baby. You'll lose weight, and your baby will be the happiest camper on the block.
- Take medications as directed by your physician.

## Always

- Eat healthy, with plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be active! Exercise at least 30 minutes a day.
- Keep stress under control, do pleasant things that will keep you in good spirits.
- Don't smoke, drink or use drugs. They will harm you and your baby.

## Taking Care of Your Baby

- Put your baby to sleep on his back EVERY TIME to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).
- The safest place for your baby to sleep is in a crib. To reduce the risk for SIDS, do not allow your baby to sleep on a couch, sofa, bed, or pillow.
- Avoid using soft objects, stuffed toys, loose bedding and blankets in the crib.
- Keep your baby's shots current by keeping your well-baby appointments.
- The best thing you can give your baby is breast milk. Breast is Best!
- Do not expose your baby to second hand smoke.





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