

Early Insights on Long COVID, Chronic Illness, and Economic Well-Being

Speaker Biographies

Myra Jones-Taylor leads the Urban Institute's policy impact strategy as the organization's first chief policy impact officer. She works with researchers and policy experts across Urban to help maximize the impact of their findings and evidence-based recommendations while helping tell the story of how their work changes lives and strengthens communities. Before this role, Jones-Taylor was the chief policy officer at Zero to Three, where she led the development and implementation of the organization's policy agenda, priorities, and strategies while serving as the principal spokesperson on all policy matters. She previously served as Connecticut's founding commissioner of early childhood, leading the cabinet-level state agency that serves all children from birth to age 5 and is responsible for early care and education, home visiting, and early intervention and child care licensing in the state. During her time as commissioner, the state agency was awarded \$50 million in new, competitive federal grants and expanded access to high-quality preschool to 25 percent more 3- and 4-year-olds. Jones-Taylor is a class of 2022 New America national fellow and has the honor of being both an Ascend fellow and a Pahara fellow of the Aspen Institute. She writes and speaks about racial identity, systemic racism, and social inequality. You can find her writing and speaking about these issues in *The Atlantic* and on the podcast *The Longest Shortest Time*. Jones-Taylor received a joint doctorate in American studies and anthropology from Yale University.

Michael Karpman is a principal research associate in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on the implications of the Affordable Care Act, including quantitative analysis related to health insurance coverage, access to and affordability of health care, use of health care services, and health status. This work includes efforts to help coordinate and analyze data from the Urban Institute's Health Reform Monitoring Survey. Before joining Urban in 2013, Karpman was a senior associate at the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families. He received his MPP from Georgetown University.

Lisa McCorkell is a person living with long COVID and the cofounder and team lead of the Patient-Led Research Collaborative, a group of long COVID patients conducting research on long COVID and advocating for better policies for disabled people. She is the coauthor of several prominent long COVID research studies, including a review in *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, articles on labor and employment issues, and a study on stable scheduling for hourly retail workers. Her past projects and roles have involved drafting policy, analyzing data, and developing policy recommendations in the fields of food insecurity, digital equity, economic justice, housing, and health equity. She has a master's in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She was featured as one of *Nature's* 10 people who shaped science in 2022.

Netia McCray is the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, Mbadika, born out of MIT, Netia McCray's work focuses on making STEM (Science Tech Engineering Mathematics) education accessible to learners of all ages and backgrounds. After getting COVID-19 in March 2020, as a long-time Boston resident, she channeled her experience with Long COVID and science communication expertise into national advocacy efforts. Her current focus is on making knowledge regarding post-infectious disease and chronic illness accessible to all, including Black and Brown communities, which have been disproportionately affected by COVID and yet remain underrepresented in Long Covid organizations and efforts. Both as an independent advocate and as the Education Director of the COVID-19 Longhailer

Advocacy Project (C-19 LAP), Netia has spoken extensively at public events, conducted media, and has also worked with members of the U.S. Congress to promote equitable access to Long COVID assistance as well as treatments.

Meghan O'Rourke is the author of the New York Times Bestseller *The Invisible Kingdom: Reimagining Chronic Illness*, an account of her own experiences with infection-associated illness, which was a finalist for the 2022 National Book Award in Nonfiction. Her essays on medicine and culture appear in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and more. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Radcliffe Fellowship, a Front Page Award for Cultural Criticism, and more, she is a professor in the practice of creative writing at Yale University.

Susan J. Popkin, PhD, is an Institute Fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center and Co-Director of the Urban Institute's Disability Equity Policy Initiative. A nationally recognized expert on public and assisted housing programs and policy, Dr. Popkin is also leads Urban's Future of Public Housing initiative. She has served as PI on many mixed-methods studies of the impact of housing programs on resident outcomes, including Chicago's Plan for Transformation, HOPE VI, and Moving to Opportunity. This work also includes Urban's HOST Initiative, a research program that uses community engagement and community-based participatory approaches to explore new strategies for improving outcomes for families in public and assisted housing, and in conducting evaluations of complex community-based interventions such as the local evaluation of Baltimore's Promise Heights Promise Neighborhood and Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Centered Community Change Initiative. Dr. Popkin is the author of *No Simple Solutions: Transforming Public Housing in Chicago*; co-author of the award-winning *Moving To Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty*; lead author for the book *The Hidden War: Crime and the Tragedy of Public Housing in Chicago*; and is co-author of *Public Housing Transformation: The Legacy of Segregation*.