

The Social and Political Factors of Health Inequities in the US

Speaker Biographies

Camila M. Mateo is a primary care pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital. She completed her pediatric residency and a chief resident year at the Boston Combined Residency Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, where she was a part of the urban health and advocacy track. Following this, she completed the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Fellowship and obtained an MPH at the T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health. At Harvard Medical School, she serves as the Morgan-Zinsser associate director of Faculty Development in Inclusive Teaching and Antiracism and as a faculty advisor in the Office of Recruitment and Multicultural Affairs. She also serves as the diversity officer for the Boston Combined Residency Program and is a faculty member at the Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy at Cambridge Health Alliance. Her medical education work focuses on antiracism, health equity, and diversity and inclusion throughout the health profession's learning environment. Her research focuses on equity in medical education and addressing discrimination in health services delivery for youth and families. In 2022, she was named a 40 Under 40 Leader in Health by the National Minority Quality Forum and received the Equity Social Justice and Advocacy Award at Harvard Medical School.

Marie V. Plaisime is an FXB Health and Human Rights Fellow and National Science Foundation post-doctoral fellow. Her research investigates racial bias training in medical education and clinical practice, race-based medicine, algorithmic bias, and health policy. She applies critical quantitative, computational, & mixed methodologies to detect, examine, and quantify how structural racism in medicine jeopardizes healthcare delivery, access, and quality. She completed her PhD in Medical Sociology at Howard University and is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar. Her professional experiences include research at the Association of American Medical Colleges, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Marie received her MPH from the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health.

Brian D. Smedley is among the inaugural class of equity scholars at the Urban Institute, where he conducts research and policy analysis to address structural and institutional forms of racism that affect the health and well-being of people of color. Previously, he was a senior program officer at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as study director for the IOM report *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, among other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health policy.

David R. Williams is the Norman professor of Public Health and chair, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. He is also a professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. His prior faculty appointments were at Yale University and the University of Michigan. He is an internationally recognized authority on social influences on health. The author of more than 500 scientific papers, his research has enhanced our understanding of how race, socioeconomic status, stress, racism, health behavior and religious involvement can affect health. The Everyday Discrimination Scale he developed is the most widely used measure of discrimination in health studies. He has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences. He has also been ranked as the Most Cited Black Scholar in the Social Sciences worldwide. Dr. Williams has been involved in developing health policy at the national level. He has served on 10 committees for the National Academy of Medicine, including the committee that prepared the *Unequal Treatment Report*. He was also a key scientific advisor to the award-winning PBS film series, *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and on the Kellogg Foundation's Solidarity Council on Racial Equity. He has been featured by some of the nation's top print and television news organizations and in his TED Talk.

Karishma Furtado is a member of the Urban Institute’s inaugural cohort of Equity Scholars. She uses human-centered data, research, and storytelling to catalyze and measure impact, facilitate accountability, deepen understanding, and imagine what’s possible on the path to racial equity. Before joining Urban, Karishma was a founding staff member of Forward Through Ferguson, a St. Louis–based nonprofit focused on systems change to achieve racial equity; before that, she was a part of the nationally recognized Ferguson Commission following the killing of Mike Brown in 2015. She helped author the Ferguson Commission Report. Her research on the social determinants of health sits at the intersection of race, racism, and health and is in service of advancing health equity, especially in the school setting. She has published articles in leading public health and health policy journals on the Ferguson Commission, the role of public health in advancing racial equity, and operationalizing a commitment to health equity in applied public health spaces. Karishma holds bachelor’s degrees in biology and public policy from the University of Chicago and has completed master’s and doctorate degrees in public health with a specialization in biostatistics and epidemiology from Washington University in St. Louis. Karishma retains affiliations with the Prevention Research Center in St. Louis, the Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, and Invest STL.