



2021 Global Pregnancy Collaboration Virtual Workshop Biographical Sketches

Inequities in adverse pregnancy outcomes: What next for research?



Seye Abimbola, MBChB, PhD • Tracy L. Bale, PhD • Aluísio Barros, MD, PhD • Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, MBBS, FRCPCH, FAAP, PhD • Joyce Browne, MD, PhD • Ann C. Celi MD, MPH • Polite Dube, BSc, MSc • Connie R. Graves, MD • Scarlett Hopkins, RN, MA • Marieke Hollestelle, MA • Eve Lackritz, MD • Leslie Myatt, PhD, FRCOG • Koiwah Koi-Larbi Ofosuapea, BSc, LLB • Christopher Redman, MB, BChir, FRCP • James M. Roberts, MD • Özge Tunçalp, MD, PhD, MPH • Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD



Seye Abimbola, MBChB, PhD



Dr. Seye Abimbola is a health systems researcher from Nigeria. He is currently a senior lecturer at the School of Public Health, University of Sydney in Australia, where he teaches global health and uses realist methods and theories from institutional economics to study health system governance. Dr Abimbola is also the editor in chief of BMJ Global Health, and the current Prince Claus Chair in Equity and Development at Utrecht University, where he is working on justice in global health research.

Tracy L. Bale, PhD



Dr. Tracy Bale is a Professor of Pharmacology and Director of the Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development in the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in the Department of Pharmacology, and her postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute with Dr. Wylie Vale. Dr. Bale was Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years prior to her move to UMB. Her research focuses on understanding the role of stress dysregulation in neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric diseases, and the sex differences that underlie disease vulnerability in humans and using the mouse as a model. She is interested in developing models of parental stress to elucidate mechanisms and the germ cell involvement in intergenerational programming of neurodevelopment. She serves on many internal and external advisory committees, panels, and boards, and has been the recipient of numerous awards for her research in this area including the Richard E. Weitzman Memorial award from the Endocrine Society, the Medtronic Award from the Society for Women's Health Research for outstanding research that has led to the improvement of women's health, and the Daniel H. Efron award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. She is the President of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and was recently awarded Top 100 Women in Maryland 2020.

Aluísio Barros, MD, PhD



Dr. Aluísio (ah-loo-EAZ-you) Barros trained as an MD in Brazil (1983), and then did a Masters in Statistics in the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, SP, Brazil. That was followed by a PhD in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Maternal & Child Epi Unit, completed in 1996. In the same year, Aluísio joined the Department of Social Medicine, Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPel), Brazil, where he currently holds the post of Full Professor. He has a strong interest in methods, teaching the advanced statistics courses for postgraduate students. Currently, his main line of work is health equity, with a focus in global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. He is also one of the PIs of the Pelotas birth cohorts, with an interest in mental health and child development. In 2009, Prof. Cesar Victora and Aluísio started the International Center for Equity in Health ([ICEH](#)) with the objective of monitoring health inequalities in low and middle-income countries. The Center works in close partnership with the Countdown to 2030, the WHO Global Health Observatory and UNICEF.

Aluísio has authored more than 380 peer-reviewed papers, which received over 20,000 citations as of August 2021 ([Scopus](#), H-index=58).



Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, MBBS, FRCPCH, FAAP, PhD



Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta is the Inaugural Robert Harding Chair in Global Child Health and Inaugural Ibn Sina Scholar in Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children, Co-Director of SickKids' Centre for Global Child Health, and Founding Director of both the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, and Institute of Global Health and Development at Aga Khan University. He holds adjunct professorships at universities including Johns Hopkins University and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Dr. Bhutta is a Distinguished National Professor of the Government of Pakistan, co-Chair of the Maternal and Child Health oversight committee of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, the Coalition of Centres in Global Child Health Chairman, and a leading voice for health professionals supporting integrated maternal, newborn and child health globally. Dr. Bhutta leads large research groups in Toronto, Karachi and Nairobi with special interests in scaling up evidence-based, community setting interventions and implementation of RMNCAH&N interventions in humanitarian contexts. His work with community health workers influenced maternal and

newborn outreach programs for marginalized populations internationally and his group's work with the WHO and PMNCH is guiding essential global intervention policies for women, children and adolescents. Dr. Bhutta obtained his MBBS from the University of Peshawar and his PhD from the Karolinska Institute. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. In 2020 he was awarded the honour of Fellow of the Royal Society.

Joyce Browne, MD, PhD



Dr. Joyce Browne is a medical doctor and epidemiologist. The persisting global inequities in reproductive, maternal and perinatal health are the driving force behind her research. She graduated cum laude from University College Utrecht with a major in pre-medical sciences and a minor in public health and development studies. Subsequently, she completed an MSc in Social Epidemiology at University College London, United Kingdom (2010), postgraduate medical school at Utrecht University (2013), followed by her PhD in Clinical Epidemiology at Utrecht University (2016). She currently is an Assistant Professor of Global Health at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, UMC Utrecht in the Netherlands. Her work focuses on maternal health, health equity, research capacity building in low- and middle-income countries and global health education within the UMC Utrecht and Utrecht University. She is PI of the SPOT-studies, which aim to improve the quality of care for women with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy (see: <https://spotstudyghana.com/>). She is a former board member of the Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International

Health (NVTG), current board member of the NVTG's Knowledge Center, member of the Supervisory Board of Simavi, and deputy editor of the World Health Federation's scientific journal Global Heart. She is an Utrecht University Open Science Fellow for Public Engagement.



Location: Zoom



Date: October 4 & 5, 2021



Time: 11.00-16.00 (EDT)



Ann C. Celi MD, MPH



Dr. Ann Celi is med/peds trained internist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and faculty at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. She has worked in the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care at BWH since 2003 and the Department of OBGYN and Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine formally since 2011 when a postpartum transition clinic focusing on hypertensive pregnancies was set up in a collaboration with Maternal Fetal Medicine and the Department of Medicine and Primary Care. She spends time moving in that “space” between medicine and obstetrics and pediatrics. The first focus of that clinic, and related clinically innovative research, includes immediate care for women after hypertensive pregnancies and how this may inform longer term care. Other areas of focus include innovations to address health care inequities, lactation and transitions of care to primary care physicians. Longer term goals are better understanding of the experience of pregnancy and labor and delivery to

help improve a woman’s health in the long term as well as their family and addressing racial disparities in this space. She enjoys working on patient outreach and racial justice projects including community outreach appearances with Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, the Preeclampsia Foundation, and the March of Dimes.

Polite Dube, BSc, MSc



Mr. Polite Dube, a PhD in Public Health Candidate, is a Performance Based Financing (PBF) Expert with a background in public health with 14 years’ experience and currently working at Cordaid Ethiopia. He has experience in the design and implementation of Results/Performance Based Financing within the health systems of Zimbabwe, Liberia, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Has a strong passion and bias for maternal health within the broader health system strengthening spectrum. Currently working as the Regional PBF & Health Technical Advisor with Cordaid for East Africa.

Connie R. Graves, MD



Dr. Connie Graves is a graduate of Baylor University where she received honors. Dr. Graves received her medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and was recipient of the Purdue Fredrick Award for Excellence in Women’s Healthcare. She completed her internship and residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She completed her Maternal-Fetal Fellowship at Vanderbilt University. During her fellowship, Dr. Graves received special training in Obstetrical Critical Care and became the director of one of the first Critical Care Obstetrical Units in the nation. She is currently the Medical Director of Tennessee Maternal Fetal Medicine and the Medical Director for Perinatal Services at St Thomas Health Systems. She is also a Professor at the University of Tennessee and serves as clinical and adjunct professor for Vanderbilt University and Meharry Medical College, respectively. Considered an international expert in the management of maternal disease, Dr. Graves is extensively

published and has received numerous teaching, research, professional and community awards. She has been actively involved in research and has served as an investigator on studies involving asthma, HIV, diabetes, and drug addiction during pregnancy. She is an immediate past member of the Board of Directors of the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine. She has been instrumental in the formation of a Maternal Mortality Review Committee for the State of Tennessee and



currently serves as a member of the review committee and a member of the CDC committee on Bias in Maternal Mortality. She also serves as the project leader for the Maternal Section of TIPQC. In 2012, Dr. Graves along with Dr. Stacy Davis, a cardiologist started the Collaborative Perinatal Cardiac Center, a joint venture between Tennessee Maternal Fetal Medicine and St. Thomas Health, which is one of the first in the nation to address maternal heart care from the preconception period through postpartum care with a focus of long term prevention. In her spare time, Dr. Graves serves as a keyboardist and choir director for her church and works with the youth ministry.

Scarlett Hopkins, RN, MA



Ms. Scarlett Hopkins is the Director of Alaska Native Clinical Research at the Alaska Native Health & Wellness Research Center within the Moore Institute. Before coming to OHSU in 2018, she directed the Community Engagement & Clinical Support Core within the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ms. Hopkins has been co-investigator on many NIH-funded genomic and behavioral studies to address health disparities in Yup'ik Alaska Native people. She has conducted both qualitative and quantitative research to understand how cultural beliefs and practices influence the health of Yup'ik people. She has been involved in all phases of community engagement including initial contact with rural Tribal communities, coordinating and conducting data collection, and in the dissemination of culturally relevant research findings to Tribal communities, Tribal governments, and the Native Health Corporation. These sustained research partnerships with the Native Health Corporation and local Tribal communities have led to a respectful trusting research relationship with Yup'ik people, as well as a longitudinal cohort of over 2,000 Yup'ik participants who have participated in ongoing nutrigenomic, pharmacogenomic and genetic ethics research. She is currently co-investigator on a Yup'ik Pregnancy Study aimed at understanding how transitions in the maternal diet (traditional foods rich in marine mammals and fish versus market foods) and maternal stress among Yup'ik women alter DNA methylation in the placenta and influence fetal health outcomes.

Marieke Hollestelle, MA



Ms. Marieke Hollestelle is a PhD student at the department of Public Health, Healthcare Innovation & Evaluation and Medical Humanities at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Center Utrecht. Her research is focused on the ethics of learning healthcare systems, in particular a learning healthcare system for pregnant and breastfeeding women. A learning healthcare system approach may broaden the opportunities to strengthen the evidence base of medications used during pregnancies and breastfeeding. This research is part of the Innovative Medicine Initiative ConcePTION, which aims to build a European safety evidence ecosystem for pregnancy and breastfeeding. Other research interests are research ethics and the ethics of reproductive medicine.



Eve Lackritz, MD



Dr. Eve Lackritz has served through the COVID epidemic as the Acting Clinical Director of Rosebud Indian Health Service Hospital in South Dakota, providing oversight of all clinical departments and the COVID-19 response. Prior to her work with the Indian Health Service, she served with Doctors Without Borders as the Hospital Director in the Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. Dr. Lackritz has had a rich and diverse career in public health, working in research, surveillance, and programs both domestically and internationally, in malaria, HIV, arboviral diseases, and maternal and newborn health. Most recently she served as the Zika Task Force Lead at the World Health Organization in Geneva during the global Zika epidemic, preceded by her role as Deputy Director of the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) in Seattle, where she implemented a global research initiative to identify novel upstream targets for prevention of preterm birth, and monitoring safety of immunizations for pregnant women in low-income countries. Dr. Lackritz served the prior 23 years at the CDC in Atlanta, where she served as Branch Chief of the Maternal and Infant Health Branch and Branch Chief in the Global AIDS Program. Her accomplishments included implementing the first national antiretroviral treatment programs in Africa, conducting clinical trials to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, and identification of new routes of HHV-8 transmission in Uganda (the etiologic agent of Kaposi's sarcoma). She also served in CDC's Malaria Branch studying malaria, anemia, and child survival in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Lackritz received her Doctor of Medicine at the Ohio State University, completed her residency in pediatrics at Case Western Reserve/University Hospitals of Cleveland, and is board certified in pediatrics.

Leslie Myatt, PhD, FRCOG



Dr. Leslie Myatt is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director of Perinatal Research and Endowed Professor in the Bob and Charlee Moore Institute of Nutrition and Wellness at the Oregon Health & Science University, Portland. He moved to Oregon in 2015 having previously been a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati, where he was Director of the NIH-funded Physician Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD) and the Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholars Program, and at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Dr. Myatt has served as North American Editor of the journal *Placenta*, President of the Perinatal Research Society, President of the International Federation of Placenta Associations and President of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation. He was Co-PI with Dr. James Roberts of the NIH-funded Combined Antioxidant and Preeclampsia Prediction Study (CAPPS). This work continues with the Global Pregnancy Collaboration (CoLab) using standardized databases to encourage international multicenter studies of preeclampsia. Dr Myatt's primary research interests are 1. The effects of maternal obesity, gestational diabetes and sexual dimorphism on mitochondrial respiration in the placenta and their relationship to epigenetic regulation of placental function and fetal programming and 2. Autocrine/paracrine mechanisms in fetal membranes involved in parturition. He has published over 290 papers and 375 abstracts and has served on many review panels and study sections for NIH, CIHR and other international grant giving bodies. He was presented with the Naftolin Award for Mentorship in 2014 and the Distinguished Scientist Award in 2017 by the Society for Reproductive Investigation.



Koiwah Koi-Larbi Ofosuapea, BSc, LLB



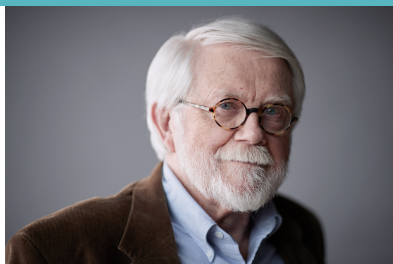
Mrs. Koiwah Koi-Larbi Ofosuapea is a Maternal & Neonatal Health Activist, a Patient Advocate, and a Social Entrepreneur. She is the Executive Director of APECGH and holds a bachelor's degree in Accountancy and Law with an ongoing master's degree in Medical Law and Ethics. Koiwah is highly enthusiastic and passionate about Women's Health and Economic Empowerment. She is a consortium partner of the Severe Preeclampsia Adverse Triage (SPOT) Impact Study and a member of the National Steering Committee of the Presbyterian Health Services GroupCare-1000 project.

Christopher Redman, MB, BChir, FRCP



Dr. Christopher Redman has a primary interest in pre-eclampsia extending over the last 50 years. In the 1980s, Prof. Geoffrey Dawes of Oxford and Dr. Redman, invented the Dawes Redman computerised analysis system for the antepartum CTG or NST. It is currently the most used of such systems, available world-wide. He has published over 340 peer review papers mainly on the pathogenesis and treatment of pre-eclampsia, with particular reference to involvement of the placenta. He is an ex-President of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy and recipient of its Chesley Award; a recipient of the Barnes Award of the International Society of Obstetric Medicine and of the Senior Investigator's Award of the International Federation of the Placental. Dr. Redman has been a co-Investigator of CoLab since it was started by Dr. Jim Roberts. He has directed the development of the CoLab Ultra hand-held App for registering deliveries in remote areas of under-resourced parts of the world. It is now to be piloted in Tanzania (Dr. Ali Khashan, Cork, Eire) and is the focus of a scoping review for its use in Malawi (Dr. Jane Hirst, Oxford), which is in preparation.

James M. Roberts, MD



Dr. James Roberts and his group have published seminal studies including the recognition of endothelial dysfunction as a major component of the pathophysiology of preeclampsia. His current research efforts include fundamental, clinical and health services approaches to the understanding and management of this disorder in this country and abroad. He is currently a Co-Investigator of the Global Pregnancy Collaboration, a program to facilitate collaboration for the study of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to improve infrastructure and research training in low resource countries. He chaired the National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) Maternal Fetal Medicine Network for 9 years and subsequently led a National Institute of Health (NIH) randomized controlled trial (10,000 women) of antioxidant vitamins to prevent preeclampsia. He chaired the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology task force to establish guidelines for managing hypertension pregnancy in 2013 and the NHLBI/NICHD workshop to identify research targets in preeclampsia in 2018. He was also the training director of the MWRI American Heart Association program studying the relationship of adverse pregnancy outcomes to later life cardiovascular disease 2015-2020, and the Building Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health (BIRCWH) 2003-2014. He has individually mentored over 65 pre and postdoctoral trainees. Dr. Roberts received the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI/SRI) 2011 President's Distinguished Scientist Award and their Lifetime Service Award in 2017 and was the recipient of the lifetime achievement award by the International



Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP) and the 2008 Preeclampsia Foundation Hope Award for Lifetime Achievement. He has received mentoring awards from the NICHD and the SGI/SRI. He was selected as a “Giant of Obstetrical Research” by the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2018. He has served or serves on the editorial boards of journals including, Placenta, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Women’s Health Issues Journal of Reproductive Investigation and Hypertension. He has been on scientific review boards of the NIH, the Canadian Institute of Health Research, the FDA and the March of Dimes. He is past president of the Perinatal Research Society, the North American Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy, the SGI/SRI and the ISSHP. Dr. Roberts was formally admitted to fellowship ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in September of 2000. He was elected to membership (2002) in the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.)

Özge Tunçalp, MD, PhD, MPH



Dr. Özge Tunçalp is a physician and epidemiologist currently based in Geneva working as a scientist at HRP/WHO. In collaboration with country, regional and global partners, she uses quantitative and qualitative methodologies as well as innovative approaches to research quality of care for maternal and perinatal health, including maternal morbidity and safe abortion in low- and middle-income countries. She leads WHO’s research and normative portfolios for antenatal care and respectful maternity care/quality of care. Dr Tunçalp is the recipient of Maternal Health Visionary Award from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and co-authored more than 150 publications. She completed her MD at Istanbul School of Medicine, MPH and PhD at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and postdoctoral fellowship at Yale School of Medicine. She has an honorary professor appointment at LSHTM.

Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD



Dr. Sten Vermund serves as the Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Public Health and Dean, Yale School of Public Health, and Professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine. As an infectious disease epidemiologist and pediatrician, his work has focused on diseases of resource-limited settings, including HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STI) including human papillomavirus (HPV), tuberculosis, parasitic diseases, and the novel coronavirus. His interventional science work has included HIV/STI prevention clinical trials and implementation science to increase coverage and quality of services in low-income nations and disadvantaged communities in the U.S. In 2020, he pivoted some of his efforts towards the COVID-19 research and intervention response, working with Chinese collaborators on early insights from the December 2019-March 2020 outbreak, with Yale economists on mask use in March 2020, and on safety in schools and arts organizations through 2021. Dr. Vermund has served as Principal Investigator of multiple collaborative efforts: the Adolescent Medicine HIV/AIDS Research Network; the NIH Prevention Trials Network; U.S. HIV/AIDS programs in Zambia, Nigeria, and Mozambique (the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief or PEPFAR); and the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars and Fellows Program. Dr. Vermund’s work in HIV-HPV interactions informed the change in the 1993 AIDS case definition from the CDC to include cervical cancer, motivating cervical cancer screening within HIV clinics worldwide. Dr. Vermund is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and a Fellow of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, among others. He has co-edited two books in 2021: *Nutrition and Infectious Diseases: Shifting the Clinical Paradigm* (Springer) and *Sexually transmitted infections: Adopting a sexual health paradigm* (National Academies Press).