

16TH ANNUAL JAMES E. CLYBURN HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE

“ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES”

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keshia M. Pollack Porter, PhD, MPH

*Bloomberg Centennial Chair and Bloomberg Centennial Professor
Department of Health Policy & Management
Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University*

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

*10:00 am
Pastides Alumni Center, University of South Carolina
Ballroom
900 Senate Street | Columbia, SC*



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“ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES”

WELCOME

Tara Sabo-Attwood, PhD
Dean, Arnold School of Public Health

INTRODUCTION OF DPH LEADERSHIP

Toni Torres-McGehee, PhD
*Associate Dean for Access & Collective Engagement
Arnold School of Public Health*

REMARKS FROM DPH LEADERSHIP

Edward Simmer, MD, MPH, DLFAPA
Interim Director, South Carolina Department of Public Health

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brad Wright, PhD
*Professor & Chair, Department of Health Services Policy and Management
Arnold School of Public Health*

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Keshia M. Pollack Porter, PhD, MPH
*Bloomberg Centennial Chair and Bloomberg Centennial Professor
Department of Health Policy & Management
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JAMES E. CLYBURN HEALTH EQUITY POSTER AWARDS

Elizabeth Crouch, PhD
*Associate Professor, Department of Health Services Policy and Management
Arnold School of Public Health*

JAMES E. CLYBURN HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Elizabeth Crouch, PhD
*Associate Professor, Department of Health Services Policy and Management
Arnold School of Public Health*

INTRODUCTION OF REP. CLYBURN

Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
*Myrtle Irene Brown Endowed Professor of Nursing, Department of Biobehavioral Health & Nursing Science
Director, USC Collaborative for Health Equity Research (CHEER) Center
USC College of Nursing*

CLOSING REMARKS

Congressman James E. Clyburn
United States House of Representatives

RECEPTION



KESHIA M. POLLACK PORTER, PhD, MPH

Keshia M. Pollack Porter, PhD, MPH is a Bloomberg Centennial Professor and the Bloomberg Centennial Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she also serves as director of the School's Institute for Health and Social Policy. Dr. Pollack Porter is an internationally recognized health equity scholar whose research advances policies that create safe and healthy environments where people live, work, play, and travel, with an emphasis

on addressing structural drivers of health and promoting effective cross-sector collaborations. With a strong focus on promoting safe environments and identifying policy solutions that address structural drivers and social determinants of health, reduce disparities, and advance health equity, she spends a considerable amount of time directly engaging with policymakers to promote evidence-informed policy decisions and advance Health in All Policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

Dr. Pollack Porter has published over 200 articles and is one of the co-authors of the book, *Policy Engagement*, a 2023 publication by APHA Press designed to provide practitioners with the tools to engage in the policy process. Since 2019, Dr. Pollack Porter has also directed the Health Policy Research Scholars—a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—that trains doctoral students representing various disciplines as leaders in health policy who can advance health equity.

Dr. Pollack Porter completed her BA in sociology from Tufts University in 2000, her MPH in chronic disease epidemiology from Yale School of Public Health in 2002, and her PhD in health policy from Johns Hopkins University in 2005. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in evaluation that was jointly sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and in 2006 joined the faculty at the Bloomberg School as the Leon S. Robertson Faculty Development Chair in Injury Prevention.

Dr. Pollack Porter has received several accolades during her career including the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Advising, Mentoring, Teaching Recognition Award (AMTRA), which she has received three times; the APHA Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section Mid-Career Outstanding Service Award; the Daily Record's Top 40 under 40 in Maryland; Baltimore Sun's one of 50 Women to Watch in Maryland; Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Alumni Award; and one of the Ten Most Influential Women Scholars in Health Promotion. In 2023, she was elected to the Tufts University Board of Trustees. The same year, she was also elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Pollack Porter's passion and tenacity to engage with and inform decision-makers in the science of how policies can impact health, along with her talent to build partnerships and create change, make her a standard-bearer in the public health arena.



CONGRESSMAN JAMES E. CLYBURN

The James E. Clyburn Health Equity Lecture honors U.S. Representative James E. Clyburn (D-SC). A native son of South Carolina, Clyburn has represented the state's Sixth Congressional District since 1993.

Congressman Clyburn's humble beginnings in Sumter, South Carolina, as the eldest son of an activist, fundamentalist minister and an independent, civic-minded beautician, grounded him securely in family, faith, and public service. A 1961 graduate of South Carolina State he began his professional career as a public-school teacher in Charleston, SC.

He later served as an employment counselor, and director of two youth and community development programs. In 1971, he joined the staff of Governor John C. West, becoming the first African American advisor to a South Carolina governor. In 1974 Governor West appointed him South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner where he served until 1992 when he retired from state government to run for Congress.

When he came to Congress in 1993, Congressman Clyburn was elected co-president of his freshman class. He was subsequently elected Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Vice Chair, and Chair, of the House Democratic Caucus. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Majority Whip—a position he held again from 2019 to 2022, making him the first African American to serve multiple terms as Majority Whip. From 2019 to 2022, Congressman Clyburn also chaired the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis. From 2011 to 2018, he served as Assistant Democratic Leader, a position he held again from January 2023 until stepping down in March 2024.

Congressman Clyburn has led efforts to preserve and restore historic buildings on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He sponsored legislation creating the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, the Congaree National Park, the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and expanding the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and Washington, DC.

Dedicated to making America's greatness accessible and affordable for all citizens, his 10-20-30 federal funding formula — initially applied to three programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — has been expanded to 15 accounts of the appropriations bills. Additionally, his Rural Energy Savings Program provides loans to families and businesses to implement durable, cost-effective energy efficiency measures. His "Accessible, Affordable Broadband for All" bill was included in the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure bill and is funded at a level of \$65 billion.

The recipient of 39 honorary degrees, Congressman Clyburn has received numerous awards including: the Lyndon Baines Johnson Liberty and Justice for All Award in 2015; the Harry S Truman Foundation's Good Neighbor Award in 2021; and the NAACP's highest honor – the Spingarn Medal – in 2022, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation's highest civilian honor – in 2024. His endorsement of Joe Biden for president in 2020 is credited with boosting him to an overwhelming victory in the South Carolina and subsequent primaries and setting Biden on path to the presidency.

Congressman Clyburn and his late wife, Emily England Clyburn, met as college student protestors in an Orangeburg, South Carolina jail in 1960. The encounter led to a 58-year marriage, and they became parents of three daughters, grandparents to four grandchildren, and great grandparents to one great grandchild.



EDWARD SIMMER, MD, MPH, DLFAPA

Dr. Edward Simmer is the interim director of the South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH). In this role, Simmer leads the cabinet agency and reports to Governor Henry McMaster. Prior to being named interim director, Dr. Simmer was appointed as director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by the S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control, and he assumed his duties upon Senate confirmation on Feb. 4,

2021. As DHEC director, Dr. Simmer led a team of 4,000 dedicated professionals in the areas of public health, healthcare quality, and environmental protection. He oversaw the state's response to COVID-19 and Mpox, led the agency's response to two hurricanes, and ensured the state's health care facilities provided high quality, safe care. He led all of the state's over 70 health departments and worked to improve the health of the people of South Carolina and the environment in which they live.

Before being confirmed as agency director, Dr. Simmer served over 30 years on active duty in the United States Navy where he held increasing leadership positions, including Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for the TRICARE Health Plan and Commanding Officer and CEO of the Naval Hospital in Oak Harbor, Washington. He has over 25 years of extensive clinical leadership and team-building experience with a strong track record of transforming large health care systems.

He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Saint Louis University and holds a Master of Public Health degree, with a focus on epidemiology, from the Eastern Virginia Medical School/Old Dominion University Consortium as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hiram College. He completed a psychiatry residency at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth. Dr. Simmer is board certified in general and forensic psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is certified in administrative psychiatry by the American Psychiatric Association.

"ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES"

HEALTH POLICY LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Beata DeWitt – *South Carolina Department of Environmental Services*

Beata Dewitt is an Environmental Health Manager at the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. She began her internship career with the agency and has significantly contributed to the Community Engagement Team, empowering minority and underserved communities through environmentally just initiatives.

Beata's academic background and passion for service have equipped her with a deep understanding of complex environmental health issues. This understanding fuels her commitment to advancing public health and creating meaningful change. Through service-learning experiences and leading impactful, service-based projects, Beata has continually demonstrated her dedication to making a difference in her community.

In addition to her professional roles, Beata serves as the Environmental Health Section Chair for the South Carolina Public Health Association (SCPHA) and is actively involved with the Gills Creek Watershed Association. Her leadership and involvement have been key in managing projects like the Lower Richland C.E.AL (Communities Earning and Learning) Water Monitoring Initiative and the SCPHA Smart Surfaces Project, reflecting her strong commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement. She holds a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Benedict College. Her work is dedicated to improving environmental health and equity, with a particular focus on community-driven initiatives.

HEALTH CARE LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Meera Narasimhan, MD –

*Prisma Health Midlands,
University of South Carolina School of Medicine*

Meera Narasimhan, MD is Professor and Chair in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Prisma Health, Columbia and serves as the Special Advisor for Health Innovations at USC-SOM. She also served as Associate Provost for Health Sciences at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Narasimhan is a compassionate service provider,

an outstanding researcher, a passionate educator and an astute and collaborative administrator at the University of South Carolina and Prisma Health. She completed her psychiatry residency and neuroscience fellowship training at Yale University.

Dr. Narasimhan has worked with patient advocacy groups and other healthcare stakeholders in South Carolina to champion mental health awareness and legislation. She has been actively involved with innovative treatment approaches to addressing health inequities in the state, nationally and globally. She has an excellent track record of fostering public-private-academic partnership(s) and has demonstrated her ability to think outside the box of traditional approaches to address basic public health service needs of the community, capture valuable cost and quality data to improve health outcomes. She has collaborated across health sciences disciplines over the years using innovative care delivery platforms. She has been the recipient of several federal and industry grants for clinical, translational and technology driven initiatives. She has been instrumental since 2010 in developing integrated care within primary care settings to improve access, quality and value while addressing mental health disparities in the state. She has been a strong proponent of training the next generation of leaders using innovative health delivery systems and has embedded trainees across health disciplines in the state and globally to help develop the health workforce. In 2023, her department won the Martin Luther King Diversity in Action Award at Prisma Health and she was honored with the Career Achievement award from USC-SOM.

COMMUNITY LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Cathy Ramage – *Children's Trust of South Carolina*

In her role as Director of Home Visiting for Children's Trust of South Carolina, Cathy Ramage provides operational and strategic leadership for the organization's early childhood home visiting initiative. This includes key oversight functions and administration of the statewide Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). She leads a team that oversees the provision of high-quality home visiting services for families through program

partnerships across the state, performance measurement and program evaluation, and coordination of workforce development activities for the service network.

Additionally, through strong vision and an innovative approach, she continues to lead efforts to build connections to enhance early childhood systems in South Carolina.

Cathy has over a decade of experience working with evidence-based programs, promoting early childhood systems, and managing grant funding.

Originally from Columbus Ohio, Cathy moved to South Carolina to attend the University of South Carolina and attained a bachelor's degree in women's and gender studies. Prior to her work with Children's Trust, Cathy began her professional experience with the United Way of the Midlands and the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands council. Her passion for improving outcomes for children and families continues to drive her work, as well as her core belief that investing in children builds a better future for society as a whole.

LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH



Angela D. Liese, PhD –
University of South Carolina
Arnold School of Public Health

Angela D. Liese, PhD, is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. Dr. Liese received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MPH from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She joined the University of South Carolina in 2000 as a member of the faculty. Dr. Liese is a diabetes and nutrition epidemiologist

who has contributed extensively to the evidence base on the healthfulness of various eating patterns and risk factors for short and longer-term complications of diabetes in youth. She has been one of the leaders of multi-center SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study, which conducted surveillance of youth-onset diabetes from 2000-2020 in five US locations. SEARCH not only enumerated the growing burden in diabetes among all youth, but the increasingly higher rates in minority youth. For the past decade her research has focused on the impact of food insecurity and other social needs on the health and well-being of young adults with diabetes. In addition to her scientific achievements, Dr. Liese has been dedicated to mentoring and career development of students, faculty and staff in both the American College of Epidemiology and in her academic home in the Arnold School of Public Health. Last but not least, Dr. Liese led the Faculty Initiative for Improved Recruitment, Retention, and Experience (FIIRRE) from 2022 through 2025 together with Dr. Tisha Felder in the College of Nursing as one of 15 funded national sites.

EMERGING LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH



Nabil Natafghi, PhD -

University of South Carolina

Arnold School of Public Health

Dr. Nabil Natafghi is an Assistant Professor of Health Services Policy and Management at the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, where he also serves as the Interim Director of the Master of Health Administration (MHA) Program. Dr. Natafghi is the Associate Director of the Patient Engagement Studio (PES) at USC. His research focuses on health equity, patient engagement, and the

impact of telehealth on care delivery and outcomes, particularly among underserved and historically marginalized populations. Dr. Natafghi has been continuously funded by federal, state, and foundation grants, including awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). He co-led two PCORI-funded initiatives to develop the Virtual Patient (VIP) Engagement Studio, leveraging technology to engage patients and caregivers in research development, implementation, and dissemination. His work is grounded in mixed-methods research, qualitative inquiry, and community-based participatory approaches, ensuring that diverse voices—particularly those of patients and community stakeholders—are meaningfully integrated into health research and policy. Dr. Natafghi completed a postdoctoral fellowship in patient engagement at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He earned his PhD in Health Services Research from the University of Iowa, and both his MPH in Health Management and Policy and BS in Medical Laboratory Technology from the American University of Beirut.

HEALTH EQUITY POSTER SESSION

1. **Advancing Health Equity through Community Engagement: Insights into the Needs and Strengths of Maternal and Child Health Efforts in South Carolina**
Lauren Workman, PhD, MPH, Maria McClam, PhD, MSPH, Kristen Shealy, MSPH, Danielle Wingo, BS-2, and Adrienne Parkinson, BS
2. **Behavioral and Dietary Strategies for Weight Loss and Weight Loss Maintenance among Black/African American Adults and the Potential Role of Media: A Narrative Review**
Enid A. Keseko, MS, RD, Alexis Bell, MPH, and Gabrielle M. Turner-McGrievy, PhD
3. **Examining the Relationship between Social Vulnerability and Sidewalk Access and Walkability across a Large Southeastern US City**
Farnaz Hesam Shariati, MEng, Kelsey M. Thomas, MPH, Shirelle H. Hallum, MPH, and Andrew T. Kaczynski, PhD
4. **Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, and Stress in African American Adults: A Review of Ecological Momentary Assessment Studies**
Alexis Bell, MPH, Gabrielle M. Turner-McGrievy, PhD, Enid A. Keseko, MS, RD, and Chih-Hsiang (Jason) Yang, PhD
5. **Identifying Key Risk Factors for Sepsis Related Postpartum Readmissions by Race/Ethnicity**
Md Utba Bin Rashid, MBBS, MPH, Jihong Liu, ScD, and Curisa M. Tucker, PhD, RN
6. **Influence of Rurality, Racial Disparities, and Social Determinants of Health on Healthcare Access Among Women of Childbearing Aged 18-44 in South Carolina: A Cross-Sectional BRFSS Study**
Nudrat N. Hassan, Carlos Avalos, MSPH, and Nandita Perumal, PhD, MPH
7. **Interacting Effects of Race and Lesion Volume on Aphasia Severity**
Chitra Nanda and Sigfus Kristinnsson, PhD
WINNER: JAMES E. CLYBURN STUDENT POSTER AWARD
8. **Racial and Ethnic Differences in Missed Opportunities for HPV Vaccination Before and After the 2014 ACIP Policy Recommendations for Concomitant Adolescent Vaccination**
Ibtein Okeafor, MPH, Nicole Hair, PhD, Sarata Ngack, MPH, Mojtaba Kazemian, MS, Salome-Joelle Gass, MS, and Jan Ostermann, PhD
9. **Reimagining Thriving Communities: Amplifying Community Voice in Cross-Sector Collaboration Through Meaningful Engagement**
LaShandra Morgan, EdD, MPH, CHW
10. **Sleep Onset Latency and Diet Quality in African American Adults: Insights from a Plant-based Nutrition Intervention**
John Bernhart, PhD, MPH, CHES
11. **"[This picture] is about hope because I hope that with the work that I do in my community... that I bring hope...": Examining the Contributions of CHWs in South Carolina Through Photovoice**
Richard Strater, MA

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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