

2020 NIH Rural Health Seminar: Challenges in the Era of COVID-19

November 19, 2020 from 1:00 –5:00 p.m. ET | NIH Videocast

About the Seminar: Today, approximately 20% of the U.S. population about 60 million people live in rural areas, which make up 97% of the land area in the United States. People living in rural America have less access to health care and are more likely than residents of urban areas to die from chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease. Moreover, long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many rural residents at increased risk of getting COVID-19. The rural/urban inequities in health and health care warrant more rigorous and innovative scientific research to improve testing, contact tracing, and future vaccination for rural Americans. This seminar will explore the impact of the COVID-19 on rural populations, systems and workforce issues and community engagement to respond to the pandemic.

Objective: Preserving health and healthcare in rural communities is key to maintaining the economic stability of underserved rural populations. The health care challenges facing rural America call for more rigorous scientific research, successful implementation of evidence-based practice in rural settings and use of innovative technology to improve rural health outcomes. The mission of the NIH Rural Health Interest Group is to improve rural health outcomes through innovative bio-medical and behavioral research and enhanced implementation research aimed at improving disease prevention, self-management, and care delivery across the care continuum. The group provides a forum to connect clinical, community-based interventionists, and translational scientists from diverse disciplines across the NIH to research communities and decision makers, as well as to provide opportunities for professional development, networking, and community engagement.

In addition, the group has regular meetings including the annual NIH Rural Health Seminar series and activities observing National Rural Health Day. The theme for the Rural Health Seminar this year is on the impact of the COVID-19 on rural populations and communities.

Co-Organizers: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

Planning Committee:

Priscah Mujuru DrPH, MPH, RN *NIMHD*, **Co-Chair**
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Rick Berzon, DrPH, PA *NIMHD*
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Acknowledgements: The NIH Rural Health Interest Workgroup & the NIH-HHS Rural Health Task Force Representatives Nathan Stinson MD, PhD, *NIMHD*, and Shobha Srinivasan, PhD, *NCI*.



Seminar Agenda

1:00 – 1:05 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Priscah Mujuru, DrPH, MPH, RN, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH

Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH

1:05 – 1:55 p.m. **Keynote Address**

Remarks and Introduction: Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable MD, Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH

Keynote Address: Marshall Bloom, MD, Associate Director for Science Management, Rocky Mountain Laboratories and Chief of the Biology of Vector-Borne Viruses Section, Hamilton Montana Labs, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH

1:55 – 2:10 p.m. Tom Morris, MPA, Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration

2:10 – 3:20 p.m. **Session 1: Rural Population Impact and Response in the Time of COVID-19**

Moderator: Joni Rutter, PhD, Deputy Director, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH

Speakers:

Brenda Eskenazi, MA, PhD, University of California Berkeley
COVID-19 and its Impact on the Health of Californian Farmworkers and Their Families

Randall Akee, PhD, University of California Los Angeles
Social and Economic Correlates of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander COVID-19 Rates in Hawaii and the Continental U.S.

Cathleen Willging, PhD, University of New Mexico
Elucidating Inequities under COVID-19: Real-Time Research into the Wellbeing of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Rural New Mexico



National Institutes of Health

Turning Discovery Into Health

Early Stage Investigator talks:

Thomas Chávez PhD, University of New Mexico
UndocuResearch: Health and Wellbeing Among Undocumented Youth in New Mexico

Vincent Werito (Diné) PhD, University of New Mexico
Defining Community Wellbeing Through Community Engaged Research with Three Navajo Communities

3:20 – 3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. **Session 2: Researchers and Community Partners respond to the Challenges of COVID-19**

Moderator: Monica Webb Hooper, PhD, Deputy Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH

Speakers:

Stacy Rasmus, PhD, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Research in Rural Alaska in a Pandemic: Engaging Communities

Alice Ammerman, DrPH, University of North Carolina
Interventions to Address Job Loss and Food Security in Rural Communities During COVID

Lydia Bazzano, MD, PhD, Tulane University
Research and Community Collaboration in the Time of COVID: The Bogalusa Experience

Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc, University of North Carolina
Project GRACE: Rural Partnerships in Action

Mysha Wynn, MA, CSAC
Founder and Executive Director of Project Momentum, Inc.

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

Griffin Rodgers, MD, MACP, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIH