

Then and Now: The Importance of Historically-Informed Approaches to Addressing Racial Health Inequities in Responding to COVID-19

April 9, 2021

Session 2

Panelist/Moderator Bios

Onyinye Ohamadike

Medical Student

Duke University School of Medicine

Onyinye Ohamadike is a 3rd year medical student at Duke University School of Medicine and current Co-President of the Duke SNMA. She graduated from Emory University with a BA in Human Health in 2018 before matriculating into medical school. Her research interests include health disparities and social determinants of health particularly pertaining to women's health as she is an aspiring OB/GYN. She is a Feagin Leadership Program Scholar, Reach Equity Medical Student Scholar, and Gynecologic Oncology Medical Student Research Scholar. She is currently spending her research year studying the relationships between healthcare affordability and receipt of guideline-adherent care among ovarian cancer patients of various races. Outside of academics and research, you can find her serving in the local Durham community and mentoring UIM medical and pre-medical students.

Carly Eckert

Chief Clinical Officer

Greenlight Ready

Carly Eckert (Trinity '04) is a preventive medicine physician and epidemiologist. Carly has worked in industry for 4 years, collaborating closely with data scientists developing and implementing machine learning solutions in healthcare. Carly is the Chief Clinical Officer at Greenlight Ready where she works on last-mile implementation for public health practice. She is also a clinical advisor at KenSci and a doctoral student in epidemiology at the University of Washington where she studies transfer learning in trauma outcomes prediction.

Edith Nieves Lopez

Pediatrician

Lincoln Community Health Center

Edith Nieves Lopez is a bilingual pediatrician with ten years of experience. Currently, she is a pediatrician at the Lincoln Community Health Center. In addition, Dr. Nieves Lopez is focused on bridging health disparities in patient populations. She is also a member of the LATIN-19, advocating for the needs of the Latinx Community during the COVID-19 crisis.

Griselda Alonso

La Semilla and Curamericas

Originally from Mexico, Griselda immigrated to the United States to North Carolina in 1997, for a better future. Since her arrival in this country, she has resided in Wake County.

In 2004 she began as a liaison for the organization El Pueblo and the Saint Bernadette church, in which she was involved for more than 15 years as a health promoter and being part of the health window of the Mexican consulate. Being involved with the El Pueblo organization gave her the opportunity to collaborate with different universities such as UNC and Wake Forest University in projects related to the health of the immigrant community.

In 2012, she began working as an interpreter in Wake County Public Schools, which allowed her to continue to be involved with the community and help with the daily living needs of the immigrant community.

Along with her work, she continued to be involved with grassroots groups fighting against programs such as 287g and anti-immigrant proposals that segregate the immigrant community at the state level.

In 2020, as a result of the health crisis caused by COVID-19, she was working with La Semilla and Curamericas, to be able to reach the immigrant community in their basic needs since the government sees this community as essential but disposable to existing resources.

Currently with her grassroots group Women Organizing Remarkable Opportunities / MOON, she continues to help passing information on access to the vaccine and needs that continue to arise as a result of this pandemic.

Emily Peairs – Session Moderator

Student, Duke Medical School

Co-President, Root Causes

Emily Peairs is an MS1 at Duke Medical School. She graduated in 2020 from the College of William & Mary with a BS in Chemistry. Emily is co-president for Root Causes, a student-run organization that addresses social determinants of health such as food and housing insecurity in Durham. Emily is also a part of SOARR, a medical-student run initiative to improve surgical oncology outcomes within the population of lower socioeconomic patients who have Medicaid, Duke Charity Care, or are uninsured.