



HEAL

Health Equity and Leadership
Conference 2024

**Where Power Comes and Collides:
Intersectionality in Health Equity and Leadership**

Friday, April 19, 2024 – 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Office of Diversity and Inclusion**



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The 2024 HEAL Conference is hosted by:



**HARVARD
T.H. CHAN**

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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HEAL
Health Equity and Leadership
Conference 2024

Where Power Comes and Collides: Intersectionality in Health Equity and Leadership

The Health Equity and Leadership (HEAL) Conference is a student led initiative coordinated by the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Fellows and sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The HEAL conference intends to:

- Utilize a health equity lens to generate constructive discourse around current public health issues and events.
- Create spaces where participants can gain knowledge, awareness, and skills as related to health inequities.
- Bring together participants of all public health disciplines to share space and be in community.

This year's theme embraces the transformative theme of intersectionality and health equity, illuminating the intricate ways in which diverse social identities and systemic

inequalities converge to impact public health outcomes. The 2024 conference will feature an array of distinguished speakers and interactive workshops dedicated to exploring the multi-dimensional facets of health disparities, with a focus on fostering inclusive strategies and innovative solutions.

Attendees will engage with topics that span the spectrum of race, gender, socio-economic status, and beyond, aiming to equip public health leaders with the insights and tools necessary to advocate for and implement equitable health practices and policies. Through collaborative dialogue and expert-led sessions, the HEAL Conference seeks to pave the way for a more just and inclusive healthcare landscape, where every individual can achieve optimal health, irrespective of their background or identity.

Student Conference Leaders

We deeply appreciate your help in facilitating this important event. We couldn't do it without you!



Lilia Calleros

*EDI Fellow,
Logistics Coordinator*



Adrian Medina

*EDI Fellow, Speakers &
Presenters Coordinator*



Emnet Sisay

*EDI Fellow, Marketing &
Communications Coordinator*



Symphony B. Fletcher

*EDI Fellow,
Keynote Moderator and
Workshop Facilitator*



Keona Wynne

*EDI Fellow,
Workshop Facilitator*



Dr. James Frater

*EDI Fellow,
Workshop Facilitator*



Brandon Hankerson

EDI Fellow



Dr. Heather Alexis Olden

EDI Fellow

2024 HEAL Conference Schedule

8:00 - 8:45	Sign in and Networking - Kresge/FXB Security Area	
8:45 - 9:10	Transition to location for Keynote Address	
9:10 - 10:10	Keynote Speaker - Dr. Lucy Lomas Moderated by Symphony Fletcher	
8:45 - 9:10	Transition to Breakout location	
10:30 - 11:45	Session 1 Breakout (2 options)	
	<p>Trials and Triumphs of a Student-Run Free Pediatrics Clinic for Uninsured Patients (pg. 6) - FXB G13</p>	<p>Building a Better Response in Health: Social Participation, Patient Involvement and Quality of Care (pg. 7) - Kresge 201</p>
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch - Kresge Ground Floor	
	Transition to FXB from Kresge for Screening	
1:00 - 3:00	Screening & Discussion: Birthing Justice - FXB G-13	
	<p>Black women in the United States are three to five times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their white peers, a statistic that has actually gotten worse over the last 30 years. <i>Birthing Justice</i> captures the experiences and challenges of Black women, their families, caretakers and advocates, and examines the structures and systems that determine these disparate mortality rates.</p> <p>The film addresses the myriad issues fueling the maternal health crisis within the African American community while advocating for best practices that enhance birthing equity for all women, especially Black women. (pg. 8) <i>Discussion will be led by Dr. James Frater and Symphony Fletcher.</i></p>	
3:00 - 3:15	Transition to Breakout location	
3:15 - 4:30	Session 2 Breakout (2 options)	
	<p>Migrant Health and Wellbeing: The Urgent Need for Collaboration and Solutions in Our Community (pg. 7) - Kresge 200</p>	<p>Advancing a More Inclusive Blood and Transplant System for Donors from Marginalized Groups (pg. 8) - FXB G11</p>
	Transition to Countway	
4:30 - 5:30	Closing Remarks and Networking Reception - Countway 102-103	

Keynote Speaker

(9:10 - 10:10 am | Location: Kresge G-2)

Lucy Lomas, MD is an expert in women's health and wellness. She is leading a community-owned wellness center located in Roxbury that prioritizes the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of patients and healthcare workers. Lucy is a board-certified OB GYN physician with over 10 years of clinical experience. She serves as the director of community, health and wellness for the New England Medical Association, a network of black physicians. She graduated from the University of Southern California for Medicine (2009) and Biomedical engineering (2004). Lucy loves creating joyful experiences for her children, family and friends.



[Stream Keynote on Panopto](#)



Moderator: Symphony Fletcher
MPH-45, Quantitative Methods

Trials and Triumphs of a Student-Run Free Pediatrics Clinic for Uninsured Patients

(10:30-11:45 am | Location: FXB G13)

Shade Tree Pediatrics is an integrated primary care and psychiatry clinic for adolescents established in a student-run free clinic that serves uninsured patients in low-income families who may not otherwise get necessary care. We will share our successes and challenges with those interested in community health or health equity for underrepresented children and families. Our successes include providing comprehensive care to children ages 9 and above while addressing social barriers. The psychiatry arm of our clinic has highlighted systemic issues including insufficient access to culturally competent mental health services, and we are continuing to explore avenues to address the psychiatric counseling needs of uninsured adolescents in Nashville.

[Stream Trials and Triumphs on Panopto](#)

Presenters



Tina Chai
M.D. Candidate, School of Medicine,
Vanderbilt University



Rachel Mersfelder
M.D. Candidate, School of Medicine,
Vanderbilt University



Starina D'Souza
M.D. Candidate, School of Medicine,
Vanderbilt University

Building a Better Response in Health: Social Participation, Patient Involvement and Quality of Care

(10:30-11:45 am | Location: Kresge 201)

Policy Makers scholars, civic leaders, and health professionals understand how health policies can be improved through social participation. Students will be exposed to transdisciplinary concepts at the intersection of political science, public health, sociology of science, and medical anthropology. The theory will be balanced with practical frameworks to increase participatory processes.

[Stream Building a Better Response on Panopto](#)

Presenter



Alberto Inzulza Galdames

DDS, Master in Global Health and Population,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Advancing a More Inclusive Blood and Transplant System for Donors from Marginalized Groups

(3:15-4:30 am | Location: FXB G11)

This session focuses on the need for diverse donors across donation products, underrepresentation of racialized and LGBTQ+ donors across donor pools, unique barriers to donation impacting these groups, structural racism and discrimination in donation policy (past and present) which needs to be overcome, and solutions to advance a more inclusive blood and transplant system for donors from underserved/ historically excluded populations (focusing on how partnership with patient/family/donor/community advocates is critical to address disparities). The session will begin with a didactic component from the expert speaker (20 min), followed by facilitated small groups discussion of the issues highlighted in the presentation (35 min). Finally, the expert speaker will invite representatives of each breakout group to share a summary of their learnings for discussion with the larger group (25 min).

[Stream Advancing Inclusive Systems on Panopto](#)

Presenter



Warren Fingrut

Assistant Professor, Department of Stem Cell Transplantation and
Cellular Therapy, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Migrant Health and Wellbeing: The Urgent Need for Collaboration and Solutions in Our Community

(3:15-4:30 pm | Location: Kresge 200)

The ever-evolving migrant situation in Massachusetts is shining a spotlight on the fragmented and inequitable systems that prevent the most marginalized members of our population – whether homeless residents or newly arrived migrants – from accessing basic needs and addressing urgent health concerns. This session will focus on solutions, offering first-hand examples from the presenters that demonstrate the importance of cross-sector collaboration and how people can thrive and positively impact our community when provided with the resources needed to succeed.

[Stream Migrant Health and Wellbeing on Panopto](#)

Presenters



Maggie Sullivan

Instructor and Health and Human Rights Fellow at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University



Avik Chatterjee

Assistant Professor, Medicine, Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston University

Screening & Discussion: *Birthing Justice*

(1:00-3:00 pm | Location: FXB G13)

Birthing Justice: A Film by Monique N. Matthews. Black women in the United States are three to five times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their white peers, a statistic that has actually gotten worse over the last 30 years. *Birthing Justice* captures the experiences and challenges of Black women, their families, caretakers and advocates, and examines the structures and systems that determine these disparate mortality rates.

The film addresses the myriad issues fueling the maternal health crisis within the African American community while advocating for best practices that enhance birthing equity for all women, especially Black women. This national epidemic is addressed via four regions — Washington, D.C., Augusta, GA, Missouri, and California — by speaking with those who have been affected by current policies as well as those who are at the forefront of advancing policy change. Through the telling of personal experiences a picture emerges of a systemic lack in the maternal healthcare based on race. To contextualize those deficiencies, the film also explores American medical history, revealing how the impacts of eugenics and a sweeping medical report called The Flexner Report continue to impact medical training for Black doctors and outcomes for Black patients over a century after they were conceived.

Through these stories, what emerges again and again as one of the chief solutions to Black maternal health is a diversified medical labor force, with surveys revealing persistent implicit biases across the field. The film also looks other ways that positive maternal and pregnancy outcomes are achieved for Black mothers, including incorporating and training doulas and in-hospital nurse-midwives, and pending congressional legislation. Transforming this narrative of tragedy into one of hope, *Birthing Justice* flips the victim-blaming paradigm by centering on the lived experiences of Black women and their advocates as they fix a broken system and transform the future, one birth at a time.

Discussion Leaders:



Dr. James Frater

Master of Public Health,
Doctor of Health Management



Symphony Fletcher

MPH-45, Quantitative Methods

Navigating Our Space

[CAMPUS MAPS](#)

[GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS](#)

[LACTATION ROOMS](#)

[MEDITATION ROOMS](#)

Streaming Links for the Sessions

[LINK FOR KEYNOTE](#)

[LINK FOR TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS](#)

[LINK FOR BUILDING A BETTER RESPONSE](#)

[LINK FOR MIGRANT HEALTH AND WELLBEING](#)

[LINK FOR ADVANCING INCLUSIVE SYSTEMS](#)



Thank you for attending the 2024 HEAL Conference

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