

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mac Bonafede- Veradigm

Mac is Vice President of Real World Evidence at Veradigm where he leads their team of data scientists, statisticians, and epidemiologists in conducting and guiding health economics, safety, and outcomes research studies. Mac's team is adept at using varied real world data sources to generate real world evidence findings in a range of therapeutic areas.

Before joining Veradigm, Dr. Bonafede was with IBM Watson Health (previously Truven Health Analytics and Thomson Reuters Healthcare). Prior to that, he served on the faculty of the Albany College of Pharmacy, where he taught courses covering research and statistical methods, total quality management, and evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Bonafede continues to teach at the University of New Hampshire Department of Health Management and Policy's Master's Degree in Health Data Science. He holds a PhD in health services research and policy and a master's degree in public health, both from the University of Rochester. Outside of work, Mac is likely to be found working on his family's 200-year-old farmhouse in southern New Hampshire or unsuccessfully trying his hand at small scale agriculture and homesteading.

Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, PhD, MHS, RN- Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Dr. Yvonne Commodore-Mensah is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Schools of Nursing, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity.

As a nurse scientist and cardiovascular disease epidemiologist, her program of research seeks to advance cardiovascular health among African-descent populations locally (United States) and globally (sub-Saharan Africa) through implementation science and community-engaged methods. She is the Principal Investigator of the LINKED-BP Program and co-PI of the LINKED-HEARTS Program, two cluster-randomized controlled trials, which are testing the implementation of multi-level interventions to improve hypertension control and the management of multiple chronic conditions in primary care. She is the co-PI of the Addressing Hypertension CaRe in Africa (ADHINCRA) Study, a cluster-randomized control trial which tested the effectiveness of a nurse-led, mobile health intervention to improve hypertension control in Ghana

She is a member of the Steering Committee of the National Hypertension Control Roundtable and serves on the Advisory Boards of the National Hypertension Control Initiative and Target:BP. She is a Board member for the American Heart Association Baltimore and Greater Maryland area and the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association.

<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.122.009519>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31641329/>

Jason Deen, MD, FACC- University of Washington

Jason Deen, MD, is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Divisions of Cardiology at the University of Washington. He earned his MD from the University of

Minnesota and is quadruple board certified in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology and Adult Congenital Heart Disease. Deen is the founding director of the University of Washington School of Medicine's Center for Indigenous Health which strives to improve the care of Native communities in Washington State. As a co-Principal Investigator of the Strong Heart Study, his research encompasses preventive cardiology and atherosclerotic risk stratification in American Indian communities with a focus on children and adolescents.

<https://strongheartstudy.org/>

Katherine Doermann Byrd- ACC Director of Patient Voice

Katherine currently serves as the Director for Patient Voice and Real-World Implementation at the American College of Cardiology, a 52,000-member, nonprofit medical association serving as the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College and its members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. As part of her duties, Katherine oversees the development of the ACC's patient voice portfolio, including the CardioSmart platform. Her primary responsibilities include infusing the patient voice into ACC activities—such as clinical policy recommendations, quality improvement initiatives and clinician education—and developing tools to help bridge the communication gap between patients and clinicians.

In 20+ years with the ACC, Katherine's work includes developing evidence-based guidelines, translating clinical policy into tools that can be implemented in clinical practice, forming the ACC's first committee focused on patient-centered care and incorporation of the patient voice, advising the redesign of the ACC's patient-focused website, CardioSmart.org; and spearheading shared decision-making implementation for the SMARTCare Project, funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Katherine received her bachelor's from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. She is a graduate of the Intermountain Healthcare Advance Training Program (ATP) in Health Care Delivery Improvement and earned a certificate in Executive Leadership for Healthcare Professionals from Cornell University.

Paul Douglass, MD, MACC- Chief, Division of Cardiology, Atlanta Medical Center

Dr. Douglass is a native of Nashville, Tennessee. He joined Metropolitan Atlanta Cardiology Consultants in 1982 and now practices Clinical and Interventional Cardiology with Wellstar Medical Group, Center for Cardiovascular Medicine. Dr. Douglass served as Chief, Division of Cardiology and Director, Cardiovascular Services at the Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center from 2001 until its closure in 2022. He also served as Chairman of the Hospital Board at Atlanta Medical Center, 2006 – 2008. He serves as Clinical Assistant Professor (Cardiology) at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for Wellstar Health System and serves on the Executive Committee. In 2020 and 2021 he was named to the Top Docs list by Georgia Trend Magazine. Also, he was named by Atlanta Magazine as a Top Doctor in Cardiovascular Disease in 2022 and 2023. He received the National Medical Association Region III Award of Excellence in 2019. He is the current Chair of the American College of Cardiology Health Equity Task Force. He serves as a Member of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease Examination Committee. He is the current Deputy Editor of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Advances*. He has been the Chair of the Wellstar Board of Quality and Safety since 2018. He is

a member of the American College of Cardiology Industry Advisory Forum. He is a past Chair of the American College of Cardiology Publications and Editorial Coordinating Committee. He served as President, Metro Atlanta American Heart Association from 2014 – 2016. He currently serves on the American Heart Association Heart Failure Systems of Care Advisory Group.

He received his undergraduate degree in biology from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern he was captain and Most Valuable Player of the basketball team in 1972. He also received the Achievement Award as the most outstanding scholar – athlete in 1972.

His M.D. degree was awarded at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society in 1976. He also was elected and served as President of the Student Body in 1976.

Dr. Douglass performed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine between 1976 and 1982 in Atlanta, Georgia.

He has been the recipient of numerous professional awards including the Physician of the Year Award and the Nash – Carter Award from the Atlanta Medical Association; the Distinguished Service Medallion from the Georgia State Medical Association; several years of Teaching Excellence Awards from the Department of Internal Medicine at Atlanta Medical Center; and the Hero Award from the Association of Black Cardiologists. Dr. Douglass has worked diligently on behalf of cardiovascular practice serving on the NHLBI Advisory Panel and the Special Emphasis Panel and Disparities Working Group. He has served as president of the Atlanta Medical Association, president of the Georgia State Medical Association, and national president of the Association of Black Cardiologists. He was the Co – Chairman of the Venue and Training Site Sub – Committee for the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996. He was instrumental in the planning and establishment of the Georgia chapter of the American College of Cardiology and served as its first Secretary – Treasurer. He also became president and governor of the Georgia chapter of the American College of Cardiology. In 2015 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology for his dedication and service to cardiovascular medicine. Dr. Douglass has participated on numerous committees and task forces for the American College of Cardiology including serving on the Board of Trustees from 2006 – 2011. He was named a Master of the American College of Cardiology in 2016 for his lifelong contributions to cardiology and the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Douglass has published numerous scientific articles and editorials. He has lectured locally, nationally, and internationally on various topics related to cardiovascular diseases with a special interest in cardiovascular diseases in African – Americans and other underrepresented minorities. His hobbies include Jazz, reading, jogging, and tennis. He has three children, Toi (Adoption counselor), Paul III (Operations Analyst for Porche USA), and Travis (Assistant Professor of Medicine-Hospital Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine). Dr. Douglass is married to Sheila A. Robinson, M.D., F.A.C.C., also a cardiologist with Wellstar Medical Group, Center for Cardiovascular Care

Yosef Khan, MD, MPH, PhD- Premier/PINC AI Applied Sciences

Yosef Khan, M.D., MPH, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of Clinical Research and Real-World Evidence for PINC AI™ Applied Sciences, the research and analytics division of Premier, where he leads clinical trial efforts, oversees prospective observational studies, and innovative solutions around accelerating novel therapies and real-world evidence. He is responsible for guiding the long-term vision, business strategy, and operational planning for real-world evidence and clinical research, leveraging Premier's robust hospital network, advanced analytics capabilities and artificial intelligence on blended and integrated structured and unstructured electronic health records and large-scale real-world datasets.

Dr. Khan has over 18 years of experience and deep expertise in leveraging health data assets as well as in designing, conducting, and analyzing large observational studies, therapeutic and device clinical trials. Prior to joining PINC AI™ Applied Sciences, Dr. Khan served as the National Director for Health Informatics and Analytics as well as the National Director of Research Bioinformatics at the American Heart Association (AHA), where he led the strategy for healthcare quality research and the operational planning for the AHA's decade long 2030 Impact Goal. He has co-authored more than 120 peer-reviewed journal publications and conference presentations, and also serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology and the Journal for Pragmatic and Observational Research.

He previously held academic faculty positions in biomedical informatics and biostatistics at The Ohio State University (OSU) and currently holds faculty appointments in public health and epidemiology in universities across Texas. His unique educational training and professional experience has facilitated efficient and meaningful dialogue between academic, industry, biological and business experts, making technical topics and real-world issues accessible.

Dr. Khan's academic qualifications span a medical degree, a master's degree in public health (MPH) with a focus in epidemiology and biostatistics from OSU, and a Ph.D. in public health (epidemiology) and health informatics also from OSU. He has also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in bioinformatics.

[Applied Sciences | PINC AI \(pinc-ai.com\)](#)

[Decentralized Clinical Trials: Considerations for Implementation- MedTech Intelligence](#)

Phillip Levy, MD, MPH, FACC- Wayne State University

Phillip Levy, MD, MPH is the Edward S Thomas endowed Professor of Emergency Medicine at Wayne State University where he currently serves as Associate Vice President for Translational Sciences and Director of the Wayne Mobile Health Unit Program, which he founded in April 2020. A fellow of multiple professional societies including the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Levy is a leading health equity researcher with a focus on cardiovascular disease risk reduction who has overseen more than 110 funded studies from various entities since his arrival at Wayne State in 2002. Included among these funded programs is ACHIEVE-GREATER (Addressing Cardiometabolic Health Inequities by Early Prevention in the GREAT Lakes Region - P50 MD017351; Levy, PI), one of 11 centers that are part of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities Health Equity Action Network and LEAP-HTN (Linkage, Empowerment and Access to Prevent Hypertension, which is part of the American Heart Association funded RESTORE (Addressing Social Determinants TO prevent hypertension) Health Equity Research Network. The overarching goal of this research is to reduce cardiometabolic health disparities by addressing social determinants and optimizing pharmaceutical management through a community health worker and pharmacist delivered program of care known as PAL2 which is a "pragmatic, personalized, adaptable approach to lifestyle and life circumstance" intervention. Dr. Levy is also leading related efforts for the State of Michigan, overseeing the development and deployment of the Michigan Mobile Health Corps, a program that will bring universal access to free cardiometabolic prevention screenings in the community with remote delivery of clinical and social support services using mobile units. To facilitate this work, Dr. Levy developed PHOENIX (Population Health Outcomes Information Exchange), which enables deep community phenotyping using integrated, multidimensional data, and implementation of targeted outreach.

<https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-health-watch/heart-disease-exposes-disparities-so-medicine-goes-mobile-detroit>

<https://wdet.org/posts/2022/01/07/91901-wayne-mobile-health-clinic-works-to-address-disparities-in-the-health-system/>

<https://today.wayne.edu/medicine/news/2021/10/06/wayne-state-wins-18-million-from-national-institutes-of-health-to-intercept-chronic-disease-in-black-communities-46285>

Nicole Lohr, MD, PhD, FACC- University of Alabama at Birmingham and Chair, ACC Board of Governors

Dr. Nicole Lohr obtained her PhD and MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee, WI in 2004 & 2006, respectively. She continued at MCW to complete her internal medicine residency and fellowship in cardiovascular medicine in 2012. She joined the MCW faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in 2012 and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2019. In 2022, Dr. Lohr was appointed Professor of Medicine and Division Director of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Heersink School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Dr. Lohr has also proven to be a dedicated clinician researcher and healthcare administrator at UAB with leadership roles as the Division Director of Cardiovascular Medicine, Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Institute and Director of the Comprehensive Cardiovascular Center. Previously she held leadership roles in clinical trials administration and in the VA.

She is a physician scientist with numerous active clinical trial studies as PI. Her NIH RO1 funded investigator research, “Small molecule NO precursors as a bioactive source of NO in vasodilation and angiogenesis” is still actively recruiting for research participants. She is proudly funded as a MERIT investigator at the VA for many years with her current focus on “Red Light mediated trafficking of microvesicles as a mechanism of vasodilation.”

She has attained leadership positions in two nationally recognized organizations: the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA). She became a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC) in 2014 and held leadership positions within the WI Chapter of the ACC, including: Councilor in 2015, Governor-Elect in 2019, and Governor in 2020. She is the Chair for the ACC Board of Governors and Secretary of the ACC. Her service to the AHA was recognized as Board President of the Milwaukee Chapter between 2020-2022.

Gladys Maestre, MD, PhD- Professor, Neuroscience and Human Genetics, School of Medicine, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Professor of Neuroscience and Human Genetics and the Director of the Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (AD-RCMAR) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. Professor Emerita at the University of Zulia at Venezuela. She received her M.D. from the University of Zulia in Venezuela and her M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia University, and post-doctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She leads the Maracaibo Aging Study as principal investigator since 1998. This is a longitudinal population-based study

of dementia and other age-related health problems that has followed more than 2,500 subjects since its inception and has provided important insights about the aging of Latinos. Recipient of numerous awards, and recognized author, the focus of her research is to advance age-related conditions that disproportionately affect Latinos, at the intersection of biomedical, social, and behavioral, and implementation sciences.

[In Texas, a bold plan to diversify Alzheimer's research takes shape](#)

Emily Mitchell- ICON plc

Emily Mitchell has over 15 years of experience in the CRO industry, working across multiple functions including Data Management, Project Management and Clinical Operations. During her time at ICON, Emily partnered with Actigraph to run a pilot study with employees on the wear compliance and comparison of a medical grade activity tracker to commercial grade devices. Just prior to the pandemic, Emily managed the set-up and support of the first fully decentralized clinical trial to have published positive results in a peer reviewed publication, Nature. Ms. Mitchell currently heads up the DCT Strategic Operations team at ICON plc who oversee the development of strategy and operational delivery for hybrid and full DCTs.

Emily has presented on the best practices in decentralizing studies, ensuring patient and site burden is minimized while optimizing data capture, at numerous industry forums and conferences. She is an active member of SCDM and continues to support the progression of the industry in this innovative space.

Nick Morse, MBA- Vice President, ACC, Advocacy and Government Affairs

As DVP for Advocacy, Nick is charged with guiding and strengthening the ACC's interaction and influence with policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the College's mission of transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. In this role, he works with ACC staff and member leaders to spearhead engagement and the development of sound policy to lessen the burden of cardiovascular disease and address the complex issues facing America's health care system. Nick and the Advocacy division, in collaboration with ACC's Health Affairs Committee, are keenly focused on ensuring CV clinicians are supported in their tireless work for their patients. Nick has been a proud member of the ACC team for 15 years. Prior to his time with the College, he worked in government relations for the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association. He also spent three years teaching middle school social studies in suburban Maryland. Nick earned his MBA from the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee. He and his wife Sara are graduates of Gettysburg College and live in Virginia with their three children, Charlie (13), Ellie (11), and Kate (8), and their charming rescue dog, Taylor Adele.

Brendan Mullen- ACC Senior Executive Vice President

Brendan Mullen is Senior Executive Vice President of the American College of Cardiology, overseeing marketing and communications, business development, digital and enterprise strategy, and international affairs and science and quality.

Mullen originally joined the ACC in 2008 as director of strategic planning and later was the senior director for the PINNACLE Registry. During his time at the ACC, Mullen has been involved in the conception and development of the College's positions and programs relating to health care reform, payment reform and quality improvement. Mullen has written on a broad range of topics in health care but is most proud of

the editorials and articles in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* that he co-authored with ACC members. Before joining the ACC, Mullen worked for nearly 10 years as a consultant for the Advisory Board Company, a health care research and consulting firm focused on hospital and health system strategy and operations. He also served as Vice President of Programs and Strategy at the National Quality Forum

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, MACC- Chair, ACC Industry Advisory Forum

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, MACC, earned both her undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Minnesota. She completed her internship and residency at the University of Texas Southwestern, and her cardiology fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. She served as an assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, as well as an assistant professor of radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania from 1990 to 1992. Walsh joined what is now Ascension Medical Group in Indianapolis, IN in 1992.

Dr. Walsh's areas of expertise include nuclear cardiology, heart failure, and cardiac transplantation with a special interest in cardiovascular disease in women. She is the medical director of the heart failure and cardiac transplantation programs at Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center, and she serves as a clinical associate professor of medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine. Walsh is program director of the Ascension St. Vincent Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation Fellowship and leads the Ascension Health heart failure service line. She is also the medical director of the Ascension St Vincent Cardiovascular Research Institute.

Dr. Walsh is a deputy editor of JACC Case Reports, editorial consultant for JACC: Heart Failure, Associate Editor of the Journal of Cardiac Failure, and a reviewer for multiple scientific journals. She is an author of more than 200 articles and book chapters. She has been active in the ACC both locally and nationally. She was previously elected as president of the Indiana Chapter and has served on and chaired multiple committees and work groups. She served as the organization's national president in 2017-2018. Dr. Walsh's teaching activities include instruction of students, residents and fellows and she lectures frequently on heart failure, heart disease in women, and topics in patient-centered healthcare. She is actively involved in clinical research in heart failure and systems approaches for quality initiatives in the practice setting.

Dr. Walsh has received numerous awards and recognitions including the Wenger Award for Medical Leadership in 2014, the St Vincent Distinguished Physician Award in 2018, the Women's Day Red Dress Award in 2019 and she has been elected by her peers for inclusion in Best Doctors in America annually since 2005.

M. Jackson Wilkinson- Chief of Staff, Hugo Health

Jackson Wilkinson is a software product, design, and engineering leader working with Hugo Health, which empowers patients to control and use their health data more powerfully than ever. He is a Venture and Operating Partner with F-Prime Capital in Boston, where he supports and advises early-stage healthcare and technology portfolio companies.

Jackson has spent more than a decade designing and building technology products to improve patient outcomes and experience. Notably, Jackson was Founder and CTO of Kinsights, which connected, supported, and engaged parents of children with rare and complex conditions, and was later acquired by Care.com. He led product, design, and engineering at PathAI, the leader in bringing computer vision and AI to pathology, and most recently served as CTO of Project Beacon COVID-19, which rapidly expanded access to testing during the pandemic throughout New England. Prior to his work in digital health and health tech, Jackson led design and UX efforts at consumer technology companies including Posterous (acquired by Twitter) and LinkedIn.

Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC- President, American College of Cardiology

B. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, is an interventional cardiologist and executive vice chair at Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute in North Carolina, where he previously served as chief of cardiology for more than 13 years. He has published more than 75 articles with interests spanning STEMI systems of care, stent technologies and devices for coronary intervention, left main stenting, chronic total occlusions, anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapies, structural and valvular heart disease, appropriate public reporting of PCI outcomes and quality improvement projects for systems of care, and clinician well-being.

Wilson graduated with honors from Davidson College and subsequently Duke University School of Medicine. He then trained in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he served as chief resident before completing his cardiology fellowship under Gottlieb Friesinger, MD, FACC. Since 2006, he has been a clinical professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, as well as the chief liaison for cardiovascular training between UNC's hospital campuses in Charlotte and Chapel Hill. Wilson served as co-director of the annual Advanced Cardiovascular Interventions course in Hilton Head, SC, from 1992-2007 and as the chief interventional cardiologist for the ACC North Carolina Chapter STEMI/RACE program to develop a statewide system of care from 2005-2015. From 2011-2020, he was the chair of the ACC/American Heart Association National STEMI Accelerator I and II programs, covering more than 30 million lives.

Since 2019, he has been a senior adviser to the steering committee for the ACC Global Heart Attack Treatment Initiative, enrolling more than 2,000 STEMI patients. Wilson has also led numerous cardiology medical missions to other countries, including Haiti, Panama, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Wilson served as co-chair of ACC Latin America. In the past, he served as governor for ACC's North Carolina Chapter, as well as chair of the Board of Governors and secretary of the Board of Trustees. He also has held positions on the ACC Membership Committee and the NCDR Management Board and has served as chair-elect of the Governance Committee.