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HEALTH AND MEDICINE DIVISION  
BOARD ON POPULATION HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Meeting 2 of the Committee on  
Applying Neurobiological and Socio-behavioral Sciences from Prenatal through Early  
Childhood Development: A Health Equity Approach

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**SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES**

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**Paula Braveman, M.D., M.P.H.**, is Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Her formal training is in Family and Community Medicine and in Epidemiology. For 30 years, Dr. Braveman has studied and published extensively on health equity, health disparities, and the social determinants of health, and has worked to bring attention to these issues in the U.S. and internationally. Her research has focused on measuring, documenting, understanding, and addressing socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities, primarily in maternal and infant health. During the 1990s she collaborated with World Health Organization staff to develop an initiative on equity in health in low- and middle-income countries. She directed the research for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national commission on the social determinants of health. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with local, state, federal, and international health agencies to see rigorous research translated into practice for greater health equity. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) in 2002.

**Suzanne Brundage** directs the Children's Health Initiative at the United Hospital Fund (UHF), an independent nonprofit organization that seeks to build a more effective health care system for every New Yorker. In 2017 she was named the Patricia S. Levinson Fellow at UHF for her efforts to improve health care for vulnerable populations. She is an inaugural member of the Children's Health Leadership Network established by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, The David & Lucille Packard Foundation, and Atlantic Philanthropies. Her work has been covered by numerous outlets including WNYC (New York public radio), Politico, Crain's New York, Health Affairs and the New England Journal of Medicine. Prior to joining UHF in 2014, Ms. Brundage was the assistant director of the Global Health Policy Center at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC. She has also worked with Catholic AIDS Action in Namibia, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Boston Medical Center. A graduate of Bennington College, where she serves as a trustee, she holds a master's degree from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Philip A. Fisher, Ph.D.**, is Philip H. Knight Chair and Professor of Psychology at the University of Oregon, where he serves as Founding Director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center on the Developing Child, and a member of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, both based at Harvard University. Dr. Fisher's work focuses on socially and economically disadvantaged families and child maltreatment. His work comprises: (a) studies to understand the effects of early stress on the developing brain, behavior, and biology; (b) the development of two-generation prevention and treatment programs to improve high-risk children's (and their caregiver's) well-being and brain functioning; and (c) advocacy for science-based policy and practice to improve early learning and healthy development in high-risk children. His work has been funded by a number of institutes of the National Institutes of Health, the Institute for Education Sciences, and private foundations. His intervention programs are being implemented at sites throughout the United States and Europe. He is the recipient of the 2012 Society for Prevention Research Translational Science Award.

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**Neal Halfon, M.D., M.P.H.**, is founding director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, and is professor of pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; health policy and management in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; and public policy in the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. For more than three decades, Dr. Halfon has been instrumental in advancing research, policy and systems innovations focused on the healthy development of children at local, national and international levels. Dr. Halfon has spearheaded the application of lifecourse health science to advance population health development, health equity; including directing the MCH Life Course Research Network (<http://www.lcrn.net/>) and editing the *Handbook of Life Course Health Development* (Springer 2018). For more than 20 years, Dr. Halfon has spearheaded the development of early childhood service systems at the local, state and national levels, including the design of First 5 programs in California, the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) initiatives for MCHB, and the Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems (TECCS) initiative that has helped more than 70 communities, measure the healthy development, school readiness and well-being of over 300,000 US children, to drive improvements in their early childhood systems. A national learning network of TECCS sites are also advancing cross-sector, place-based integrated community systems innovations and improvements. Most recently Halfon and colleagues have launched All Children Thrive (ACT), a national innovation, improvement and learning network working with cities and communities to transform the ecosystems in which children grow, develop, learn and play. Among other distinctions, Halfon has served as member of the Board on Children Youth and Families (IOM/NAM) from 2001-2006, as Honorary Professor at Institute for Child Health at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London from 2003–2012, as a visiting scholar at Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco, from 2012–2013, and was awarded the Academic Pediatrics Association annual Research Award in 2006, and the American Academy of Pediatrics C. Anderson Aldrich Award in Child Development in 2017.

**Ron Haskins, Ph.D.**, is a Senior Fellow and holds the Cabot Family Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, where he co-directs the Center on Children and Families. He is a past-president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Haskins is the author of *Show Me the Evidence: Obama's Fight for Rigor and Evidence in Social Policy* (Brookings, 2014) and *Work Over Welfare: The Inside Story of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law* (Brookings, 2006); co-author of *Creating an Opportunity Society* (Brookings, 2009) and *Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America* (Pew Charitable Trusts and Brookings, 2008); and senior editor of *The Future of Children*. In 2002, he took a one-year leave from Brookings to serve as the Senior Advisor to the President for Welfare Policy at the White House. Prior to joining Brookings in 2001, he spent 14 years on the staff of the House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee, serving as the subcommittee's Staff Director after Republicans became the majority party in the House after the 1994 elections. He was editor of 1996, 1998, and 2000 editions of the House Ways and Means *Green Book*, a 1600-page compendium that describes and analyzes federal social programs. In 2016, Haskins and his long-time colleague Isabel Sawhill were awarded the Moynihan Prize for being champions of the public good and advocates for public policy based on social science research. In 1997, Haskins was selected by the *National Journal* as one of the 100 most influential people in the federal government. From 1981-1985, he was a senior researcher at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He holds a Bachelor's degree in History, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from UNC. In his Washington career, he has focused on evidence-based policy, early childhood education, marriage and family formation, poverty, equal opportunity, abused and neglected children, and budget issues.

**Sarah Barclay Hoffman, M.P.P.**, is the Assistant Director of the Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN), and a Program Manager with Children's National Health System in Washington, DC. Ms. Hoffman provides strategic direction, policy visioning, and operational management to ECIN, which is a local collaborative of health and education providers, community-based organizations, researchers, and

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advocates promoting resilience in families and children from pregnancy through age 5. ECIN aims to improve child and family resiliency and decrease the effects of toxic stress in young children through innovative, sustainable, and community co-created solutions in health care, early learning, and child and family serving agencies. As a Program Manager at Children’s National, she oversees an early childhood and perinatal mental health portfolio, and serves as a partner on other hospital-based mental health initiatives, such as the DC Collaborative for Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care, a public-private partnership that improves the integration of mental health and pediatric primary care. In her role, she also works with citywide, cross-sector partners to transform child- and family-serving policies and systems. Ms. Hoffman has nearly 15 years of experience in policy and advocacy focused on children’s issues, including as an advisor on education policy and strategy to national philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, and state education agencies at EducationCounsel LLC, and as a government relations specialist at the Children’s Defense Fund. She also serves on the Board of Directors and is the past Board Chair of McClendon Center, DC’s highest-rated community mental health agency, and is a Zero to Three Academy Fellow. Ms. Hoffman graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Colby College, and holds a Master of Public Policy from Duke University.

**Robert S. Kahn, M.D., M.P.H.,** is a Professor of Pediatrics and serves as Associate Chair for Community Health at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Kahn co-directs the hospital’s community health strategic plan which seeks to help ensure Cincinnati’s 66,000 children are the healthiest in the nation through strong community partnerships. The goals of the initiative are to reduce infant mortality and disparities in avoidable admissions and to improve school readiness and 3rd grade reading proficiency. Dr. Kahn's research interests lie at the intersection of poverty and child health, assessing what leads to worse health and where we might intervene most effectively in partnership with families and community agencies. His research focuses on common pediatric conditions through clinical, quality improvement and population health lenses. Dr. Kahn attended Princeton University, Vanderbilt College of Medicine and completed residency and fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital.

**Milton Kotelchuk, Ph.D., M.P.H.,** is currently Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and Senior Scientist in Maternal and Child Health at both the Center for Child & Adolescent Health Research and Policy, Division of General Academic Pediatrics, MassGeneral Hospital for Children, and the Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Massachusetts General Hospital. He was formerly Chairman of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Depts. at the UNC-Chapel Hill and Boston University School of Public Health. He received his PhD in Personality and Developmental Psychology and an MPH in MCH and Epidemiology from Harvard University. Dr. Kotelchuck has extensive experience evaluating public health programs and policies to improve birth outcomes and child health. His research interests include examination of racial disparities in birth outcomes and child health; the adequacy and content of pre-conception, prenatal and inter-conception care; child health services; home visiting, child nutrition; fatherhood; and health data policy. He developed the widely used Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index. His current research activities focus on MCH Life Course models, the utilization of the MA Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal (PELL) data system, the evaluation of various community-based perinatal health interventions, and fatherhood initiatives. He serves on numerous national committees to improve perinatal and child health services, including most recently the US DHHS Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM), the federal government’s highest advisory committee on perinatal health. Dr. Kotelchuck is also Senior and founding Editor of the Maternal and Child Health Journal. In 2000, Dr. Kotelchuck was awarded the first National MCH Epidemiology Award for “Advancing Knowledge” from the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology, and in 2010, he received the Martha May Eliot Award from the APHA for “exceptional health services for mothers and children.”

**Fernando D. Martinez, M.D.,** is a Regents’ Professor and Director of the Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Dr. Martinez is a world-renowned expert, and one

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of the most highly regarded researchers, in the field of childhood asthma. His primary research interests are the natural history, genetics, and treatment of childhood asthma.

His groundbreaking research has had an impact on his field in numerous ways, most prominent among them the development of the concept of the early origins of asthma and COPD. This concept is now widely accepted as the potential basis for the design of new strategies for the prevention of these devastating illnesses affecting millions of children and adults worldwide. In addition, Dr. Martinez has made important contributions to our understanding of the role of gene-environment interactions in the development of asthma and allergies. He has also been the principal investigator of one of the Clinical Centers that are part of the NHLBI Asthma Treatment Networks, which have contributed fundamental new evidence on which to base national guidelines for the treatment of the disease.

Dr. Martinez currently serves on national scientific boards including the NHLBI National Advisory Council and the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. He was a member of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program that was responsible for the development of the Expert Panel Report: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma in 1997 and its first revision in 2001. He also has been a member of the FDA Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs Advisory Committee and the Board of Extramural Advisors of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

Dr. Martinez's research and vision are well detailed in more than 250 original research papers and editorials, many in collaboration with investigators from all over the world. He is frequently invited to give keynote presentations at national and international meetings.

**Megan V. Smith, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.**, is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and the Child Study Center at the Yale School of Medicine and in Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Smith conducts research and teaches and mentors students, in perinatal and developmental psychopathology, with a particular focus on women. Dr. Smith's longstanding research interest has been investigation into the clinical course, phenomenology, and treatment of psychiatric disorders as they occur in under-resourced pregnant and parenting women and their children. A major component of this work has included translational and community-partnered research in the occurrence and treatment of illnesses in pregnancy and the postpartum period, and their impact on pregnancy outcome and mental health across the life course. Dr. Smith is the Founder and Director of the MOMS Partnership™, a novel, two generational approach to promote the mental health of overburdened and underserved mothers that began in New Haven, Connecticut and is currently being replicated in additional locations across the U.S. In addition to her work on MOMS, Dr. Smith is the principal investigator on several federally-funded grants focused on depression, trauma and smoking interventions in pregnancy, the postpartum period, and the parenting years and is Director of the Yale Parent and Family Development Program, a center dedicated to the promotion of mental wellbeing for families throughout their parenting years.

Dr. Smith is a former recipient of a Building Interdisciplinary Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) career award from the National Institute of Health, Office of Research on Women's Health and investigator awards from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression and the North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics & Gynecology. Dr. Smith serves on the board of the Connecticut Association for Human Services and the National Diaper Bank Network.

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