

Workshop on Building Resilience in the Face of Emerging Threats to Child and Youth Well-Being

SPEAKER BIOS



Prameela Boorada (she/they), is a social-impact storyteller with an artsy, entrepreneurial spirit. She currently serves as the CEO/Founder of Impact Playground – which is an identity-driven, social-justice education platform designed for youth. Growing up in India, Prameela was raised on a wonderful selection of fables, mythology, biographies and experiences. After moving to the United States, she attended UC Davis and graduated with a degree in Quantitative Psychology. Through college, she struggled to

find culturally-competent resources to support her mental health issues. This pushed her to get involved in social-justice and grassroots efforts to find community and healing – a passion that stayed strong well beyond college. Prameela worked on several social-impact ventures. She built an app to provide culturally-congruent anxiety care strategies. She secured a Research Fellowship at HeadStream Innovations where she surveyed the impact of vulnerability in digital spaces on youth wellbeing, advised 15 startups on how to focus their DEI efforts and published a collection of stories from creatives of color. She got involved in grass-roots mental health advocacy through MannMukti and launched a national South Asian Youth Fellowship in 2020. She recently served on Mental Health America's 2021 Youth Mental Health Leaders Council where she advocated for building more inclusive, equitable and ethical platforms for youth advocates. When she's not out building programs or products - you can find her painting, writing poetry, baking or learning how to gracefully fall on roller blades.

Tina L. Cheng, MD, PhD, Tina Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., is the B.K Rachford Professor of Pediatrics, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics for the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Director of the Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation, and Chief Medical Officer at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center starting November 2020. Her clinical work, teaching and research focuses on child, adolescent and family perspectives on improving health and community-integrated models to interrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage. An author of over 150 publications, she has been the principal investigator on numerous federal and foundation grants (NICHD, CDC, MCHB, NIMHD, RWJF) and has conducted randomized trials of primary care and emergency department initiated interventions in partnership with community services (e.g. mentoring programs, legal advocacy, schools, home visitation) to promote of positive youth development, behavioral health integration and family health. She has written on the future of child and adolescent health needs and services, translating life course theory to practice, health equity and the importance of two generation programs and a proposed three generation approach. Dr. Cheng is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) and is a member of the Forum for Children's Well-Being.



Joshua Calarino, Joshua's journey began with Youth MOVE Miami. He had gone the first time to simply attend a Salsa dance class. It was through the arts that Joshua became connected with himself and his peers. From there, he slowly got out of his shell and learned about the Youth Movement. It was there that he found his voice and learned to use it. He slowly became a leader who used his lived experience to advocate for local, even state, policies surrounding systems of care. It was through his passion and dedication that he became a national leader speaking at conferences and affecting change all over the country. This led him to win SAMHSA's Young Adult Youth Voice Award. He hopes that

youth can become leaders in their own right and change the systems of care to have better outcomes.



Victor Dzau, MD (he/him/his), Victor J. Dzau is the President of the US National Academy of Medicine (NAM). In addition, he serves as Vice Chair of the US National Research Council. He is Chancellor Emeritus and James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke University and the past President and CEO of the Duke University Health System. Previously, Dr. Dzau was the Hersey Professor of Medicine and Chairman of Medicine at Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital, as well as Bloomfield Professor and Chairman of Medicine at Stanford University. He is an internationally acclaimed leader and scientist has made a significant impact through his seminal research in cardiovascular medicine and genetics. His important work on the renin

angiotensin system paved the way for the contemporary understanding of cardiovascular disease, and he pioneered gene therapy for vascular disease. Dr. Dzau serves as the inaugural president of NAM and led its transition from the Institute of Medicine. At NAM, he leads a strategy of innovation, action and equity. Under his tenure, the NAM has advanced efforts to improve health equity especially through the Culture of Health Program, the Action Collaborative on Countering the US Opioid Epidemic, the Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity, and efforts to address COVID-19 misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, as well as through collaborations with DBASSE, such as the recent consensus report, Taking Action Against Clinician Burnout: A Systems Approach to Professional Well-Being.

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Shawn CT Jones, PhD, MHS, LCP (he/him/his), Dr. Shawn Jones is an Assistant Professor in the Counseling Program in the Psychology Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to relocating to Richmond, Dr. Jones was a National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. He received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a Child Clinical Psychology Predoctoral intern at UCLA. He also holds a Master of Health Science in Mental Health from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (2010) and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Duke University (2008). Dr. Jones endeavors to support the psychosocial wellbeing of Black youth and their families by: a) exploring mechanisms undergirding culturally-relevant protective and promotive factors; b) translating basic research into interventions that harness the unique strengths of the Black experience; and c) disseminating this research to be consumed, critiqued and enhanced by the communities the work intends to serve. Clinically, Dr. Jones is committed to the provision of culturally-informed child, couple and family therapy and assessment. Finally, Dr. Jones is passionate about eliminating racial health disparities, particularly those related to mental health services, which he sees as obtainable through stigma-reduction and mental health literacy. To that end, Dr. Jones, together with colleague Dr. Riana Anderson, has created a video series and podcast, "Our Mental Health Minute".



Jocelyn Smith Lee, PhD (she/her/hers), Dr. Jocelyn R. Smith Lee currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at UNC Greensboro where she established the Centering Black Voices Research Lab and is the Founding Director and Project Lead of the recently launched visual storytelling and narrative change campaign, In All Ways Human. Dr. Smith Lee's community engaged program of research examines the marginalized trauma and grief of Black boys and men resulting from the health disparities of violent injury and homicide. Rooted in East Baltimore and growing in Greensboro, Dr. Smith Lee works to understand how losing loved ones to homicide shapes the health, well-being, development, resilience, and family relationships of Black males. A trained mental health clinician, Dr. Smith Lee's interdisciplinary research has been published in top tier journals and featured in national news outlets such as The Washington Post, CNN, and NPR. In 2020, her project "Disrupting Dehumanizing Narratives of Black Men" was selected as 1 of 28 winners from a pool of over 1,200 applicants of the 2020 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenge Competition: Voices for Economic Opportunity and was brought to life with additional funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Prior to UNCG, Dr. Smith Lee trained as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan School of Public Health Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health. She is a proud alumna of Hampton University and the University of Maryland, College Park. Having personally lost loved ones to gun violence, Jocelyn is deeply committed to this healing work.

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Ann S. Masten, PhD, (she/her/hers), Regents Professor of Child Development and Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota, completed her BA at Smith College and PhD in psychology (clinical) at Minnesota with an internship at UCLA. She joined the faculty in the Institute of Child Development at Minnesota in 1986, chairing this department from 1999 to 2005. Her research is focused on elucidating processes that promote positive development and prevent psychopathology, particularly in the context of adversity. She directs the Project Competence Research on Risk and Resilience, including studies of normative development and resilience in children and families exposed to homelessness, war, natural disasters, poverty, migration, and related adversities. Dr. Masten has authored more than 200 publications,

including the book, *Ordinary Magic: Resilience in Development*. She co-chaired the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally for the U.S. National Academies while also serving as a member of their Board on Children, Youth, and Families. She is a past President of the Society for Research in Child Development and Division 7 (Developmental) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Her awards include a 2014 Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contributions to Developmental Psychology and the 2022 Mentor Award, both from APA. In 2021, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Masten offers a free MOOC (mass open online course) through Coursera on “Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War: Global Perspectives,” that has been taken by thousands of participants from more than 180 countries.

Mary Ann McCabe, PhD, is a clinical psychologist in independent clinical practice and associate clinical professor of pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine. She was previously the director of the Office for Policy and Communications of the Society for Research in Child Development and director of training in psychology and director of health psychology at Children’s National Medical Center. Dr. McCabe is an APA Fellow and active in volunteer governance to the association. She currently serves on the APA Council of Representatives and Chair of the Interdivisional Task Force on Child and Adolescent Mental Health. She has just completed her term on the Board of Educational Affairs and served previously as Chair of the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA), Member of the Workgroup on Expanded Advocacy and Chair of the Committee for Professional Practice and Standards. Dr. McCabe received her BA in psychology from Clark University and doctorate in clinical psychology at the Catholic University of America. She completed her clinical internship and fellowships in Child Psychology and the Law and Pediatric Psychology through Harvard Medical School at Judge Baker Children’s Center, Children’s Hospital of Boston, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

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Tamar Mendelson, (she/her/hers), PhD, Dr. Tamar Mendelson is a Bloomberg Professor of American Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She directs the Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) and chairs the Adolescent Health area steering committee of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. Trained as a clinical psychologist, her work addresses the prevention of mental health issues and promotion of positive development in youth, with particular emphasis on mindfulness-based interventions. A key focus in her research is on adapting and testing evidence-based interventions so that they can be feasibly and sustainably embedded in systems that serve families and youth. For over fifteen years with funding from NIH, CDC, and IES, she has led school-based intervention trials, including assessment of implementation barriers and facilitators to integrating interventions within real-world contexts. She is currently leading an efficacy trial in 29 Baltimore City Public Schools to assess the impact of a trauma-informed intervention on 8th graders' mental health and school success and a longitudinal study on adolescent stress, mental health, and critical consciousness. She was a member of the Consensus Committee on Promoting Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Functioning in Children & Youth under the auspices of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, and a member of the Strategic Advisory Board for Wellcome Trust's Mental Health Priority Area. Through CAH and the Bloomberg Initiative, she is also engaged in research on ways to promote success and prevent school disconnection among young people growing up in under-resourced communities.



Maya Nittoor (they/them, theirs), Maya Nittoor is an 18-year-old youth liberationist and intersectional mental health advocate. Growing up in Camden County, New Jersey, mental health issues have been interwoven with Maya's life experiences from a young age. At 16, they volunteered for over 200 hours as a peer supporter, having over 900 conversations with 150 youth and helping connect an additional 250 people to peer support. The ability to foster a positive mental-health community with other teens reinforced their understanding that youth-led approaches are necessary to tackle youth issues. At seventeen, they became a Youth Ambassador for Telosity, an investment management company that funds digital youth mental health & wellbeing startups. They have also collaborated with the nonprofit YouthRoots to develop

a policy initiative at the New Jersey Department of Child and Family Services. Currently, Maya is majoring in Psychology at Temple University and is an intern at Samaritans Southcoast, a crisis center that takes calls from the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. As they stated in an interview with the nonprofit, All Tech is Human, "Communities built on empathy and knowledge make for a promising future."

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Lynn Olson, PhD, is Vice President of Research at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). As a trained sociologist and member of the senior leadership team, Lynn supports a team of research and information professionals providing evidence to inform the Academy's policy making, educational, and advocacy efforts toward the mission of optimal health for all children. Included in her area are several long-standing original research programs: The Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) practice-based research network, the Periodic Survey of Fellows, the Annual Survey of Graduating Residents, and the Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES). Academy research also draws upon national data to monitor key child health and demographic trends. An example of such work: early in the pandemic, the AAP developed a weekly case count report, *Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report* to document how the COVID 19 virus was impacting US children and how spread varied by time and geography. Lynn holds a doctorate in Sociology from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree from St Olaf College.



Emily Ozer PhD, (she/her), Emily J. Ozer is a clinical and community psychologist and Professor at the UC-Berkeley School of Public Health whose multi-method research focuses on the role of school climate in adolescent development and mental health; psychological resilience; school-based interventions; and youth participatory action research (YPAR), an equity-focused approach in which youth generate systematic research evidence to address problems they want to improve in their schools and communities (see the YPAR Hub). She is currently leading a 6-district study funded by the WT Grant Foundation to study and strengthen the use of research evidence from YPAR in K-12 school systems, and an Institutional Challenge Grant from WT Grant and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation focused on improving the incentives and culture for community-engaged research at UC-Berkeley.

Cheryl Polk, PhD (she/her), Forum for Children's Well-Being co-chair, is Safe & Sound's first chief program officer. Safe & Sound has worked for more than 45 years to prevent child abuse and reduce its devastating impact. In this position, Polk supervises the agency's clinical and family teams: Integrated Children & Family Services that bolster mental health, and Community Education & Strategic Partnerships. Prior to this role, she served as president of HighScope Educational Research Foundation. For more than 25 years, Polk has promoted healthy child development, especially for children at risk of school failure and their families, through her work as a psychologist, academic, and civic volunteer. She served as the executive director of the Lisa and John Pritzker Family Fund where her insight into early childhood development and philanthropy helped create innovative intervention programs for children exposed to community and interpersonal trauma. She was president of the board of directors of ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families and served as a board member of that organization for more than 10 years. Polk received her PhD in psychology from California School of Professional Psychology-SF/Alliant International University.

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Carley Riley, MD, MPP, MHS, FAAP (she/her/hers), Carley Riley, MD, MPP, MHS, is an Associate Professor in Pediatrics at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and an Attending Physician in Critical Care, Faculty Co-Lead of Population and Community Health, and Director of the Mayerson Child Well-being Initiative at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Her mission is to generate transformational change in how our communities, organizations, systems, and society nurtures the well-being of children & youth so that all children & youth may thrive. She has expertise in well-being, person-centered outcomes measurement, co-production, community organizing, cross-sector collaboration, community-based improvement science, and systems change. Dr. Riley is actively involved in multiple national and local endeavors, including the

Gallup-Cincinnati-Yale Wellbeing Research Team and the All Children Thrive Learning Network Cincinnati. Dr. Riley received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Medical Doctorate from Northwestern University, a Master of Public Policy from UCLA, and a Master of Health Science from Yale University. She completed General Pediatric Residency and Chief Residency at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Riley was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at Yale University from 2013-2015 and is currently a Fellow with The Nova Institute for Health.



Bryan Samuels, MPP, is the Executive Director of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, a nonprofit policy research institute focused on connecting research to action. Under Samuels' leadership, Chapin Hall is actively working in more than 40 states in building knowledge and creating solutions with and for public system partners, community leaders and members, and families—all with an aim to improve the well-being of children and youth and ensure all families thrive. Across

his career, Samuels' work has centered on identifying and addressing inequities using evidence in policymaking. Key accomplishments include the creation and application of a well-being framework based on the best developmental understanding of normal childhood development; formation of a shared and actionable understanding of the effects of exposure to violence, trauma, poverty, and adverse childhood experiences on the mental, emotional, behavioral, and physical health of children; and emphasis on the importance of building the capacity of public and private child- and family-serving systems and organizations to focus on and produce positive outcomes. Samuels was appointed by President Obama as the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF), where he served from 2009 to 2013 and leveraged the work of federal departments including Health and Human Services, Justice, and Education, among others, on behalf of children in foster care, youth experiencing housing instability, and families impacted by domestic violence. He received his B.A. in Economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1989 and his M.P.P. from the University of Chicago-Harris School in 1993.



Alvin Thomas, PhD, Alvin Thomas, PhD., is the Phyllis Northway Faculty Fellow and Assistant professor of Human Development and Family Studies in the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Thomas' is a clinical psychologist whose work exists at the intersection of positive child and youth development and father involvement. His research is focused on anti-racism efforts which benefit Black children, Black fathers, and their families and communities, and he addresses three general categories while embracing a lifespan perspective (a) Youth violence and adolescent outcomes, (b) effects of race and discrimination and (c) fatherhood and parenting. Dr. Thomas is the 2021 Louise Kidder Early Career award recipient from the Society for the Psychological

Study of Social Issues, and the 2022 Early Career award recipient from the Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences. Dr. Thomas received his MSc and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He completed post-doctoral appointment in the department of psychiatry at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was an Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Thomas recently launched the ["The Black Fatherhood Podcast with Dr. Alvin Thomas"](#) to explore issues concerning the representation of, and challenges faced by, Black fathers while he educates, validates, and elevates Black fathers.



Carmen R Valdez, PhD (she/her/hers), Dr. Carmen Valdez is Chief of the Division of Community Engagement and Health Equity and Director of the Community-Driven Initiatives Program, both in the Department of Population Health, Dell Medical School. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health and in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin, where she has worked since 2018. Prior to that, she was an Associate

Professor in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Valdez is interested in the mental health and lived experience of Latinx youth and families, and the social drivers of wellbeing among this population in the United States. She is a Community-Based Participatory Researcher interested in research-practice partnerships with the mission to build capacity and produce organizational change that can better address inequities in mental health and mental health services for Latinx and other racial and ethnic minority families. She has developed partnerships with schools, early childcare agencies, and migrant health agencies. In terms of national service, Dr. Valdez served as Associate Editor for the journal *Family Process* between 2017-2021, she Chaired the American Psychological Association's (APA) Committee on Children, Youth and Families in 2015, and currently serves as a member of APA's Committee on Socioeconomic Status. She is a native Spanish speaker from El Salvador and lives with her family in Austin.

Joe Waters, Joe Waters is the co-founder and CEO of Capita. Capita is a think tank dedicated to exploring how the cultural and social transformations of our day affect young children and their families, and fostering new ideas and policies to ensure a future in which all people flourish. Under Joe's leadership, Capita has launched initiatives focused on supporting the development of more worker-owned child care businesses, helping policymakers and systems leaders better meet the needs of Gen Z parents and their families, addressing the impact of climate change on young children, and bringing strategic foresight tools to policy and program planning for child-serving systems. His commentary on

issues facing families has been published by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Hill*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Nonprofit Quarterly* and other outlets. He has served as a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Felician Center, which helps those who struggle to meet their basic needs in South Carolina's rural Pee Dee region, the Greenville Chorale, and Family Connects International. He graduated from Furman University (BA, history) and earned a master's degree in divinity from Duke University. He and his wife Molly Benedum, a family physician, live with their family in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

David Willis, MD (he/him), Forum for Children's Well-Being co-chair, is a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy. He leads a national initiative to advance early relational health for child health and communities. A board-certified, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, Willis was a clinician in Oregon for more than 30 years with a practice focused on early childhood development and family therapy. Most recently, he was the first executive director of the Perigee Fund, a Seattle-based philanthropy focused on strengthening of the social and emotional development of all babies and toddlers, and on advancing the workforce to do so. From 2012-2018, he served as director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal Child Health Bureau in Washington DC, and continues to be thought leader in home visiting and early childhood systems. During his career, Willis has also been a Harris Mid-Career Fellow with ZERO TO THREE; the past president of the Oregon Pediatric Society; an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Early Education and Child Care; and chair of the AAP Board's Early Brain & Child Development Strategic Initiative. Willis has been a national lecturer, advisor to early childhood national policy, and visionary for the transformation of child health care in coordination with early childhood communities and focused on the advancement of early relational health and young children's social-emotional and developmental well-being. Willis received his MD from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.



Daisha Wright (she/her/hers), Dashia Wright is a recent graduate of UC Irvine. In 2018, Wright was fortunate enough to participate in a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Project where she was able to gain insight on youth's opinions and experiences with Gender and Sexual Based Violence within Richmond. Through this experience Wright saw herself grow as a researcher and developed a passion for community focused work. Wright went on to participate in a YPlan Project where she learned about Environmental Justice and was able to plant Air Monitors in prominent areas throughout the city of Richmond to test the Air Quality. After these experiences Wright went on to get her BA in Psychological Science where she continued to work with BIPOC students as Peer Life Coach and conducted an Undergraduate Research Project on Black Women's use of cultural coping skills and well-being. Wright has hopes of obtaining her PhD and becoming a Therapist.