



ROUNDTABLE ON

BLACK MEN & BLACK WOMEN

IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MEDICINE

***Lighting the Spark for Pathways to Greatness for Black People
in SEM
A Workshop***

December 11, 2023 Speaker Bios

Co-Chairs of Workshop Planning Committee: L.D. Britt, MD and Lamont Terrell, PhD

L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, D.Sc. (Hon), FACS, FCCM, FRCSEng (Hon), FRCSEd (Hon), FWACS (Hon), FRCSI (Hon), FCS(SA) (Hon) [NAM] is a proud native of Suffolk, VA, with strong southern roots and is the product of the public school system. He attended the University of Virginia and was named to the Dean's List each of the eight semesters. He received his Baccalaureate of Arts with Distinction. Dr. Britt, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, is the Henry Ford Professor of Surgery and Edward J. Brickhouse Chair in Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. In 2021, Dr. Britt was chosen to receive the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to just five people in the organization's 108-year history. He was also named EVMS [Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs](#).

Dr. Britt is the author of more than 220 peer-reviewed publications, more than 50 book chapters and non-peer-reviewed articles and three books, including a recent edition of the highly touted *Acute Care Surgery* (Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Medford, NJ). He serves on numerous editorial boards, including the *Annals of Surgery*, *Archives of Surgery*, *World Journal of Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, the *American Journal of Surgery* (Associate Editor), the *Journal of Trauma*, *Shock*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, the *American Surgeon*, and others. In addition, he is a reviewer for the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Dr. Britt, a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, is the recipient of the nation's highest teaching award in medicine – the Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award, which is given by the AAMC in conjunction with AOA. He was honored by the Association of Surgical Education with its lifetime achievement award – the Distinguished Educator Award – given annually to one person considered by his peers to be a true master. More than 190 institutions throughout the

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world have invited him to be their distinguished visiting professor. He was recently the William P. Longmire, MD, Visiting Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Dr. Britt is the past President of the Society of Surgical Chairs and the past Chair of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery. Also, he is past Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association, the past Recorder/Program Chair for the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and past President of the Southeastern Surgical Congress, the Halsted Society, and the Southern Surgical Association. He is also the past Chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He is also past President of the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the American Surgical Association. At the inaugural presidential ceremony held in Washington, D.C., during the 96th annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Britt was awarded the U.S. Surgeon General's medallion for his outstanding achievements in medicine. The Honorable Regina Benjamin, MD, the 18th U.S. Surgeon General, presented this award at a formal ceremony.

Dr. Britt was also appointed to the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Program National Advisory Committee. The National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Medicine (in collaboration with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture) featured Dr. Britt for his contributions to academic surgery.

Effective October 1, 2016, Dr. Britt was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine). He is the first and only faculty member from his institution to receive this distinction – considered one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine.

Lamont Terrell, PhD is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lead, R&D, at GSK plc. Dr. Terrell graduated salutatorian from Texas Southern University as a Fredrick Douglas honor scholar earning a B.S degree in chemistry in 1995. While at TSU, his life as a research scientist began doing undergraduate research focusing on the synthesis of inorganic compounds with environmental applications. He earned his Ph.D. in 2001 in organic chemistry from Michigan State University under the direction and guidance of Professor Robert Maleczka. His graduate studies consisted of the total synthesis of the antiluekemic natural product amphidinolide A and the development of catalytic tin hydride reactions. Upon completion of his graduate studies at MSU, he continued his synthetic training with a two-year postdoctoral stint with Professor Barry Trost at Stanford University. The focus of his postdoctoral studies was the development of a catalytic dinuclear zinc asymmetric Mannich reaction. He began his career in drug discovery as a medicinal chemist at GlaxoSmithKline in 2003 in their cardiovascular medicinal chemistry group. He spent 11 years doing small molecule lead optimization primarily focusing on cardiovascular disease targets Outside of leading science, Lamont is passionately involved with community and outreach efforts. He has been involved with the recruitment of scientists at all levels into the chemistry community. He leads the GSK chemistry recruitment team for minority

conferences and serves as the lead for the African American Alliance employee resource group in the Delaware Valley. He is a leader in GSK's inclusion and diversity efforts and a member of the R&D Inclusion council. In 2017, he decided to step away from doing science to lead the US R&D Early Talent Programs and head GSK's diversity recruitment initiative for the US Pharma R&D business.

SESSION I: DIAGNOSING THE COMPONENTS OF EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE

Wayne Frederick, MD [NAM], Howard University

Wayne A.I. Frederick, MD served as the 17th president of Howard University for ten years and is currently the distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery. He previously served in numerous capacities within the University. Today, he continues to operate and lecture medical students and surgical residents of Howard's medical school.

As president, Dr. Frederick advanced Howard University's commitment to student opportunity, academic innovation, public service and fiscal stability. He pursued initiatives to streamline and strengthen University operations and oversaw a series of reform efforts, including the expansion of academic offerings, establishing innovative programs to support student success and the modernization of University facilities.

Dr. Frederick matriculated to Howard in 1988 to pursue a B.S./M.D. dual degree program. He completed the requirements for both degrees in six years, allowing him to earn his Bachelor of Science degree and his medical degree by the age of 22. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Howard University's School of Business in 2011.

Following his post-doctoral research and surgical oncology fellowships at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Frederick began his academic career as associate director of the Cancer Center at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Frederick is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, abstracts and editorials and is a widely recognized expert on disparities in health care and medical education. His medical research focuses on narrowing racial, ethnic and gender disparities in cancer care outcomes, especially in relation to gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. Frederick also devotes his time to writing and speaking on salient topics in higher education including the impact of historically Black colleges and universities, campus intellectual diversity, the underrepresentation of African-American men in medical school, and gender equity in leadership on college campuses.

Dr. Frederick has received various awards honoring his scholarship, service and community impact. In March 2022 Dr. Frederick received Trinidad and Tobago's highest honor, The Order of

the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (ORTT). He was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for his contributions to the medical field. He also received a Doctor of Science honorary degree from the University of the West Indies. Dr. Frederick also has served on numerous boards and committees. He was appointed to the board of directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Cancer Society as well as Humana Inc, Worday and Insulet Corporation. Dr. Frederick is a member of surgical and medical associations, including the American Surgical Association and the American College of Surgeons. In January 2017, the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors elected Dr. Frederick to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. In 2022, he was inducted as a member into the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators and elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Frederick has also been featured as one of “America’s Best Physicians” by *Black Enterprise* magazine. He was named one of *EBONY* magazine’s “Power 100,” and recognized as a “Super Doctor” in *The Washington Post Magazine*. In 2017, he was named “Washingtonian of the Year” by *Washingtonian* magazine and was inducted into the St. Mary’s College, Port of Spain, Trinidad Hall of Fame. In 2020, he was named Nonprofit Leader of the Year by *Washington Business Journal*. And in 2021, he was honored as a “Great Immigrant, Great American” by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Dr. Frederick currently lives in Maryland with his wife Simone and his two children Wayne II and Kirie.

Henri Ford, MD, MHA [NAM], University of Miami

Henri R. Ford, M.D., MHA is dean and chief academic officer of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Dean Ford is pediatric surgeon who has long been an international leader in the specialty. He has conducted groundbreaking research on a variety of medical issues, including necrotizing enterocolitis, a deadly gastrointestinal condition that affects premature infants. He has received numerous grants to support his work from the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and others, and has published more than 300 research papers.

During his accomplished career, Dean Ford has consistently focused on addressing health care inequality. Born in Haiti, Dean Ford moved to the U.S. with his family as a teenager. In 2010, he traveled back to his home country on an emergency mission to care for survivors following a devastating earthquake. In 2015, he performed the first successful conjoined twins’ separation in Haiti. He regularly returns to teach, lead surgical teams, and provide crucial medical assistance.

He has received countless honors, including the Gold Humanism in Medicine Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). He serves as chair of the AAMC Council of Deans, and as the 2022-2023 president-elect of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). As president-elect, Dean Ford advances the organization's mission of improving care of surgical patients and upholding the highest ethical standards of practice. Following a year-long term as president-elect, Dean Ford will be installed as the ACS president in October 2023. He was inducted into the ACS' Academy of Master Surgeon Educators for consistently demonstrating the highest level of leadership and excellence in surgical education. He is past president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, the Association for Academic Surgery, the Surgical Infections Society, and the American Pediatric Surgical Association.

Most recently, Dean Ford has been accepted into the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine that recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievements and commitment to service.

Dean Ford earned his bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University, received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and was trained in general surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. He completed pediatric surgical training at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

KMarie King, MD, MS, MBA – Albany Medical Center

Dr. King is the first Black female chair of surgery at an academic health science center in the United States.

A fellowship-trained hepatobiliary and pancreas surgeon, Dr. King completed her fellowship training at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where she also earned a master's degree in biomedical science. She completed her residency training in general surgery and a research fellowship in surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and earned her medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. King also holds a Master of Business Management from Brandeis University. She is a United States Army veteran, having served in Operation Desert Storm.

A prolific researcher, Dr. King has received numerous awards for her research in the areas of liver and pancreatic cancers and has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Her professional memberships include the American College of Surgeons, the Board of Trustees of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, and she serves as program chair of both the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. She is also an oral examiner for the American Board of Surgery.

She was recently named a fellow in the prestigious Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women.

Paris Butler, MD, MPH, FACS – Yale School of Medicine

Dr. Paris D. Butler is an Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine. He is also the inaugural Yale Department of Surgery Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). After completing his undergraduate education as a student athlete (basketball) at Roanoke College, he attended medical school at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He completed a general surgery residency at the University of Virginia and subsequently completed his plastic surgery training at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). He is board certified by both the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS).

Dr. Butler has clinical interests in breast reconstruction, breast reductions, breast lifts, post bariatric body contouring, scar/wound management, breast implant removal, and aesthetic surgery (abdominoplasty, breast augmentation, liposuction, etc.).

During his general surgery training, he completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Stanford University where he studied keloid biology. Additionally, he obtained a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from Univ. of California-Berkeley in health policy and management with special certificate in minority health. Dr. Butler is nationally recognized for his dedication to reducing healthcare disparities along ethnic lines – something he has approached with research, policy, and teaching in mind.

Prior to being recruited to Yale, Dr. Butler served for 6 years on the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his clinical appointment, he also served as the Associate Designated Institutional Official (DIO) of Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) Affairs in UPenn's Graduate Medical Education office.

He has received numerous teaching awards in addition to recognition for his work with mentoring residents, medical, undergraduate, and high school students aspiring to enter the field. Dr. Butler has authored over 75 publications in peer-reviewed journals and the lay press. He serves on the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Committee on Healthcare Disparities, Society of Black Academic Surgeons' (SBAS) Membership, Financial, and Health Equity Committees, the American Board of Surgery's (ABS) Governance Committee, the Association of Academic Surgeons' (AAS) Diversity Committee, the American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons' (ACAPS) DEI Committee, and is Chair of the American Society of Plastic Surgery's (ASPS) Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

SESSION II: BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN ENGINEERING

Wesley L. Harris, PhD [NAE] – Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Wes Harris is the Charles Stark Draper Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the director of the Lean Sustainment Initiative at MIT. Before his appointment as Associate Provost, Professor Harris served as head of MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics from 2003 to 2008.

He earned his BS in aerospace engineering at the University of Virginia, and his MA and PhD in aerospace and mechanical sciences at Princeton University, on whose Board of Trustees he later served (2001-2005). From 1972 to 1985, he taught and held several administrative positions at MIT, making seminal contributions to the study of unsteady aerodynamics, aeroacoustics, rarefied gas dynamics, sustainment of capital assets, and chaos in sickle cell disease.

He served as dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Connecticut from 1985 to 1990, and as vice president and chief administrative officer of the University of Tennessee Space Institute from 1990 to 1993. As NASA's associate administrator for aeronautics from 1993 to 1995, he was responsible for all programs, facilities, and personnel in aeronautics at NASA.

Wes Harris has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering, the Cosmos Club, and the Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin. He is also an elected fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Helicopter Society, and the National Technical Association, in recognition of his achievements in engineering, engineering education, management, and advancing cultural diversity.

Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, PhD [NAE] – Department of Energy

Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe is the Director of the Office of Science for the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr. Berhe is currently on leave from the University of California, Merced where she holds the Ted and Jan Falasco Chair in Earth Sciences and Geology; is a Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry; and previously served as Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Her research focus lies at the intersection of soil science, global change science, and political ecology with an emphasis on how the soil system regulates the earth's climate and the dynamic two-way relationship between the natural environment and human communities.

She previously served as the Chair of the U.S. National Committee on Soil Science and member of the Board of International Scientific Organizations at the National Academies; Leadership board member for the Earth Science Women's Network; and founding a co-principal investigator

in the ADVANCEGeo Partnership – a National Science Foundation funded effort to empower scientists to respond to and prevent harassment, discrimination, bullying, and other exclusionary behaviors in research environments.

Her scholarship and efforts to ensure equity and inclusion of people from all walks of life in the scientific enterprise have received numerous awards and honors. Dr. Berhe is a member of the National Academy of Engineering; she is also a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America and a member of the inaugural class of the U.S. National Academies' New Voices in Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

Berhe received a B.Sc. in Soil and Water Conservation from the University of Asmara; an M.Sc. in Political Ecology from Michigan State University; and a Ph.D. in Biogeochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley.

SESSION III: IGNITING SUCCESS IN THE SCIENCES

Squire J. Booker, PhD [NAS] – Pennsylvania State University

Squire Booker, PhD is Evan Pugh University Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Pennsylvania State University. Squire J. Booker is a mechanistic enzymologist who is recognized for his work on enzymatic reactions that proceed by radical mechanisms. He is particularly known for his work on a superfamily of enzymes called radical S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), which use SAM as a radical generator. Booker was born in Mexia, TX., but was raised by his grandmother, Cleona Price, in Beaumont, TX. He graduated from Austin College, in Sherman, TX., before earning a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the mentorship of Professor JoAnne Stubbe. He spent a year in Paris, France as an NSF–NATO postdoctoral fellow, before moving to the Institute for Enzyme Research at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was an NIH postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Professor Perry Frey. He joined the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at The Pennsylvania State University in 1999 and then the department of Chemistry in 2007, where he has been since. He has been an active member of both the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, where he is the former chair of the Minority Affairs Committee. He is currently on the steering committee for the American Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) and is an Associate Editor for the journal *Biochemistry*. Dr. Booker was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2019.

Talitha Washington, PhD – Atlanta University Center Data Science Initiative

Dr. Talitha Washington is the inaugural Director of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Data Science Initiative, a Professor of Mathematics at Clark Atlanta University and an affiliate faculty at Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College. She is the Director and lead principal investigator of the NSF-funded National Data Science Alliance (NDSA) and the President of the Association for Women in Mathematics. She works across Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to increase the number of Blacks with expertise in data science and expand data science research that advocates for social justice.

Dr. Washington is a former Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) who worked in the Convergence Accelerator which is now in the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP). Previously, as a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education, she was instrumental in building and establishing NSF's first Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program which funded \$40,000,000 in awards in FY19.

She was elected to honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, and mathematics honor societies Kappa Mu Epsilon and Pi Mu Epsilon. She is the recipient of the 2019 BEYA STEM Innovator Award, the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Award from Howard University, and the 2020 NSF Director's Award for Superior Accomplishment. She is a Fellow of the African Scientific Institute (ASI), the American Mathematical Society (AMS), the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Dr. Washington completed her undergraduate studies in mathematics at Spelman College and studied abroad at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Mexico. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from the University of Connecticut. She was a VIGRE Research Associate in the Department of Mathematics at Duke University. She held assistant professorships at The College of New Rochelle and the University of Evansville, an associate professorship at Howard University, and most recently, a full professorship at Clark Atlanta University.

Dr. Washington is an in-demand speaker who enjoys sharing her expertise on applied mathematics as well as STEM diversity to a wide range of audiences. Her work on Dr. Elbert Frank Cox, the first Black in the world to earn a PhD in mathematics, has been shared on radio and television stations, as well as in the Notices of the American Mathematical Society. Her research interests include the applications of differential equations to problems in biology and engineering, as well as the development of nonstandard finite difference schemes to numerically solve dynamical systems.

SESSION IV: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BLACK SEM LEADERS

Elisabeth Valerio – Scientist Mentoring and Diversity Program

Known globally for her advocacy for diversity, STEM education and entrepreneurship, Dr. Elisabeth Valerio is lead for the Scientist, Mentoring, Diversity Program for Biotechnology (SMDP), a program to mentor diverse graduate students and postdoctoral scientists and engineers. She leads the African Federation, ATLAS Ventures and the United Zimbabwe Alliance to support entrepreneurs across the continent and build better lives for the people of Zimbabwe and Africa.

Elisabeth also serves as the President and CEO of the International Center for Professional Development (ICPD). In addition to providing leadership and managing the organizations' programs, she has played a key role in providing access to careers, mentoring and professional development for students, military veterans and life science professionals.

Elisabeth is a frequent speaker for training programs, meetings and conferences. Her career has included formulation research at Amgen Inc., resulting in multiple talks, posters and a co-invention.

She has served as a consultant for the Biotechnology Institute. She also devotes her time and resources to philanthropic efforts building greater self-reliance, improved healthcare access and education in African communities.

Milton L. Brown, MD, PhD, FNAI– Eastern Virginia Medical School

Milton Brown, MD, PhD, serves as Vice Dean for Research at EVMS, where he oversees the institution's research endeavors.

Dr. Brown is a renowned physician-scientist with more than 20 years of experience. His research and educational focus are in translational medicine and therapeutics discovery. Considered a pioneer in his field, Dr. Brown is one of only a handful of physician-scientists in the U.S. to hold both a medical degree and a PhD in synthetic chemistry. He earned his MD from the University of Virginia and his PhD in synthetic chemistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Brown is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He has over 40 patents in his name and has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. His licensed therapeutic inventions have led to the creation of five biotech companies and he has successfully designed and synthesized two drugs, both of which are in phase I/II clinical testing in humans.

Dr. Brown was a 2015 recipient of the Percy Julian Award by the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers for significant contributions in pure and/or applied research in science. He was appointed to a four-year term by the U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services

to serve as a scientific counselor on the National Toxicology Program Board and has served as a scientific reviewer of grants and programs for the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Brown came to EVMS from George Mason University where he served as Professor of Practice in the College of Science and Director of the Center for Drug Discovery. Prior to George Mason, Dr. Brown was the founding director of the Drug Discovery Program (DDP) at the Georgetown University Medical Center.

Michel Reid – GSK plc

Michel Reid is Sr. Director and Head, Global Demographics & Diversity, at GSK plc. Michel's team supports the entire GSK R&D portfolio (medicines and vaccines) to enhance diversity in clinical trials, to ensure GSK delivers against corporate ESG objectives by being ambitious for patients. Under his leadership, the team has been instrumental to promote health equity and to help improve health outcomes for a diverse population of underrepresented patients. To lead with transparency, he published a peer-reviewed retrospective study for GSK clinical trials over a span of 17 years that investigated the historical representation of U.S.-based participants and compared demographics with real-world disease epidemiology data. Prior to this role, Michel served as Director in GSK's US Pharmaceuticals Commercial Insights team focusing on Vaccines. There, he was responsible for leading the design and execution of purpose-built market analysis and market research, producing innovative insights that continue to drive the commercial organization. Before joining GSK in 2018, Michel spent over 15 years in marketing agencies and consultancy, providing business strategy, and communications design, strategy, and analysis for clients in a variety of industries and across a wide range of pharmaceutical therapeutic areas and customer groups. Michel holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Michel lives in Burlington, NJ with his wife Jennifer and three daughters, Azarin, Bonnie, and Piper.