



The goal of this advisory board is to incorporate community perspectives and priorities throughout the EnCoRe MoMS research project to explore the experiences, needs, and perceived solutions for maternal care continuity, sepsis prevention, and promotion of equity in postpartum.

CoLAB: Community Leadership Advisory Board

**EnCoRe MoMS: Engaging Communities
to Reduce Morbidity from Maternal
Sepsis**

2023-2026



CoLAB: Community Leadership Advisory Board Members

CO-LEAD



Madeleine Dorval-Moller

Executive Director at Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, Inc.

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Moller is an accomplished Executive Director with extensive experience in non-profit management and overseeing program operations, grants management, program development and evaluation. Upon joining NMPP she has been charged with making key policy decisions and ensuring the financial stability of the organization. She is also responsible for the organization's overall fiscal management, programmatic activities, strategic direction, and general oversight for NMPP programs and services. Part of executing the strategic direction includes marketing and communications; as such, raising NMPP's visibility as a leader in the community and serving as the organization's representative to all external stakeholders including (but not limited to) funders, organizational partners, media, government, and other agencies. She is also committed to providing a safe working environment that is free from all forms of discrimination while ensuring compliance with our funding sources. Prior to joining NMPP, she was Director of the New York State Disaster Case Management Program for Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, which addressed the increasing needs of families affected by Super Storm Sandy. In addition, she has cumulatively spent 10 years working- first at Safe Horizon, where she was

the founding director of Sage House, a 24-hour residential facility in Brooklyn that provided emergency housing and crisis intervention services to battered women and their children. Secondly, she was the Executive Director of the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence (the Coalition)—another domestic violence prevention organization serving the neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Greenpoint.

MEMBERS



Monika C. Estrada Guzman, BSW, LMSW-SIFI

Program Director at Nido de Esperanza

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Guzman's own childhood immigration experience and how her family benefited from the safe spaces that community members created inspires her work. Guzman has been the Program Director of Nido de Esperanza, a faith-based early childhood intervention program for families with perinatal women until their children are three years old in Washington Heights for the past five years. Monika works with mothers to effectively address the challenges that they face during pregnancy while addressing any social, emotional, and mental health needs during pregnancy and early childhood by providing individual parenting education of developmental milestones and assisting her clients in becoming parents. Guzman's focus has been working with recent immigrant parents in the U.S. Her work with clients is fully in Spanish. It's also trauma informed, grounded in a two-generation approach, empowerment model to foster self-efficacy, family systems, ecological systems, and resiliency among participants to better cope with stressors related to their immigration

status and how it can impact them during parenthood. She also uses evidence-based parenting and group curriculum in her work. By the end of this year Monika will be rostered in Child Parent Psychotherapy and begin her training in Perinatal Parent Psychotherapy to further provide mental health services to Spanish Speaking families. Monika received

her bachelor's in social work from California State University Los Angeles and her master's in social work from the NYU Silver School of Social Work. Monika's work and excellence has been recognized with *several* esteemed awards.



Emilie Rodriguez

Traditional Birth and Postpartum Doula at The Bridge Directory

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Rodriguez's work as a doula addresses birthing people's nutritional, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. She believes every birthing person should have the birth they desire, the information needed to see it come to fruition, and advocacy for themselves and their family. Rodriguez believes that giving birth is one of the most sacred, yet normal, experiences in a birthing person's life and wants to help them stand in that power. She employs a holistic approach using plant-based medicine, aromatherapy, low guttural vocalization, rebozo, counter pressure, guided meditation, breathwork, etc. Her interest in medicine started during her career as a veterinary technician and eventually became interested in the influences of culture on women's bodies. Although a different species, her familiarity with anatomy and pharmaceuticals has helped her better care for her birth clients in hospital because she is able to apply her knowledge of medical jargon to communicate medical staff, explain the purpose and side effects of

procedures and medications, as well as ask specific questions during interactions with staff. She received her BA in Medical Anthropology from the City College of New York, with a focus on reproductive health in the United States. She was also a Colin Powell Fellow for Health Justice, advocating with Health Leads in Harlem Hospital's OB/GYN Unit to give low-income families access to resources they needed to stay healthy, as well as writing health policy to advance equality and civil rights at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.



Guramrit LeBron

Birth and Postpartum Doula and Certified Lactation Counselor at The Bridge Directory

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LeBron's professional vocation has spanned across different industries but has always resided with the same common denominator of amplifying the voices of those in underserved communities, especially in the Greater New York City and New York State areas. After studying Magazine Journalism at Syracuse University, she spent her first few post college years working at various publications including Parenting Magazine before working in marketing at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. She also completed training as a holistic health counselor and transitioned to working at GrowNYC Farmers Markets as a Market Manager all while publishing her first cookbook, Yogi Eats. It was through the interactions with her clients and audience, many of whom were pregnant or birthing people, that she became involved in birth work; she jumped right in and immediately felt in alignment. LeBron strongly believes that all people deserve to have the birthing

experience they desire in an environment where they feel safe and supported because birth is sacred and transformative. Nurturing, educating and uplifting families during such a transformational event is essential to her work as a doula. She is currently pursuing a masters in Infant + Maternal Nutrition with a focus on a holistic approach to pregnancy, postpartum and infant/toddler feeding.



Sevonna Brown

Co-Executive Director and Doula at Black Women's Blueprint

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At Black Women's Blueprint, Brown sits on the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF), focusing on the development, passage, and implementation of effective public policy to address sexual violence. Her work to date at the organization focuses on the full reproductive spectrum of survivors of sexual violence, policies that impact sexual and reproductive health access for survivors and implementing infrastructures for survivor-informed reproductive services. Brown also leads the Safer Childbirth Cities Initiative through Merck for Mothers. She has focused her work on the reproductive consequences of sexual violence. She believes that there are culturally sound and innovative strategies for growing, expanding, and articulating new modalities for conducting movement work, emphasizing that it is going to take all of us moving and mobilizing together in creative, risk-taking ways even in the face of the matrix of domination we seek to dismantle. She currently co-chairs NYC4CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women, fostering laws and policies that advance equality for women and address all forms of gender discrimination. She sits on the steering committee of Black Women's Health Imperative *On Our Own Terms* project, lending a voice in leadership around collaborations, solutions, and policies informed by the material conditions of Black women related to HIV, and reproductive health. The initiative coalesces a national network of organizations to strengthen community assets, deliver innovative solutions, and make a lasting impact on the health of Black women.



Rosita M. Romero, MSW

Executive Director and Co-founder of the Dominican Women's Development Center

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Romero was born in the Dominican Republic and has a master's in social work, from Hunter College. She has considerable experience in the areas of community organizing, advocacy, coalition building, housing, women's issues, immigration, health, and family matters. Ms. Romero has been a presenter at many conferences in colleges and other major institutions throughout the United States speaking about the situation of Latinos in general, and Dominican women in particular. She has been a guest speaker on television and radio shows and has appeared on several newspaper articles in relation to this topic. She has excellent writing and public speaking abilities in English & Spanish. She has received over 40 awards and is recognized as a strong leader committed to social justice. In the process of becoming a leader she has motivated, helped, and inspired many others. Ms. Romero was profiled as a Hispanic Role Model on WCBS-TV in September 2003 during

Hispanic Heritage Month. In October 2003 she was also selected by the New York Post as one of the 25 Most Influential Latinos in the City of New York. In February 2004 she was selected by Univision as an unsung heroine in the Dominican Community during Dominican Heritage Month. Romero has also been featured in Latina Magazine and Quisqueya Life highlighting successful Dominican Women.



Jairo Guzman

Founder and President of Mexican Coalition for the Empowerment of Youth and Families, Inc (USA and Mexico)

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Guzman is a visionary and senior executive with extensive experience managing multi-ethnic and racially diverse staff, program development, implementation, monitoring and program evaluation, as well as financial management and board development. He was brought from Mexico at the age of 12 and knows firsthand the immigrant experience, the challenges, and rewards that that experience makes possible. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish from Canisius College and a certificate in non-profit leadership from Fordham University. Prior to his current position, Guzman worked at Mi Casa es Puebla, Inc. where he was hired by the government of the state of Puebla, Mexico to help establish work in the non-profit sector, New York City government agencies and NYS OTDA. Guzman remains a committed advocate for the protection of child and family rights, and the opportunity for all New Yorkers to have a better life, especially in immigrant communities.. Guzman's specialties

include working with immigrant communities, child welfare programs, educational programs for youth and adults, and government programs in the United States and in Mexico.

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS



Uma Reddy, MD, MPH

Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Ob/Gyn, Professor of Ob/Gyn at CUMC, and Professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University

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Dr. Reddy is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist with expertise in managing large and complex research projects over the past 20 years. Her clinical research in obstetric complications (stillbirth, preterm birth, racial/ethnic differences in perinatal mortality and morbidity), labor management and maternal morbidity. Dr. Reddy has considerable experience in the design and coordination of multidisciplinary and collaborative research projects from her time at NICHD as a project scientist for several large networks: Stillbirth Collaborative Research Network; 2) Genomics and Proteomics Network for Preterm Birth Research; 3) Nulliparous Pregnancy Outcomes Study Monitoring Mothers-to-Be (nuMoM2b). She continues to lead coordination of multidisciplinary clinical research as the Study Co-Chair for the NIDDK funded Glycemic Observation and Metabolic Outcomes in Mothers and (GoMOMS) consortium and the Columbia PI for the NICHD Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network

comprised of 6 hospitals. Dr. Reddy is an active fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and recently served on the ACOG Clinical Practice Guidelines Obstetrics Committee.

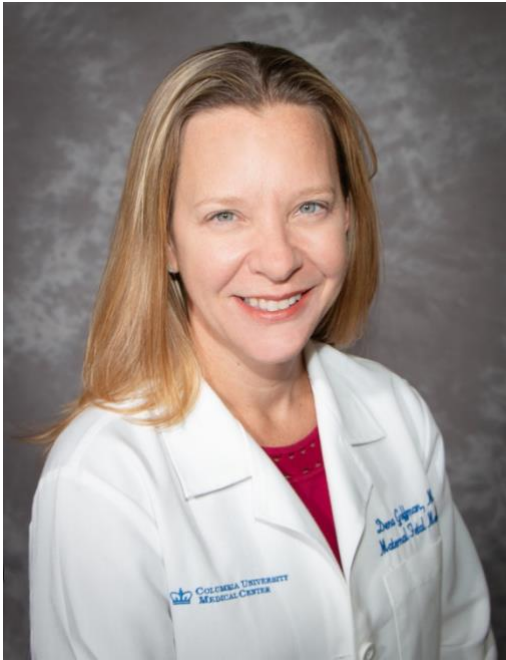


Kelli Stidham Hall, PhD, MS

Associate professor of Population and Family Health and Co-Director of the Office for Community Partnerships and Health Equity at Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University

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Dr. Hall has advanced research training and experience in social epidemiology, demography, and conducting studies at the intersection of women's reproductive, mental, and behavioral health. Her work focuses on the social determinants of maternal child health inequities and integrated models of mental/behavioral and reproductive healthcare. Dr. Hall also has and a long history of engagement with community-based organizations and 15+ years clinical background as a family and women's health advanced nurse practitioner with expertise in obstetrics and gynecology, primary care, and mental health support. Her research involves the examination of socioenvironmental and structural determinants for a wide range of maternal and women's health outcomes and inequities ranging from economic status, education to health care access, based on a variety of methods including electronic medical record analyses. Her previous research has been used to reform health service in the reproductive care context.



Dena Goffman, MD

Chief of Obstetrics at Sloane Hospital for Women of NYP, Professor and Vice Chair for Quality and Patient Safety in Ob/Gyn at CUMC, and Associate Chief Quality Officer for Obstetrics at NYP

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Dr. Goffman is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist with expertise in maternal and neonatal care quality, patient safety and health services research. Dr. Goffman has led multi-center wide obstetric safety and quality improvement projects at national and regional levels as well as within multiple hospital networks. She has also been a leader in developing and implementing maternal safety bundles across New York State and nationally, with particular focus on obstetric hemorrhage. Dr. Goffman is a long-serving member of the Safe Motherhood Initiative Steering Committee, Co-lead for Obstetric Hemorrhage Bundle at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District II, as well as nationally. She is an active member of both SMFM and ACOG Quality and Patient Safety Committees.



Alexander Friedman, MD

Associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at CUMC

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Dr. Friedman is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist with expertise in the application of bioinformatics to explain variations in care which might lead to adverse outcomes including an assessment of factors related to race, and the identification of best practices to increase maternal outcomes and safety that will enable his oversight of the development of predictive algorithms to characterize maternal risk for infection and provider response behavior. Dr. Friedman has a long track record of clinical, health outcomes, disparities, and comparative effectiveness research with over 175 publications in high-quality clinical journals. His work has won several awards within the field of maternal fetal medicine and has extensive experience collaborating with investigators in other fields such as informatics and epidemiology as well as investigators from other medical specialties. Dr. Friedman is also a long-standing member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District II Safe Motherhood Initiative.

CO-INVESTIGATOR



Ana Cepin, MD

Director of Community Women's Health Dept. of Ob/Gyn, Medical Director of the NYP Family Planning Practice, Co-Director of the Ob/Gyn Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and an Assistant Professor of Ob/Gyn at CUMC

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Dr. Cepin is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist focused on improving healthcare systems to improve women's health outcomes. Her clinical interests include all aspects of wellness care, contraception, and general gynecology. The Family Planning Practice is a grant-funded Ob/Gyn outpatient program which provides sexual and reproductive health care to women who are uninsured or underinsured. Under her leadership patient access and expanded services was improved. She also spearheaded several quality improvement initiatives which led to improved contraceptive access and increased patient engagement. Beyond the practice, she actively participates in outreach and public education to increase health information in our communities. Her goals are to develop an innovative approach to tackling social determinants of health, decrease health disparities and improve the health outcomes of

the women in our local community. One of her main accomplishments thus far is the creation of the Maternal and Child Integrated Mental Health Program which aligns obstetrics, mental health, and pediatric services to ensure coordinated care and support in the perinatal period. Their aim is to provide outstanding and equitable health care through a health justice lens and engage in research efforts to understand and combat racial and ethnic health disparities.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR



Briana Richardson, MPH

Program Coordinator Dept. Ob/Gyn at CUMC

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Richardson is a public health researcher with over 7 years of diverse research experience, ranging from biomedical neurological research to mixed method public health research. Richardson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and Human Biology from Emory University and a Master of Public Health degree in Global Health from Keck Medicine of USC. She also was an esteemed Anderson Fellow and conducted research on adolescent suicide prevention for the Ministry of Health in Corredores, Costa Rica. Prior to working at CUMC, Richardson was a researcher in the Office of Community Engaged Research and Practice at Temple University's College of Public Health during which, she coordinated many NIH, PCORI, and municipally funded research and capacity building projects focusing on reducing health disparities in heart disease, kidney disease, and mental health. Richardson has expertise in community-based participatory research (CBPR), the gold standard for integrating community engagement in public health research, and considerable competence in qualitative research, capacity building, and

public health student mentorship, engaging diverse communities, designing, and facilitating health promotion activities and trainings. Her research interests include health psychology, health disparities, and maternal and child health.