



# Diverse Voices: Intersectionality and the Health of Women *Endometriosis*

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST



To participate in this webinar, please register at  
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## FEATURING:



### **Bruce J. Nicholson, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Biochemistry & Structural Biology, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio*

Dr. Nicholson served as the Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology at UT Health San Antonio from 2004 to 2019, co-founding the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery in 2012. At the University at Buffalo, SUNY, he served as the Director of the Center for Advanced Molecular Biology and Immunology for 8 years and founded the first interdisciplinary graduate program in the Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Nicholson's research career has focused on the structure, gating and permeability of intercellular channels called gap junctions, and their roles in diseases such as cancer and deafness. More recently he has turned his interest to the role of gap junctions in endometriosis lesion formation, and changes in their expression in the endometrium that may explain infertility. The utility of these changes as a non-surgical, early diagnostic is being pursued by Hera Biotech, a company he co-founded and serves as CSO.



### **Jessica Opoku-Anane, M.D.**

*Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Columbia University*

Dr. Opoku-Anane is a Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgeon and associate professor at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. She is the Director of the Comprehensive Endometriosis and Chronic Pelvic Pain Program and a provider in the Center for Research and Advanced Fibroid Treatment. She is also a Co-Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition to her clinical activities, she has been active in research and spent two years with NIH both locally and in sub-Saharan Africa. Her more recent research includes a randomized control trial to test the ability of antifibrinolytics to decrease blood loss during myomectomy, a study accessing cancer associated mutations in deep endometriosis, and several studies on health equity among historically marginalized patients with endometriosis. Dr. Opoku-Anane also has a longstanding interest in global health and spends extended periods of time throughout Africa on clinical and research programs.

## **DIVERSE VOICES: INTERSECTIONALITY AND THE HEALTH OF WOMEN**

The March 2024 session of Diverse Voices: *Intersectionality and the Health of Women* is titled "Endometriosis."

The session will feature presentations by Dr. Bruce J. Nicholson who will be presenting on Cell Mechanisms of Endometriosis Lesion Formation Provide Clues to a Non-Surgical Diagnostic. Dr. Jessica Opoku-Anane will present on her work as a coinvestigator on the Fiscal Year 2023 U3 project titled Leveraging Electronic

Medical Records and Machine Learning Approaches to Study Endometriosis in Diverse Populations and her work founding University of California San Francisco's Endometriosis Center for Discovery, Innovation, Training and Community Engagement ("ENACT").

Sign language interpreting services are available upon request. Individuals who need interpreting services and/or other reasonable accommodations to participate in this event should contact Dr. Miya Whitaker at [damiya.whitaker@nih.gov](mailto:damiya.whitaker@nih.gov) or via phone at 301-451-8206. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.