



Health Equity as Civil Rights: Policy, Power, and Institutional Responsibility

Moderated by



Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MPH, MBA, MACP

Dr. Riley has served as President of SUNY Downstate since 2017 and brings more than 30 years of leadership experience in academic medicine, healthcare management, government, and advocacy. Amid his leadership, Governor Kathy Hochul committed a historic \$1.1 billion investment to modernize and preserve Brooklyn's essential public safety net teaching hospital. Dr. Riley serves as Board Chair of the National Academy of Medicine and as a federal Commissioner of MedPAC; his work centers on health professions education, health policy, health equity, and strengthening safety-net institutions.

Opening Remarks



Marlene Camacho-Rivera, SC.D, M.S. MPH

Dr. Camacho-Rivera is a social epidemiologist whose research focuses on the structural and social determinants of chronic disease inequities in urban communities of racial and ethnic minorities. Her work translates research into community-engaged, multilevel interventions that advance prevention, self-management, and equity in health outcomes.

Panelists



Basil Smikle Jr., Ph.D.

A policy strategist and professor specializing in urban politics, governance, and civic engagement, **Dr. Smikle** examines how political systems shape equity, access, and opportunity at the state and local level. He brings a strategic lens to how power, policy, and civic participation influence outcomes in communities of color.



Kathryn T. Hall, Ph.D., MPH

Kathryn T. Hall, Ph.D., MPH, is the Senior Vice President, Research. Dr. Hall was most recently the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health and Health Equity at the Boston Public Health Commission, the health department for the city of Boston. After receiving her PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Harvard University she spent 10 years in the biotech industry tackling problems in drug discovery and development where she became an Associate Director of Drug Development. Dr. Hall then returned to Harvard Medical School, joining the Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and received her Master of Public Health from Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Hall is an Assistant Professor, part-time in medicine at Harvard Medical School and Associate Molecular Biologist in the Division of Preventive Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Her academic research focuses on the placebo effect and in

particular how the absence of placebo and presence of nocebo effects influences health equity. Dr. Hall is the author of *Placebos*, MIT Press and has a Masters in Documentary Film from Emerson College.



Arva Rice

Arva is President & CEO of the New York Urban League (NYUL) and organization that has a rich history and long legacy of service to New Yorkers. Today, the mission of the NYUL is to enable African Americans and other underserved communities to secure a first-class education, economic self-reliance and equal respect of their civil rights through programs, services and advocacy. Arva Rice has more than 25 years experience in the non-profit arena, ranging from working with New York City entrepreneurs in a micro lending program to working with young people as a counselor, mentor and tutor. Most recently Arva was nominated by Mayor Eric Adams as Interim Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the NYC City Council Recharter Commission and a Trustee at First Corinthians Baptist Church. She graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and lives in Harlem.