

**Luther T. Clark, MD, FACC**

Luther T. Clark, MD, FACC is Deputy Chief Patient Officer and Global Director, Scientific Medical and Patient Perspective (SMPP) at Merck & Co., Inc. Prior to joining Merck, he was Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine and Director of the National Institutes of Health funded Brooklyn Health Disparities Research Center at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (Brooklyn, NY). Dr. Clark earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College and his Medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He has authored more than 100 publications, and edited and was principal contributor to the textbook *Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes* (McGraw-Hill). Dr. Clark has received numerous awards and honors, including the Harvard University Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Medicine.

**Laurence Watkins, MD**

Laurence Watkins, MD is a practicing cardiologist in Plantation, Florida and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area. He received his medical degree from Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years. Dr. Watkins received his B.Sc., Biochemistry and Physiology from the University of Toronto, his MD from McMaster University and his MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Ileana L. Piña, MD, MPH**

Ileana L. Piña, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology & Population Health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Associate Chief for Academic Affairs at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. Dr. Piña also serves as Senior Fellow to the Food and Drug Administrations' Center for Devices and Radiological Health and their section of Epidemiology. Dr. Piña earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Miami in Florida and a master's degree in public health from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Piña's research interests include transition of care in heart failure patients, and the role of natriuretic peptide-guided management for patients hospitalized for heart failure, biomarkers of myocardial stress and fibrosis in chronic heart failure, and heart failure differences by sex. She has been actively involved in gender, racial and ethnic issues in the health care delivery. She is the author/co-author of more than 200 publications.

**Mary Elmer, MSN, CRNP**

Mary Elmer is the Director of the Patient, Caregiver and Consumer experience at Merck. This group seeks to improve the patient experience and engages consumers and patients in optimizing their health and healthcare outcomes. Mary is a nurse practitioner with over 18 years of experience at Merck, working in all phases of drug development and implementing global strategic initiatives. Mary is a member of the Global Diversity and Inclusion council at Merck and co-leads the diversity in US clinical trials initiative. Mary obtained her Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of TransCelerate Biopharma, and leads a work stream on patient engagement.

**Ola Akinboboye, MD, MPH, MBA, FACC**

Ola Akinboboye MD, MPH, MBA, FACC is Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University (NY) and Medical Director, Queens Heart Institute, Rosedale, NY. He is a Past-President of the Association of Black Cardiologists and International Governor, American College of Cardiology for Sub-Sahara Africa. Dr. Akinboboye completed his medical education at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, obtained an MPH from the School of Public health at Columbia University and an MBA from Columbia Business School. He is a Board member of the American Board of Internal Medicine (cardiovascular disease). Dr. Akinboboye has over 130 scientific publications (including abstracts) in the fields of cardiac imaging (Nuclear imaging, cardiac CT and Cardiac MRI) and hypertension.

**Millicent Gorham, MBA, Pharm D (hon)**

Millicent Gorham is the Executive Director of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc., which represents 150,000 African American nurses in the United States. Millicent received a Masters in Business Administration from Howard University and a B.A. in Business Management and Communications from Simmons College, Boston, MA. She also received a certificate of completion from the Institutes for Organization Management, Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

**Brenda Jamerson, PharmD**

Brenda Jamerson, PharmD is Center Research Fellow, Center on Biobehavioral Research on Health Disparities at Duke University, Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University. She is affiliated with the Geriatric Research and Education Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Durham, NC where she conducts pharmacogenetic and aging research. Her current research interests are in improving chronic disease outcomes and closing the disparity gap in clinical trial knowledge and participation. She serves on the review board of several peer reviewed journals and as Editor in Chief of American Journal of Health Studies.

**Cassandra A. McCullough, MBA**

Cassandra McCullough is Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC), a 44 year old nonprofit dedicated to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease in Blacks and other minorities, and achievement of health equity for all through the elimination of disparities. Prior to joining ABC in 1996, she was at Morehouse School of Medicine (Continuing Medical Education Division). Ms. McCullough earned her MBA in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix and undergraduate degree from St. Leo University. She also serves as a member of the board of directors and treasurer for the National Health Council.

**Christine Pierre, RN**

Christine Pierre was founder and president of the Society for Clinical Research Sites (SCRS) and president and CEO of RxTrials, Inc. Pierre founded SCRS in 2012, having earlier conceptualized the first Global Site Solutions Summit in 2006. She was widely active as a speaker and author

on clinical trials topics, and was founder of ForeSite Publishing, Inc. She earned her RN from Prince George's College in 1987 and served as Assistant Director for Clinical Research – Critical Care at Washington Hospital Center from 1990 to 1996. Sadly, Christine died prior to publication and this paper is dedicated to her memory. She was an inspirational force in the field of clinical trial diversity through her passion, friendship and memorable leadership of the Society for Clinical Research Sites.

**Adam B. Polis, MA**

Adam B. Polis is a Director of Biostatistics within Late Development Statistics in the Biostatistics and Research Decision Sciences organization in Merck Research Laboratories. He is responsible for leading teams of statisticians who work in collaboration with Clinical and Regulatory counterparts to study new therapeutic agents to be submitted to regulatory agencies around the world for review and approval. Prior to joining Merck, Mr. Polis served as a statistical consultant to the Biostatistics Research Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institute of Health. Mr. Polis received his Bachelor of Science degree from Beaver College in Mathematics, and his Master of Arts from University of California, Berkeley in Biostatistics.

**Gary A. Puckrein, PhD**

Gary A. Puckrein, PhD, is Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Minority Quality Forum, a not-for-profit organization that addresses the critical need for strengthening national and local efforts to use evidence-based, data-driven initiatives to guide programs to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness for racial and ethnic minorities and other special populations. Dr. Puckrein graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University, where he received his master's degree (1974) and doctorate (1978). Dr. Puckrein has received many awards and honors, including being named a visiting scholar and fellow at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and a visiting fellow at Princeton University.

**Jeanne M. Regnante**

Jeanne M. Regnante, is Senior Vice President of Community Education for Sustainable Healthy Communities, LLC and Chair of the Diverse Cancer Communities Working Group. Jeanne's experience includes: Founding member of Patient Focused Medicines Development, Co-leader for two European Union Innovative Medicines Initiatives (IMI), and a member of multiple public-private projects focused on multiple aspects and drivers for optimizing patient engagement in medicines development. She has 30+ years work experience at Merck & Co. which includes Head of Global Patient Engagement, Strategy and Operations Head for Scientific Affairs and Head of an industry leading Global Investigator Studies Program. Jeanne received her BS degree (Science, Math, Business Administration) from Villanova University.