

# COVID-19 DIGEST



February 26, 2021

## Featured Fellows - Celebrating Black History Month

This month on social media, to celebrate Black History Month, the Academy has been featuring the work of selected Fellows who have been making an impact to reduce COVID infections and increase vaccinations in their communities. Learn more about each individual's work by clicking the photos below.



Quote from Comments to the Wisconsin Department of Health During a Vaccine Subcommittee Meeting:

"That is just a disparity on top of a disparity. We cannot ignore [the incarcerated] population. I am willing to be an advocate."

MARY MUSE

MS, RN, CCHP-RN, CCHP-A, FAAN  
Director of Nursing, Wisconsin Dept of Corrections

([HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/DHSWEBCAST/EVENTS/9265943/VIDEOS/215742817](https://livestream.com/dhswebcast/events/9265943/videos/215742817))



Quote from Representative Underwood's Press Release on the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021

"As maternal mortality rates continue to drop around the world, they are rising in the U.S., leaving behind devastated families and children who will grow up never knowing their moms. This crisis demands urgent attention and serious action to save the lives of Black mothers and all women of color and birthing people across the county...Together, we can – and must – take the bold actions that will be required to save our moms, end disparities, and achieve true maternal health justice."

REPRESENTATIVE LAUREN UNDERWOOD, MSN, MPH, RN, FAAN  
ILLINOIS DISTRICT 14



Quote from Dr. Rasch after Appointment by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to a Task Force on Black Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

"We have to listen to [patients] and then work with them. Implicit bias can get in the way of doing that, but when you learn to appreciate and see what it is you think about people, or groups of people...you can begin to work on that and learn ways that you can decrease that and increase your ability to provide care for a range of people."

**RANDOLPH F. R. RASCH**  
PHD, RN, FNP, FAANP, FAAN  
Dean and Professor, Michigan State University College of Nursing



Quote from "COVID-19 disparity among Black Americans: A call to action for nurse scientists" by Dr. Williams (<https://doi.org/10.1002/nur.22056>)

"The reasons for high infection rates and mortality are complex and multifactorial, and deeply rooted in existing US social inequities...[To] gain trust, with marginalized communities our interactions must be sincere, strategic, and sustaining."

**LOVORIA WILLIAMS**  
PHD, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN  
Associate Professor and Endowed Research Professor in Cancer Health Equity,  
University of Kentucky College of Nursing

## Fellow Highlights

ANA President **Ernest Grant**, PhD, RN, FAAN, [was quoted in an article](#) titled "MIL-OSI USA: Courtney Re-Introduces Bill to Curb Rising Rates of Violence Against Health Care and Social Service Workers Amid COVID-19" in **Foreign Affairs**.

**Ukamaka Oruche**, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, [will be featured in a webinar](#) titled "Managing Children's Mental Health: A Pediatric Hospital Imperative" hosted by **U.S. News & World Report** on March 3rd at 1pm ET.

## Fellow Vaccine Efforts

**Kristen M. Swanson**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor, Seattle University College of Nursing, serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Swedish Health Services in Seattle, WA. She was able to connect the CEO of Swedish with the President, Provost, and Chief Legal Counsel at Seattle University to launch a clinic "[Swedish@SeattleU](#)" in less than 8 days. In four hours on Day 1, close to 1,100 vaccines were administered. In the first month – working 3 to 4 days per week – approximately 31,000 doses have been administered. Swedish has also launched a [mobile clinic](#) which selects communities based on concentration of COVID cases, providing approximately 200 doses per day. A particularly newsworthy event was a call Dr. Swanson received at 9:45 PM saying they needed to staff a 'pop-up' clinic on campus at 11:00 PM, after a local hospital had a [freezer breakdown](#) that would have resulted in expired doses if not used that night. Dr. Swanson sent out an

all-points bulletin (APB) for vaccinators and volunteers and between 11:00 PM and 3:00 AM, 897 doses were administered.



**Annette Wysocki, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Dean and Professor, and **Kathy Gambino, EdD, RN** at Stony Brook University (pictured left) are working with undergraduate nursing students at the COVID-19 vaccine point of distribution at Stony Brook University. Students have also volunteered on non-COVID units at Stony Brook University Hospital and helped with pooled saliva testing for faculty and employees.

Academy Fellows **Marie Marino, EdD, RN, FAAN**, Professor and Dean, Jefferson College of Nursing, **Jeffrey Doucette, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, FAAN, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, and **Kate FitzPatrick, DNP, RN, ACNP, FAAN, NEA-BC**, Chief Nurse Executive Officer, Jefferson Health are working to provide vaccines to their communities (pictured below). [Learn more.](#)



If you have also been active with the vaccination rollout, the Academy wants to hear from you! [Share your experiences](#) to be featured in upcoming editions of COVID Digest.

## News & Updates from National Organizations

The Center for Black Health & Equity [released a toolkit](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccine Information Resource.”

International Council of Nurses (ICN) [published a press release](#) titled “ICN supports WHO’s Vaccine Equity Declaration.”



**Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing** [released a free, online course](#) on administering the COVID-19 vaccination.

**Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)** [released a policy brief](#) titled “Is the End of the Long-Term Care Crisis Within Sight? New COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in Long-Term Care Facilities Are Dropping.” **KFF** [released a policy brief](#) titled “Growing Gaps in COVID-19 Vaccinations among Hispanic People.”

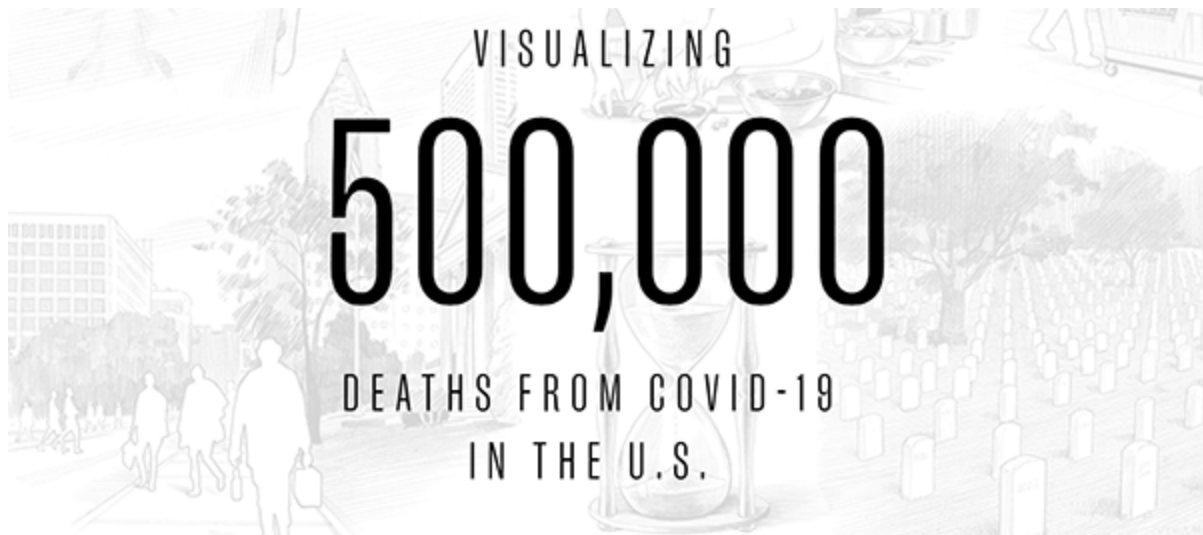
**Kaiser Health News (KHN)** [published an article](#) titled “‘I Wanted to Go in There and Help’: Nursing Schools See Enrollment Bump Amid Pandemic.”

**National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)** [released a webinar](#) titled “The Black Community and the COVID-19 Vaccine: Discussing the Justified Questions.” **NASEM** [published a press release](#) titled “New Rapid Expert Consultation Offers Strategies for Navigating Disaster Response, Evacuation, and Sheltering Complicated by COVID-19.”

**National Governors Association (NGA)** [release guidance](#) titled “Supporting A Trained Direct Care Workforce In Facility Settings During And After The Covid-19 Pandemic.”

**The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation** [published an infographic](#) titled “Aging & COVID-19: Vaccination, Mental and Physical Health, and Isolation.”

**NBC News** [published an article](#) titled “Covid-19 cuts U.S. life expectancy by a year in first half of 2020, biggest drop since WWII.”



[Source: National Geographic](#)

**National Geographic** [published an article](#) titled “Visualizing 500,000 Deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S.”

**The New York Times (NYT)** [published an opinion piece](#) titled “Death, Through a Nurse’s Eyes.”



Source: [NYT](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) [published an article](#) titled “Country readiness for COVID-19 vaccines.” WHO [published a press release](#) titled “WHO and donors continue to provide critical support to countries fighting COVID-19.”

## Federal Government Response



### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [released a report](#) titled “Clusters of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Elementary School Educators and Students in One School District — Georgia, December 2020–January 2021.”
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled “CDC MEDIA TELEBRIEFING: National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination.”
- MMWR [released a report](#) titled “Trends in Use of Telehealth Among Health Centers During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 26–November 6, 2020.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “For Parents: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “VaccineFinder Public Display Checklist for Pharmacies using the COVID Locating Health Provider Portal.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “Guidance for Vaccinating Older Adults and People with

Disabilities: Ensuring Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Access.”

- CDC [released a toolkit](#) titled “Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit.”
- CDC [updated](#) communication resources on the COVID-19 vaccines.
- CDC [released a toolkit](#) titled “Essential Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit.”
- CDC continues to [update](#) data on the number of COVID-19 vaccinations distributed in the United States.
- CDC continues to [update](#) data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States.



## Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

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- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration Announces Actions to Expand COVID-19 Testing.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces Biden-Harris Administration Staff Appointments.”



## Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

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- FDA is [hosting](#) an Advisory Committee Meeting titled “Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee February 26, 2021 Meeting Announcement” on today, February 26, 2021 starting at 9am ET.
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Issues Policies to Guide Medical Product Developers Addressing Virus Variants.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “Pulse Oximeter Accuracy and Limitations: FDA Safety Communication.”



## National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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- Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, [published a blog](#) titled “Is One Vaccine Dose Enough After COVID-19 Infection?”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “South Africa Study Shows Power of Genomic Surveillance Amid COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “ACTIV Update: Making Major Strides in COVID-19 Therapeutic Development.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH study finds that people with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies may have a low risk of future infection.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH funds study to evaluate remdesivir for COVID-19 in pregnancy.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Researchers propose that humidity from masks

may lessen severity of COVID-19.”

- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Study Identifies Risk Factors for Elevated Anxiety in Young Adults During COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- NIH [published an editorial](#) titled “NIH experts discuss SARS-CoV-2 viral variants.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Four potential COVID-19 therapeutics enter Phase 2/3 testing in NIH ACTIV-2 trial.”



### The White House

- The White House [announced](#) members of the Biden-Harris Administration COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

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## As Galveston County froze over, nurses delivered COVID vaccines to homebound patients



### [From the Article:](#)

“We gave vaccine by flashlights inside people’s homes, because they have no power,” said Jennifer Young, a nurse practitioner who works in the medical branch’s program for homebound elderly residents.

During the freeze, the nurses weren’t just delivering shots. Amid the blackouts and weather-damaged pipes bursting, nurses delivered water, blankets, coffee and breakfast tacos, Young said. In one case, Young even helped arrange for someone to go to a patient’s house to turn off the water.

[Source: The Daily News, Galveston County](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Policy News](#)

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