

COVID-19 DIGEST



April 14, 2021

Academy Update

Now Accepting Nominations for Academy Leadership Positions

Nominations will be accepted through
Monday, April 19th.

President-Elect (1 to be elected, 2-year term)

Treasurer (1 to be elected, 2-year term)

Board Members (3 to be elected, 2-year term)

Fellow Selection Committee (4 to be elected, 3-year term)

Nominating Committee (3 to be elected, 2-year term)



Featured Fellow



Since March 2021, the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) School of Nursing students and faculty, including Dean **Alexa Stuifbergen**, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Associate Professor **Karen Johnson**, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FAAN, as well as the UT Medical Reserve Corps have been working to intentionally provide vaccines to underserved communities in Central Texas. This includes many Austin-area residents who have limited or no access to request online appointments or are unable to travel to large vaccination sites. (Pictured left: Stephanie Morgan, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, Director of Practice Innovation, and Dean Stuifbergen)

With support from the UT Austin vaccine hub, they have launched an innovative partnership with other university affiliates, several churches in East Austin, and nonprofits as well as community organizations to create [two vaccination delivery programs](#): “Vaccination Administration Mobile Operations” (VAMOS), a mobile clinic set up at local churches and other community sites, and “Vaccinate, No Waste” (VaxNow), in which extra vaccines that are prepared are taken to individuals who are homebound or have difficulty accessing appointments. (Pictured right: VAMOS, mobile vaccine clinic)



“The mass hub is a great model for getting shots into lots of arms quickly and is definitely needed,” said Dr. Johnson. “But from a health equity perspective, it runs the risk of not serving some of our most vulnerable communities who are suffering disproportionately from COVID-related morbidity and mortality.”

The success of the mobile clinics is based largely on a tailored outreach and a trusted and personalized registration experience, as well as information, education, and logistical convenience to people who can most benefit from the vaccine. For instance, two of the partners helping VAMOS and VaxNOW, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Rehoboth Baptist Church in East Austin, are already home to AMEN, an African American mental



health and wellness program led by the UT Austin School of Nursing faculty. (Pictured left: Jason McLellan, associate professor of molecular biosciences at UT Austin, receives his first COVID-19 vaccination from Martha Beckage, RN, at UT Austin's vaccination hub.)

"Declines in the area's coronavirus positivity rate are promising, but continuing to vaccinate more of the population is vital," said Dr. Stuifbergen. "Through VAMOS and VaxNoW, we are using our limited resources to help the highest-risk groups who otherwise would go

unreached."

Fellow Vaccine Efforts



Melissa A. Fitzpatrick, MSN, RN, FAAN, a Member of UNC REX Healthcare's Board and President of Kirby Bates Associates and Tyler & Company, volunteers her time to administer COVID-19 vaccines at the UNC REX co-worker vaccine clinic. (Pictured above.)



Through the [Badger Nurses Collaborating on Covid-19 Vaccine and Delivery \(BN-CoVED\)](#) initiative, the **University of Wisconsin (UW) Madison School of Nursing**, with support from **Dean Linda D. Scott**, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, is collaborating with community partners and other UW System nursing schools to vaccinate the public against COVID-19. As of March 29, 2021, more than 1,600 student clinical hours and 270 faculty clinical hours have been dedicated toward this effort. The program is supported by a \$185,000 COVID-19 Response Grant from

the [Wisconsin Partnership Program](#) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and through a philanthropic gift from Activision Blizzard.

If you have 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.

Fellow Highlights

April Kapu, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN, and **Anabell Castro Thompson**, MSN, APRN, ANP-C, FAANP, FAAN, [are featured in an article](#) titled "Nurse Practitioners Mobilize to Increase Vaccinations Across Minority Communities and Combat Vaccine Hesitancy" by Yahoo!Finance.

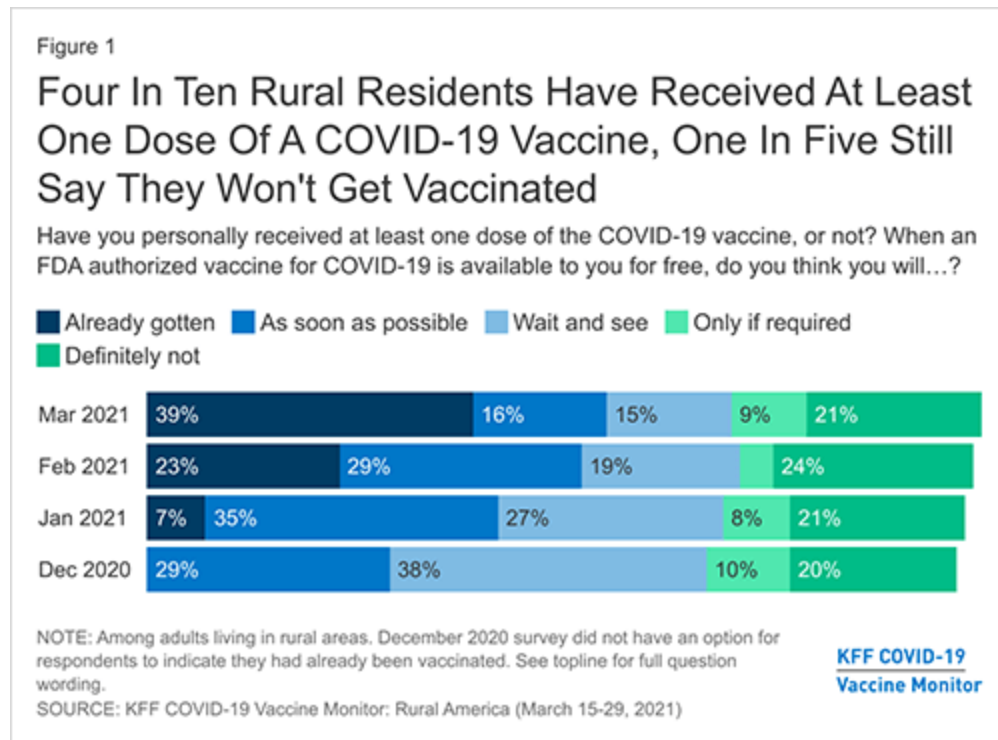
News & Updates from National Organizations

American Medical Association (AMA) [published a webinar](#) titled “Prioritizing Equity video series: COVID-19 and Employer Vaccine Equity.”

Duke University School of Nursing published a [video tribute](#), “A Tribute to Honor Nurses in the Duke University Health System and School of Nursing,” highlighting their sacrifices and work during the pandemic.

International Council of Nurses (ICN) [released an article](#) titled “Team-based care: responding to COVID-19.”

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) [released an article](#) titled “Why Doctors and Nurses Can Be Vital Vaccine Messengers.” KFF [published a policy brief](#) titled “KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor- Rural America.”



Kaiser Health News (KHN) [published an article](#) titled “Beating the Pavement to Vaccinate the Underrepresented — And Protect Everyone.” KHN [published an article](#) titled “12 Months of Trauma: More Than 3,600 US Health Workers Died in Covid’s First Year.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) [published a press release](#) titled “Expert Papers from the National Academy of Medicine Identify Lessons Learned and Compelling Needs for Public Health and Care Systems after COVID-19.”

60 Black Health Experts Urge Black Americans to Get Vaccinated

Disinformation has pervaded social media and is an assault on our people.

By Thomas A. LaVeist and Georges C. Benjamin

Dr. LaVeist is a medical sociologist and the dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. Dr. Benjamin is a physician and the executive director of the American Public Health Association. They are among 60 Black health experts who have signed on to this Op-Ed.



Watch: [National Academy of Medicine Members Urge Black Americans to Get Vaccinated](#)

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [will host an event](#) titled "Implementation Science and Non-Vaccine Public Health Measures during COVID-19" on Friday, April 23rd at 7am ET.

National Governors Association (NGA) [released an issue brief](#) titled "COVID-19 Impacts On Justice-Involved Kids: Lessons Learned From States." **NGA** [released an issue brief](#) titled "State-Driven Initiatives To Support Moving To Value-Based Care In The Era Of COVID-19."

Research!America [will host a webinar](#) with **Dr. Walter Koroshetz**, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), titled "Long COVID" on Thursday, April 15th at 2:30pm ET.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) [released a policy brief](#) titled "Eviction and Health: A Vicious Cycle Exacerbated by a Pandemic."

World Health Organization (WHO) [released a report](#) titled "WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part." Read the press release [here](#). **WHO** [released a statement](#) titled "Interim statement of the COVID-19 subcommittee of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine."

Federal Government Response



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **CDC** [published a statement](#) titled "Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine."
- **CDC** [released a report](#) titled "U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program: Vaccine Channel Portfolio by Jurisdiction."
- **CDC** [released guidance](#) titled "Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety."
- **CDC** [released guidance](#) titled "Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination."
- **CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)** [released a report](#) titled "Emergency Department Visits for COVID-19 by Race and Ethnicity — 13 States, October–December 2020."
- **CDC's MMWR** [released a report](#) titled "Trends in Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalizations, by Region — United States, March–December 2020."
- **CDC** [published a web page](#) titled "Health Equity News & Resources."

- CDC [released guidance](#) titled “Guidance for Reporting SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Results.”
- CDC’s MMWR [released a report](#) titled “COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality Among American Indian/Alaska Native and White Persons — Montana, March 13–November 30, 2020.”
- CDC’s MMWR [released a report](#) titled “Death Certificate–Based ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes for COVID-19 Mortality Surveillance — United States, January–December 2020.”
- CDC [published a toolkit](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Health Departments and other Public Health Partners.”
- CDC [published guidance](#) titled “About Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19.”
- CDC continues to [update](#) data on the number of COVID-19 cases caused by variants.
- 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.



Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS [continues to hold calls](#) with clinicians, hospitals, other facilities, and states in an effort to keep stakeholders updated on COVID-19 efforts.
- Find [more general information](#) on COVID-19.



Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Funding Request.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Announces Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Program to All Community Health Centers Across the Country.”
- HHS [released remarks](#) by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy at Virtual Launch Event for COVID-19 Community Corps with Vice President Harris.
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS Secretary Becerra Announces Reduced Costs and Expanded Access Available for Marketplace Health Coverage Under the American Rescue Plan.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Launches Nationwide Network of Trusted Voices to Encourage Vaccination in Next Phase of COVID-19 Public Education Campaign.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults and People with Disabilities.”

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)



- **FDA** [released a statement](#) titled “Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- **FDA** [published a blog post](#) titled “Vaccine Ready: Addressing COVID-19 Health Disparities among Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities.”
- **FDA** [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Makes Two Revisions to Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization to Help Increase the Number of Vaccine Doses Available.”



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **NIH** [published a press release](#) titled “NIH Experts Discuss Post-Acute COVID-19.”
- **NIH** [published a press release](#) titled “NIH Experts Call for Accelerated Research to Address Concurrent HIV and COVID-19 Pandemics.”
- **Dr. Francis Collins** [published a blog](#) titled “Mapping Severe COVID-19 in the Lungs at Single-Cell Resolution.”
- **NIH** [published a press release](#) titled “NIH Begins Study of Allergic Reactions to Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines.”
- **NIH** [published a press release](#) titled “NIH Clinical Trial Evaluating Moderna COVID-19 Variant Vaccine Begins.”
- **Dr. Francis Collins** [published a blog](#) titled “Lessons Learned About Substance Use Disorders During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- **NIH** [published a press release](#) titled “CDC and NIH bring COVID-19 self-testing to residents in two locales.”
- **Dr. Francis Collins** [published a blog](#) titled “New Initiative Puts At-Home Testing to Work in the Fight Against COVID-19.”



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

- **NIAID** [published a press release](#) titled “T Cells Recognize Recent SARS-CoV-2 Variants.”

Black Nurse Volunteers Give Shots to Minnesota's Most Vulnerable



[Source: MPR News](#)

Shane Price supports his wife, Verna Price, as she gets her first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from nurse Kelly Robinson. Mrs. Price was hesitant to get the vaccine, but said that having it explained to her by a nurse of color helped her come around.

Note: The COVID Digest distribution schedule has been adjusted to once a month on the second Wednesday for consistency with other Academy newsletter communications.

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Policy News](#)

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