

# WHAM<sup>®</sup>

## COLLABORATIVE

The WHAM Collaborative is a dynamic group of leaders, researchers and clinicians across disciplines who are passionate about women's health research. Women make up more than 50% of the US population and nearly half the workforce, yet women remain underrepresented in medical research, drug research and medical device development – even in diseases that disproportionately affect them. The Collaborative helps WHAM prioritize key questions for women's health research, identify opportunities to invest in cutting-edge research, and make change in the research community to accelerate a greater focus on women's health.



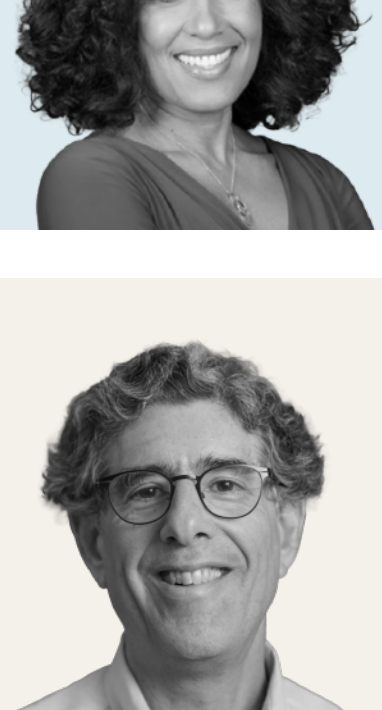
**Wendy Bennett, MD, MPH**  
**Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine**  
**Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Women's Health, Sex, and Gender Research**

Dr. Wendy Bennett's research focus is on weight management and obesity control and studied behavioral interventions to promote healthy weight gain in pregnancy and postpartum weight loss. As the Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Women's Health, Sex, and Gender Research, Dr. Bennett is committed to identifying and ultimately eliminating the biomedical research gaps for in women's health.



**Roberta Brinton, PhD**  
**Director, UA Center for Innovation in Brain Science, University of Arizona Health Sciences**

Dr. Roberta Brinton is a leading neuroscientist in the field of Alzheimer's disease, with a particular focus on the aging female brain and regenerative therapeutics. Of the 5.7 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease, two thirds are women. Dr. Brinton's research investigates the sex-based differences in Alzheimer's disease to better understand why women are disproportionately affected and help lead the medical community to precision medicine for all patients afflicted. Dr. Brinton's research is focused on the mechanisms, including sex-based differences, underlying late onset Alzheimer's and developing therapeutics to prevent, delay and cure the disease.



**Larry Cahill, MD, PhD**  
**Professor, Neurobiology and Behavior, University of California, Irvine**

Dr. Larry Cahill is a is a long-standing leader in the areas of brain and memory, and among the world's foremost leaders on the topic of sex influences on the brain. In 2017 he edited the first issue of any neuroscience journal devoted to the topic (in *The Journal of Neuroscience Research*). He was instrumental in the 2016 adoption by the NIH of the landmark *Sex as a Biological Variable* (SABV) policy mandating consideration of sex influences in all NIH funded research. He is an internationally regarded investigator and speaker whose work has been highlighted often in the press, including in the *New York Times*, *London Times*, *Washington Post*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, PBS, CNN, and *60 Minutes*.



**Antonella Santucci Chadha, PhD**  
**CEO and Co-Founder, Women's Brain Project**

Dr. Antonella Santucci Chadha has decades of experience in clinical pathology, neuroscience, and psychiatric disorders. As a medical doctor, Dr. Santucci Chadha conducted preclinical research, patient treatment, clinical development, and helped establish the international regulatory framework for Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Santucci Chadha is committed to removing bias in clinical research so that precision medicine and novel technologies can be delivered to patients in a more precise and timely manner and is advocating for the creation of an Institute for Sex and Gender Precision Medicine in Switzerland.



**Robynne Chutkan, MD**  
**Founder and CEO, Digestive Center for Wellness**

Dr. Robynne Chutkan is an integrative gastroenterologist and microbiome expert, bestselling author and founder of the Digestive Center for Wellness, a practice dedicated to pinpointing the root causes of GI disorders to help patients heal from the inside out. Her work focuses on the differences in digestive systems between men and women. Dr. Chutkan is the author of digestive health books including *Gutbliss*, *The Microbiome Solution*, and *The Bloat Cure*.



**Richard J. Davidson, PhD**  
**William James and Vilas Research Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**Founder & Director, Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**Founder and Chief Visionary, Healthy Minds Innovations, Inc.**

Dr. Davidson's research is broadly focused on the neural bases of emotion and emotional style and methods to promote human flourishing, including meditation and related contemplative practices. He has published over 440 articles, numerous chapters and reviews and edited 14 books. He is the author (with Sharon Begley) of "The Emotional Life of Your Brain" published in 2012 and co-author with Daniel Goleman of "Altered Traits" published in 2017. He was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine in 2006. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017 and appointed to the Governing Board of UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in 2018. In 2014, Davidson founded the non-profit, Healthy Minds Innovations, which translates science into tools to cultivate and measure well-being. Davidson received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in Psychology in 1976.



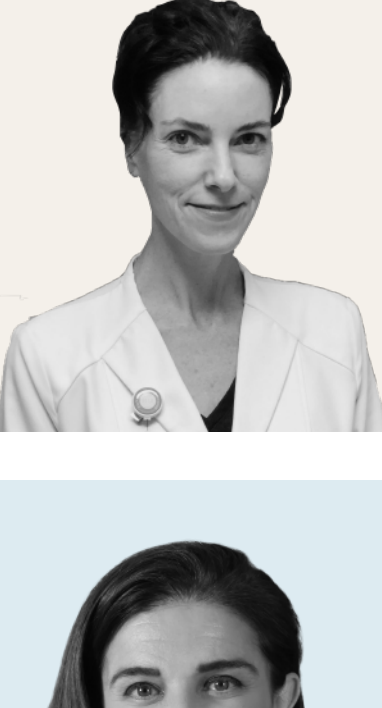
**Nicola Finley, MD**  
**Principal and Founder, Dr. Nicola, PLLC**

Dr. Nicola Finley is a board-certified internal medicine physician with a consulting practice focused on integrative medicine, women's health, diversity and inclusion in wellness, employee wellness and global health equity. Dr. Finley serves on the faculty of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She has practiced integrative medicine at Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, and provided care to economically disadvantaged communities at El Rio Community Health Center and St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson.



**Jennifer Hall, PhD, FAHA**  
**Chief of Data Science, American Heart Association**  
**Adjunct Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Minnesota**

Dr. Hall serves as the Chief of Data Science at the American Heart Association (AHA) and holds an adjunct Professor in the Dept of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. Under her leadership the AHA established the AHA Precision Medicine Platform, which provides researchers with a web portal providing access to data and workspaces equipped with analysis tools. Dr. Hall's team includes experts in statistical techniques, evaluation and data management. The team delivers data, code, and evaluation expertise and tools to multiple projects including Research Goes Red, the AHA Get With the Guideline Registry Data and multiple NIH, CDC, and FDA awards. Her research analyzes different factors contribute to understanding heart health – including gender.



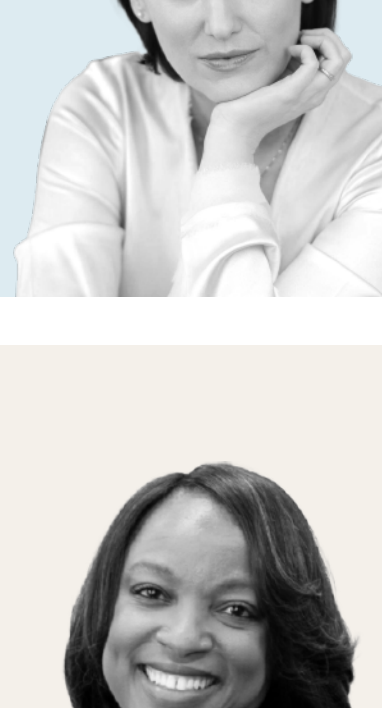
**Sharonne N. Hayes, MD, FACC, FAHA**  
**Professor, Cardiovascular Medicine, Mayo Clinic**  
**Founder, Women's Heart Clinic, Mayo Clinic**

Dr. Sharonne Hayes has long advocated for the advancement of women's health and sex-based medicine within the field of cardiology and many other areas that affect women's health and well-being. Her research interests include sex and gender-based cardiology, cardiovascular conditions primarily affecting women, spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD), fibromuscular dysplasia, pericardial diseases, health equity, participation of women and minorities in medical research, healthcare workforce equity, and the utility and optimal role of social media in clinical practice, medical research and health education.



**Marsha Henderson**  
**Associate Commissioner for Women's Health, FDA (retired)**

Marsha Henderson, the former Associate Commissioner for Women's Health at the Food and Drug Administration, is a nationally recognized innovative leader and change agent for the health of women and their families. During her decade-long tenure at the FDA, Henderson served as a voice to include women in research, education, and policy initiatives to build a better understanding of sex differences and health issues that disproportionately or uniquely impact women. She created the first FDA Women's Health Research Roadmap, outlining seven priority areas for new or enhanced research across disease areas and new cutting-edge areas of science.



**Marjorie Jenkins, MD**  
**Dean, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville**  
**Chief Academic Officer, Prisma Health-Upstate**

In addition to her work as a clinician, Dr. Marjorie Jenkins has been a fierce academic and program innovator, incorporating sex and gender inclusive models and educational resources at medical schools and institutions across the country. Dr. Jenkins launched the U.S. Sex and Gender Medical Education Summit to address disparities in research focusing on women's health and was the Founding Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer for the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health.



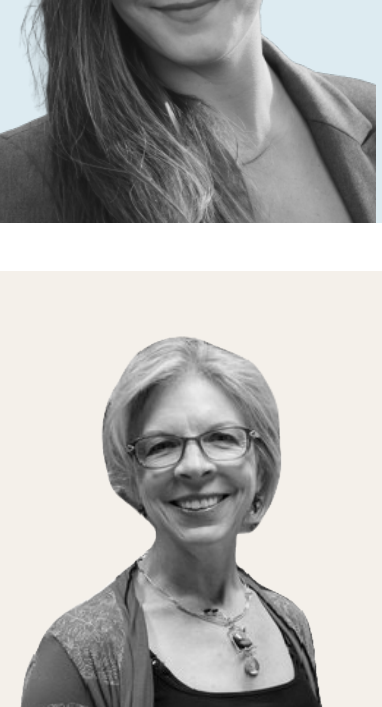
**Hadine Joffe, MD, MSc**  
**Founding Member and Lead Scientific Advisor, The WHAM Collaborative**  
**Executive Director, Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School**  
**Vice Chair for Psychiatry Research, Department of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital**  
**Paula A. Johnson Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Field of Women's Health, Harvard Medical School**

Dr. Hadine Joffe is an internationally recognized women's health researcher, educator, and clinician. In her research, Dr. Joffe is dedicated to advancing the understanding, treatment, and consequences of symptoms resulting from reproductive hormone changes in the brain, with a particular focus on women who have breast cancer. As the Director of the Connors Center, Dr. Joffe supports faculty and trainees in forging new ground in women's health research and works to ensure that research translates to patient care and is aligned with women's health advocacy priorities.



**Wendy Klein, MD, MACP**  
**Former Medical Director, Health Brigade**

Dr. Wendy Klein never saw a female doctor while growing up, but this only made her more determined to follow her passion for medicine and serve as a role model for future generations of female doctors. Dr. Wendy Klein is board certified in Internal Medicine and has devoted her career to improving women's health and eliminating the inequities in the research gap. She is the former Medical Director of Health Brigade, the oldest free clinic in Virginia which provided medical care to vulnerable and under-served populations.



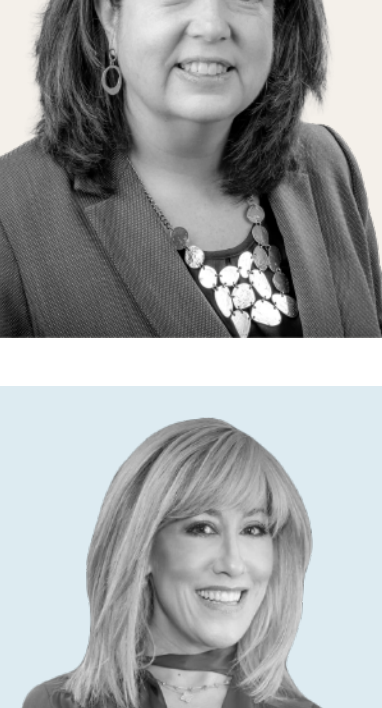
**Pavitra Kotini-Shah, MD**  
**Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**Women's Health Research Scholar, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**Director of Resident Ultrasound Education, University of Illinois at Chicago**

Dr. Kotini-Shah is passionate about understanding sex and gender differences and advocates for more inclusive health research and data for women and minorities. In addition to her work in the emergency room and her research focused on heart health and resuscitation, Dr. Kotini-Shah also co-authored a recent study showing how COVID-19 has disproportionately affected women faculty members who are in their early and mid-careers due to increased workloads and stress and decreased self-care.



**JoAnn Manson, DrPH, MD**  
**Michael and Lee Bell Professor of Women's Health, Medicine, Harvard Medical School**  
**Co-Director, Women's Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital**  
**Professor, Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**  
**Chief, Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital**

Dr. JoAnn Manson is a prominent women's health expert, and conducts research across several WHAM disease focus areas, including cardiovascular disease and breast cancer. In particular, Dr. Manson focuses on the role of lifestyle factors, diet, micronutrient supplementation, and hormone replacement therapy as determinants of cardiovascular disease, stroke, and breast cancer in women.



**Alyson McGregor, MD**  
**Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs and Development, University of South Carolina**  
**Associate Dean, Greenville**  
**Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville**

Dr. Alyson McGregor's research on the impact of sex and gender differences in emergency medicine have made her a leading spokesperson for sex- and gender-based research around the world. From a TEDx talk with over 1.5 million views to her book, "Sex Matters: How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women's Health – and What We Can Do About It," Dr. McGregor has sparked a national conversation around the concept of sex and gender differences in the delivery of acute medical care.



**Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC, FACP, FCCP, FESC, FAHA, MSCAI**  
**Endowed Mount Sinai Professor in Cardiovascular Clinical Research and Outcomes, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**  
**Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Population Health Science and Policy, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Dr. Roxana Mehran is an internationally renowned interventional cardiologist and clinical research expert in the field of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Mehran has built a globally-respected academic research center focused on developing randomized clinical trials, served as principal investigator for numerous global studies, developed risk scores for bleeding and acute kidney injury, participated in developing clinical guidelines, and authored over 1300 peer-reviewed articles. She is currently leading the *Lancet* Commission on Women's Cardiovascular Diseases, which brings together leading female researchers from around the world to identify and bridge gaps in research and care for women with cardiovascular disease.



**Michelle Mielke, PhD**  
**Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Prevention, Wake Forest University School of Medicine**  
**Professor of Epidemiology and Prevention, Wake Forest University School of Medicine**  
**Professor of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine**

Dr. Michelle Mielke works to further the understanding of the epidemiology of neurodegenerative diseases and the sex-specific differences in the risk and progression of these diseases, including Alzheimer's disease. In her previous role as the Co-Director of the Specialized Center for Research Excellence on Sex Differences at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Mielke led research to identify sex-specific risk factors in both men and women to better predict risk of neurodegenerative diseases and accelerated aging. By studying sex differences, Dr. Mielke hopes to contribute to improved precision-based medicine for men and women.



**Lisa Mosconi, PhD**  
**Director, Women's Brain Initiative, Weill Cornell Medicine**  
**Director, Alzheimer's Prevention Clinic, Weill Cornell Medicine**  
**Associate Professor, Neuroscience in Neurology and Radiology, Weill Cornell Medicine**

Dr. Lisa Mosconi's research is at the intersection of neuroscience and women's health, focusing on how genetics, environment, and lifestyle shape the brain, particularly the female brain. As the Director of Weill Cornell Women's Brain Initiative, her work is focused on discovering sex-based molecular targets and precision therapies to prevent, delay, and treat Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Mosconi is the author of two books, *The XX Brain* and *Brain Food*, bringing 15+ years of research out of the lab and into everyone's lives.



**Charlotte Owens, MD**  
**Vice President and Head of the Research and Development Center for Health Equity and Patient Affairs, Takeda**  
**Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Morehouse School of Medicine**

Dr. Charlotte Owens has dedicated her career to women's health. She is a leader in clinical research and an advocate for the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion and patient-centered approaches in biomedical research to advance the health of women and communities of color. Dr. Owens has practiced as an Ob-Gyn, led research including studies on uterine fibroids that took care to include African American women who are disproportionately affected. Prior to joining Takeda, she was the Therapeutic Area Lead in U.S. Medical Affairs for Women's Health at AbbVie.



**Judy Regensteiner, PhD**  
**Director, Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**  
**Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Internal Medicine and Cardiology, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

Dr. Judith Regensteiner's research focuses on the cardiovascular effects of diabetes with a specific focus on women with type 2 diabetes, because they appear to have more significant abnormalities than men with type 2 diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in women, yet only one third of participants in clinical trials of cardiovascular disease are women. Dr. Regensteiner's work showcases the substantial sex- and gender-based differences in cardiovascular disease and the importance of studying women in clinical research. As the co-founder and Director of the Center for Women's Health Research, Dr. Regensteiner also leads an interdisciplinary team of researchers focusing on women's health and sex differences in clinical research.



**Stacey Rosen, MD**  
**Senior Vice President for Women's Health, Katz Institute for Women's Health, Northwell Health**  
**Partners Council Professor of Women's Health, Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine at Hofstra University**

Dr. Stacey Rosen is a cardiologist and the Senior Vice President for the Katz Institute for Women's Health. At the Katz Institute, Dr. Rosen focuses on the elimination of health care disparities through comprehensive clinical programs, gender-based research, community partnerships and education. She also produced the movie, *Ms. Diagnosed*, to showcase the real women whose lives and families have been disastrously affected by the inequities women face in receiving medical care.



**Sharyn Rossi, PhD**  
**Director of Scientific Programs, Neuroscience, BrightFocus Foundation**

Dr. Rossi uses her multidisciplinary background in central nervous system injury and mechanisms of aging to implement research initiatives, initiate and maintain institutional collaborations, and foster relationships with scientists and key stakeholders, while overseeing an active portfolio of \$41 million consisting of nearly 150 grants spanning 14 countries in her role at BrightFocus. Her expertise includes: Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Aging, neuroanatomy, Neurodegeneration and plasticity, Stem Cell Biology, and Neuroimaging. She holds a PhD from the University of California, Irvine and completed postdoctoral work at A.I. duPont Children's Hospital and Johns Hopkins University.



**Kathryn Sandberg, PhD**  
**Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Medicine, Georgetown University Medical Center**  
**Director, Center for the Study of Sex Differences in Health, Aging, and Disease, Georgetown University**  
**Director, PreDoc and Postdoc Training Program, Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science**

Dr. Sandberg's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms underlying the sex differences in the incidence and rate of progression of hypertension and associated cardiovascular and renal disease. Dr. Sandberg has found that the incidence and rate of progression of these disease states is higher in men than age-matched women, until women reach menopause. After menopause, women rapidly catch up with men. Through Dr. Sandberg's research, we will develop a better understanding of cardiovascular disease risks evolve for both men and women during aging.



**Erica Ollmann Saphire, PhD**  
**President and CEO, La Jolla Institute for Immunology**

Dr. Erica Ollmann Saphire is a world-renowned virus expert and the first woman chosen to lead La Jolla Institute for Immunology as President and CEO. Dr. Ollmann Saphire's research explains, at the molecular level, how and why viruses are pathogenic and provides the roadmap for medical defense. Her work also focuses on the differences in fundamental immunology of women versus men, which drive different disease propensities and outcomes. Dr. Ollman Saphire has been at the center of efforts across the globe to identify therapies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 and to research COVID-19 mutations. Dr. Ollmann Saphire is a leader in collaborative research, working to make scientific data more open and accessible across research silos in order to advance science.



**Katherine M. Sharkey, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Dean for Gender Equity, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University**  
**Associate Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University**

Dr. Katherine "Katie" Sharkey is a recognized expert in sleep, circadian rhythms, and sleep disorders, particularly as they relate to women's health and gender disparities in sleep health diagnoses. Dr. Sharkey is board certified in Sleep Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Psychiatry. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Sharkey serves as an Associate Editor of Behavioral Sleep Medicine and Frontiers in Sleep, and is on the editorial board of *Sleep Health*. Her research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.



**Suzanne Steinbaum, DO**  
**Private Practice Cardiologist**  
**Co-Founder and President, SRSHeart**

Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum is a cardiologist, specializing in prevention, and is an expert in women and heart disease. Dr. Steinbaum has devoted her career to the treatment of heart disease through early detection, education, and prevention. She is an active spokesperson for women's heart health, is a regular contributor to many TV and print news outlets, and speaks at leading health summits. Dr. Steinbaum has spoken at the United Nations, been featured on *Good Morning America* and *The View*, and has published several books on women's cardiovascular health.



**Connie Tyne**  
**Executive Director, Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health**

Connie Tyne has a passion for keeping people healthy, particularly women who have been underserved in health care. As the Executive Director of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, Ms. Tyne promotes women's health causes by funding research, providing education to healthcare professionals, and sponsoring community programs and health screenings for women and girls around the country.



**Annabelle Santos Volgman, MD**  
**Co-Founder and Medical Director, Rush Heart Center for Women**  
**Professor of Medicine, McMullan-Eyberg Chair for Excellence in Clinical Cardiology, Rush University Medical Center**

Dr. Annabelle Volgman is the founder and medical director of the Rush Heart Center for Women, the first heart program in Chicago devoted exclusively to women. Dr. Volgman has dedicated her career to helping women through prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Her research has been pivotal in atrial fibrillation, the most common cardiac arrhythmia that disproportionately affects the risk of stroke in women. Dr. Volgman has written numerous abstracts and articles on women, stroke and heart disease. She is a prominent leader with the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign and was featured in *O Magazine* as Oprah Winfrey's cardiologist.



**Janice Werbinski, MD, FACOG, FAMWA, NCMP**  
**Immediate Past President, American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)**  
**Clinical Associate Professor Emerita, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine (WMed)**

Dr. Janice Werbinski is a retired OB/GYN physician with a passion for women's empowerment and advancing education in sex and gender-based medicine to improve the health and healthcare of both women and men. She is former Medical Director of Bronson Women's Center, Borgess Women's Health, and the WYCA Sexual Assault Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is board-certified in OB/GYN and a Certified Menopause Provider. She practiced Women's Health and Gynecology for 40 years, retiring from clinical practice in 2014.



**Nicole Witowich, PhD**  
**Executive Director, The WHAM Collaborative**  
**Research Assistant Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University**  
**Center Administrator, Institute for Innovations in Developmental Sciences, Northwestern University**

Dr. Nicole Witowich focuses on the evaluation of the biomedical research enterprise through various lenses, such as the integration of science outreach into existing research infrastructure, and the advancement of women and minorities in STEM and medicine to help bridge the gap in women's health research. As Associate Director of the Women's Health Research Institute at Northwestern University, Dr. Witowich is a fierce advocate for expanded women's health research, putting a spotlight on the effects of sex and gender on health.



**Susan Wood, PhD**  
**Associate Professor, Health Policy and Management, George Washington University**  
**Milken Institute School of Public Health**  
**Director, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health**

Dr. Susan Wood's work and public advocacy focuses on the use of scientific knowledge in public policy. She previously was Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and directed the FDA Office of Women's Health from 2000-2005 when she resigned on principle over continued delay of approval of over-the-counter emergency contraception. Prior to her time at FDA, Dr. Wood was Director of Policy and Program Development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health. Previously, Dr. Wood was a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; she received her PhD in biology from Boston University. She has published a number of research articles in scientific journals, as well as articles on health policy.