

Background

Hosted by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), the IHI Scientific Symposium aims to attract the best work in the science of improvement in health and health care. The event takes place on Monday, December 6th, 2021, as a pre-conference day of the IHI Forum. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing effects, the Symposium is held virtually this year. The conference aims to attract high quality scientific work and a community of improvement researchers and practitioners who come together to explore how improvement science and methods can be used to effect meaningful change in health and health care. The IHI Scientific Symposium focuses on learning – what worked, what did not, and what can others learn from those lessons and apply to their work?

Throughout the long months of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic with its associated impacts on health, well-being, and equity, it is clear that the health and health care fields need evidence and knowledge to be produced, evaluated, and applied both more thoughtfully and more rapidly than ever. Moreover, the inequitable impacts of COVID-19 across communities of color in the United States and in COVID-19 response and impacts globally calls us to address the widespread, longstanding, systemic inequities within and across communities and nations. Therefore, this year's Symposium includes a special focus on:

1. Applying principles of equity and antiracism in improvement work, and
2. How improvement methods can contribute to the rapid production of practical evidence.

The conference features a mix of keynote presentations, interactive methods sessions on new and foundational scientific approaches to improvement, and oral presentations and posters (top-rated oral and poster abstracts are published in this journal) from our community of quality improvers and applied researchers. The oral and poster sessions showcase either:

- Applied Improvement: Applications of scientific methods to health and health care improvement; or
- Improvement Methods: developing the methodological basis of improving health and health care.

The 18 oral presentations and 9 featured posters were selected from over 175 abstract submissions through a peer review process that ensured each abstract was reviewed by multiple reviewers. For those authors who gave permission, the abstracts of the selected oral presentations and featured posters are published in this supplement.

Marianne McPherson
Senior Director
Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Program

Session Title	Session Description
Welcome from IHI and Keynote	<p>Welcome from IHI and Keynote Pierre Barker, Chief Scientific Officer, IHI Marianne McPherson, Senior Director, IHI Nana Twum-Danso, Senior Vice President, Global, IHI</p> <p>Keynote Speaker Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS Senior Advisor to the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Chair of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force</p>
Oral Abstract Presentations (Parallel Sessions)	Session abstracts are published in this supplement.
Methods Sessions (Parallel Sessions)	<p>Methods Session 1. Applying Principles of Equity and Antiracism in Improvement Work</p> <p><i>Speakers and facilitator are forthcoming</i></p> <p>Methods Session 2. How improvement methods can contribute to the rapid production of practical evidence</p> <p><i>Speakers and facilitator are forthcoming</i></p>
IHI Forum Pre-Conference Keynote	<i>Keynote speaker to be announced on the IHI Forum Website</i>
Featured Posters	<p>Featured poster abstracts are published in this supplement</p> <p>Additional posters are available to conference attendees</p>

Acknowledgements

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