



Once Upon A Premie Academy Faculty Biographies

Meet Jenné Johns, Once Upon A Premie Academy Founder



Jenné Johns, MPH is President of Once Upon A Premie, Founder Once Upon A Premie Academy, mother of a micropremie, author, speaker, advocate, and national senior health equity leader. Once Upon A Premie is a non-profit organization with a two-part mission: donating Once Upon A Premie books to NICU families in under resourced communities, and leading virtual health and racial equity training programs for the neonatal and perinatal community. Jenné provides speaking, strategic planning and consulting services for fortune 500 companies focused on premie parent needs from a racial equity lens and reading as a tool for growth, development, and bonding. Jenné is also a national senior health equity thought leader and has led solutions-oriented health equity and quality improvement portfolios for the nations' largest health insurance and managed care companies. Jenné serves on numerous advisory committees, and received awards as a minority leader for her work addressing health disparities.



Dawn Godbolt, Ph.D is the Policy Director at the National Birth Equity Collaborative where she works to improve maternal health disparities through federal policy levers. She sits on the National Quality Forum’s Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Committee and chairs the Equitable Maternal Health Coalition policy working group. Prior to joining NBEC, Dr. Godbolt was the Senior Manager for Maternal Health initiatives

at the National Partnership for Women & Families. Dr. Godbolt holds a PhD in Sociology from Florida State University, and has completed a fellowship with the OpEd Project to develop her voice as a thought leader.



Deidre McDaniel, MSW, LCSW is the President & Founder of Health Equity Resources and Strategies (H.E.R.S.)

With over 20 years of experience in maternal & child health, Ms. McDaniel provides guidance to healthcare systems and public/private organizations on how to successfully implement and sustain equitable quality improvement projects to address disparities. Ms. McDaniel is also a Doctoral Fellow at Morgan State University, with research interests in anti-racist healthcare practices and eliminating disparities in birth outcomes for African American women. Ms. McDaniel employs a critical equity framework through which to understand all healthcare systems, policies, and practices. As a licensed certified social worker, she has dedicated her career to improving health outcomes for women and children; and as a leader in the field, she demonstrates cultural humility, effective communication, and sound content expertise.



Dr. Chavis Patterson, a licensed Clinical Psychologist, focuses on stressors that put children, couples, and families at risk for future difficulties. He received his degrees from the American University in Washington D.C. and completed his internship at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center. Dr. Patterson works at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in the Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit (N/IICU). As the Director of Psychosocial Services, he is responsible for oversight of the provision of expert psychosocial care to the families as they cope with the complexities associated with having a sick child. Partnering with the interdisciplinary team, he functions as an administrative leader, educator and researcher. He has presented at national conferences published numerous articles.

He is a member of the National Perinatal Association, the National Network of Neonatal Psychologists, the Marcé Society of North America, the Society of Pediatric Psychology, and the Association of Black Psychologists, Delaware Valley Chapter.



Shante Nixon is a NICU Mother, Advocate, Business Professional and Founder of Connect2NICU, which launched its healthcare app in iTunes and Google Play stores in 2013 to 2018. This app was created to support parents who have babies in the neonatal intensive care unit by providing mobile access to resources that are available to them.

Shante' provided insight on the intersection of family, healthcare and the NICU space both locally and nationally. She currently serves as a board member for the National Perinatal Association.

Shante is a graduate of the inaugural Greenville Founder's Institute class, Launchpad2x, and Venture Valley Mentors. She is a Clemson University Alumni and a outstanding career professional for a Fortune 50 company. When she is not working Shante' enjoys time with her husband Julian, her very active toddler, Jazara, and their smarter than usual dog Tierno.



Dr. Terri L. Major-Kincade is a board certified Pediatrician and Neonatologist currently in private practice as a travel neonatologist covering Texas, South Carolina, Nevada and Georgia. She is originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana but has called Texas home for the past 20 years. Her interest

in neonatology was inspired by her younger sister who was born 3 months early in 1968. Dr. Terri was fascinated by the fact that her sister was born small enough to fit in the palm of her hand and wanted to be the kind of doctor that took care of the babies that could fit in your hand! She received her Bachelor's Degree from Prairie View A&M University and her joint Medical and Master's in Public Health Degrees from UCLA. She did her residency training in pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center/Children's Medical Center of Dallas and completed her Neonatology Fellowship at UT Houston Medical School. During her tenure at UT Houston/Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital she was honored to receive the Physician of the Year Award and to be featured on ABC's Houston Medical as well as Lifetime's Women Docs. Her primary areas of research interest include Health Disparities, Patient-Physician Communication, Neonatal Follow-Up and Neonatal Perinatal Hospice. She is active in many national and local organizations including March of Dimes where she serves as Chair for the Steering Committee for African American Outreach for the State of Texas, The March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign Collaborative, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated a Public Service Sorority, A Board Member of PLIDA (Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance), and Angel Unaware a Neonatal and Pediatric Hospice in Fort Worth. She is a nationally and internationally prominent and highly desired speaker for her expertise in the field of Neonatal Palliative Care, Perinatal Hospice, and Health Disparities as they relate to poor birth outcomes. She is three-time best-selling author for the anthologies (Chicken Soup for the Soul Power Moms and Thinking About Quitting Medicine) and recently published her 1st, the Amazon #1 Best-Seller, Early Arrival, a Doctor's Guide for Parents of Premies. She has been happily married for 24 years and is the proud mother of a 21-year-old daughter, an 18 year old son, both graduating this year from College and High School respectively. Her passion for

premature infants and their families was inspired by the birth of her own younger sister who was born 3 months early in 1968 weighing only 1lb. She looks forward to the day when no parent will ever have to say good-bye to their baby and is committed to meeting families where they are and providing them with the Gift of Hope through patient centered care and parent centered advocacy.



Ashley Randolph is the mother of three children all born premature. She created Glo Preemies to help support high-risk pregnant women and families with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) worldwide. Ashley is most passionate about helping people, especially improving the lives of babies born prematurely in the African American community and providing support and safety net services for their families. She is currently reigning as the 2021 Mrs. California United America. She is the recipient of the 2017 Presidential Excellence Award for her hard work empowering minority mothers. She is currently working on a research study with California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) based at Stanford Medical School. She is an author of many hospital publications and the author of "Black, Pregnant, and Shamed" where she discusses her three pregnancies, NICU experiences, and what it is like being black and pregnant in America.



Dalia M. Feltman MD, MA, FAAP is a board-certified neonatologist at NorthShore University Health System Evanston Hospital north of Chicago. She co-founded their NICU's Diversity and Health Equity Committee which works to encourage a culture of mutual respect and to address health disparities for NICU patients and families. Her fluency in Spanish allows her to appreciate the needs of parents who do not speak English. As a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, her teaching sessions focus on communicating effectively and compassionately with families. Dr. Feltman earned her Master of Arts degree in Bioethics and Health Policy from Loyola University Chicago's Neiswanger Institute. Using this ethical "lens," Dr. Feltman publishes bioethics research including book chapters and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and has presented at national academic conferences. Dr. Feltman is the founder and leader of the collaborative study group of researchers from over 15 U.S. training centers called Investigating Neonatal Decisions for Extremely Early Deliveries (INDEED). This group studies socioeconomic and medical maternal factors and delivery hospital characteristics with respect to resuscitation decisions for the earliest premature newborns to identify disparities and improve care. Dr. Feltman is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is active in their Section on Bioethics as the Associate Editor of their newsletter, as well as a member of the sections of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion.