



GPHAP News – February 15, 2021

In this issue:

- [Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Monica Peek & Dr. Monica Vela](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Previously Listed Events](#)
- [Opportunities](#)

Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Monica Peek & Dr. Monica Vela



Dr. Monica Peek and Dr. Monica Vela are internal medicine physicians at the University of Chicago Medical Center and leaders in advancing health equity through reducing health care disparities. They are both fierce advocates for community and minority patient health care both inside and outside of clinical settings. Dr. Peek works to improve diabetes care and outcomes on the South Side of Chicago and is the co-director of the national program office Bridging the Gap: Reducing Disparities in Diabetes Care and the associate director of Chicago Center for Diabetes Translation Research. As the Associate Vice Chair for Diversity within the Department of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs at the Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Vela has had a major impact shaping the culture of diversity and inclusion in medicine and medical education, with her work serving as an example for other institutions across the nation. Both Dr. Peek and Dr. Vela are exceptional role models and have used their platforms and expertise to effect system-level change. Below is an excerpt from their interview featured in the Chicago Tribune Sunday February 7th.

Interview was conducted by health writer Deborah Shelton on behalf of UChicago Medicine.

How is she going to live her life without those two people?

Q: Much has been said about distrust of the vaccine. What are you hearing? **Dr. Peek:** These communities are diverse. And there are a lot of different viewpoints within African American and Latinx communities. Public health and education campaigns are underway to address vaccine hesitancy. We are working closely with trusted figures — community health workers, physicians, faith leaders — people who have the social and cultural capital to be liaisons between medical and public health professionals and

the people we're trying to vaccinate. Yet, we face obstacles from an earned mistrust of the healthcare community. But no matter how significant the obstacles are, we have to overcome them. The most important thing to know is that the real danger is the virus, not the vaccine. The virus is causing a 9/11 every day that is disproportionately impacting Black and Brown people. Dr. Vela: For the first time, I've had to address concerns about the role of the government in producing the vaccine. That's not a question I ever fielded with the flu vaccine. I find it makes a difference when I say I took both doses. A patient you've seen for 20 years will trust you if you say

it's safe. But for patients who've never had a trusting relationship with a primary care physician, that's a tougher sell.

Q: What are the most common myths that you've heard? And how do you counter them? **Dr. Peek:** I frame them as concerns, not myths. We know that the federal government and public health departments have done a number of things to African Americans, indigenous people, prisoners and Latinos without their knowledge, under the guise of helping, that were not necessarily beneficial to them. Forced sterilizations. Telling people

they were being treated for syphilis when they weren't. Doing experiments without their knowledge, until very recently. Knowing that these things have happened repeatedly within our community is one reason why some people may be hesitant. My job is to share scientific facts so people can make informed decisions. COVID vaccine development has been an international collaboration involving multiple companies and many scientists around the globe. The technology used to create the vaccine — mRNA technology — was developed in the 1980s and has been proven safe.

Q: What kind of turnout do

Erikson/Quern Fellowships Info. Session

Monday, February 22, 2021 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Each summer, GPHAP offers 10-week internships at the medical center (Erikson Fellowships) and stipends for independent 10-week projects of your own design (Quern Fellowships). Information will be provided on how to apply for the Erikson and Quern Fellowships. Laura will provide details about the application and due dates. Several of last summer's Erikson and Quern Fellows will be in attendance to tell you about their experiences. No RSVP needed. This info session does not count as a GPHAP co-curricular.

Here are the Zoom details:

Topic: Erikson/Quern Information Session

Time: Feb 22, 2021 12:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/944492292937>

[pwd=SUxnSGpVdXRuTkZrRnUzNytVNmQzZz09](https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/944492292937)

Recorded Lectures

Many of the lectures listed in the GPHAP Weekly Digest archive the lectures for later listening. Here are the links to several of the lecture series.

A Catalyst for Humanity: A Conversation with Isabel Wilkerson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxVeDIs_XXg

Moving Forward by Looking Back: The Coupling of African American History and our Work in Science and Medicine Autumn Mini Series

<https://voices.uchicago.edu/bsddiversity/autumn-mini-institute-2020/>

CHAS Michael Davis Lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCci9IEAwSViif5oKuTz2Lg/videos>

McLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics lectures

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHi1nAdgwe_gC0XLGMhKEPqg

Harvard School of Public Health Forum lectures

<https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/>

Bowman Society Lectures

<https://pritzker.uchicago.edu/resources/bowmansociety>

Understanding Pathologies of Power in the Age of

COVID19: https://youtu.be/ZFbx8AX2U_o

PSOM Future of Health Policy Panel sponsored by Pritzker Health Policy Interest

Group: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zP3mBU8GnZi_kRucWe9jA1flue1k6Md/view

GPHAP Calendar



Subscribe to the GPHAP [iCal](#) to keep up-to-date with all the latest seminars and opportunities available to students!

[Return to top](#)

Upcoming Events

Wed. February 17th 5:00–5:45PM

Policy in a Post-COVID–19 World: A Conversation with Dean Baicker and Dr. Landon [Register Here](#)

Join Harris Dean and Emmett Dedmon Professor Katherine Baicker and Associate Professor of Medicine and Executive Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control Dr. Emily Landon for a conversation on the state of COVID–19

Thurs. February 18th 5:00PM CT

Bowman Society Lecture: "Preserving our Breath: Lung Fibrosis in African–American Communities" [Register Here](#)

Ayodeji Adegunsoye, MD, MS, FCCP

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Scientific Director, Interstitial Lung Disease Program

Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care

Thurs. February 18th 5:30–6:30PM

The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA) and the African American Alumni Committee (AAAC) present: **Black Mental Health: A TIME DURING COVID–19 AND CIVIL UPRISING** [Register Here by Feb 16th](#)

Moderator:

[Tina Sacks, AM](#) '98 PhD '13

Panelists:

[Janelle Goodwill, PhD](#) (panelist – mental health expert)

[Kouri Marshall](#) (panelist – government/political expert)

[Suzet McKinney, MD](#) (panelist – public health expert)

Mon. February 22nd 1:00–2:00PM [Register Here](#)

Diversity Dialogues with John Schneider "COVID–19 Prevention and Vaccination Hesitancy in the United States"

Diversity Dialogues are designed to bring together individuals from the University to learn about and act upon issues related to diversity and inclusion. This session, titled COVID–19 Prevention and Vaccination Hesitancy in the United States, will feature John Schneider MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Social Work. Dr. Schneider will share results from a population-based survey of COVID–19 prevention and vaccination among US adults with a specific focus on disenfranchised communities like those who are criminal justice involved. In addition, he will share insights from instituting the largest community contact tracing program in the Midwest that aims to engage communities most impacted with important resources and services. He will close with public health network interventions that may help us move towards COVID–19 elimination.

[Return to top](#)

Previously Listed Events

Thurs. February 18th 5:00 – 7:30PM

45th CHEF Virtual Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation [Register Here](#)

Healthcare 2021: A National Perspective for Local Leaders Innovation, Leadership & Transformation in the Midst of the Pandemic

This year's event will begin with a virtual networking opportunity with your colleagues and peers. Our 2020–2021 CHEF President, Leslie R. Johnson, RN, FACHE, will provide opening remarks and invite attendees to join our esteemed panel of experts:

David B. Nash, MD, MBA

Allison Arwady, MD, MPH

Bechara Choucair, MD

Moderator Kim Byas, Sr., PhD, MPH, FACHE

[Return to top](#)

Opportunities

Business School Healthcare Conferences

18th Annual Health Care Conference

New Normal Post Pandemic

February 21, 2021

Harvard Business School Healthcare Conference – Feb 21

Tickets are \$20 for students. Tickets for the virtual conference can be purchased [here](#).

The theme for the conference is 'New Normal Post Pandemic'. [Full agenda here](#).

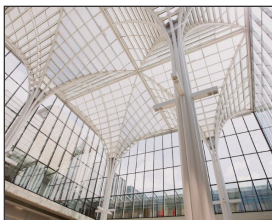
UChicago Booth Healthcare Group Conference – Feb 25–26

The Booth Healthcare Conference will be held February 25 – 26. [Learn more and register at the conference website](#).

NOTE: GPHAP has a limited number of free tickets to the conference. Reach out to Laura if you would like one! Booth students who are members of the Booth Health Care Group can register for free, so please register using your free ticket and not go through the GPHAP lottery.

Tickets are free for Chicago Booth HCG members, \$5 for current UChicago students, and \$10 for general admission attendees.

The event will feature 3 keynote talks from Lee Shapiro, Managing Partner at 7wireVentures and former CFO at Livongo Health; Griffin Myers, Chief Medical Officer at Oak Street Health; and Bruce Broussard, President and CEO at Humana. The panels will also discuss healthcare policy, investing, entrepreneurship, and digital healthcare.

**Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management Healthcare Conference – Feb 24–27**

Kellogg's 21st Annual Business of Healthcare Conference Saturday, February 27th with pre-conference events starting on Wednesday, February 24th. The ticket cost is \$25.

See <https://www.kelloggshc.com>



[Return to top](#)

GPHAP Social Media

GPHAP has a [Facebook Group](#) for Current Students and Alumni. Go to Facebook and search for The UChicago Graduate Program in Health Administration & Policy or click on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gphap/>

There is a [LinkedIn Group](#) for GPHAP **Alumni**. Current students are welcome to join. Go to LinkedIn and search for "GPHAP" and Request to Join.

GPHAP has a **Twitter** Page. Please follow @UCgphap.

GPHAP's calendar: [GPHAP iCal](#)

GPHAP's website is: <https://gphap.uchicago.edu>

Join the WhatsApp GPHAP Social Group. Students can reach out to see who is going to GPHAP events or to provide info about other activities.

WhatsApp Social

Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/invite/BYMEUqshxH1K6xpID5OmAk>

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