

Speaker Biographies

Nakela Cook, MD, MPH



Dr. Nakela Cook is the Chief of Staff in the Immediate Office of the Director (IOD) of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Cook provides institutional leadership to support the NHLBI Director, serves as his liaison to senior officials within and outside of the Institute, and provides oversight to the support operations of the IOD. Additionally, she provides institutional leadership to catalyze multi-disciplinary activities initiated by the NHLBI Director. As such, she provides leadership for the strategic direction of the women's health research agenda at NHLBI and serves as a spokesperson related to the health of women for the Institute.

Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Dr. Cook served as a medical officer in the Clinical Applications and Prevention Branch in the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the NHLBI. Her work in the Division involved outcomes research, epidemiology, and clinical trials. Dr. Cook's research portfolio includes comparative effectiveness research, cardiovascular imaging, racial/ethnic and sex/gender disparities in cardiovascular disease, and cardiovascular health services research.

Dr. Cook is board certified in cardiology. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a Doctor of Medicine from Harvard Medical School, and clinical training in primary care/internal medicine and cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Cook completed a fellowship in Health Services Research at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is an alumnus of the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy and completed her Masters of Public Health, with a concentration in health care policy, as part of this fellowship.

JoAnn V. Pinkerton, MD, FACOG, NCMP



Dr. JoAnn Pinkerton is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Division Director of Midlife Health Center at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is past President of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS), and Dr. Pinkerton currently serves as the Executive Director of NAMS. She is a NAMS Certified Menopause Practitioner (NCMP), a long-time fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and past President of the South Atlantic Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Additionally, Dr. Pinkerton is Editor for NAMS journal, *Menopause*, and Section Director for menopause for the *Journal of Women's Health*. She also serves on the Editorial Boards of *Menopause* and *Climacteric*. She has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, 30 invited papers, 11 invited chapters,

and served as Principal Investigator for over 30 clinical trials. Dr. Pinkerton's research and clinical care focuses on treatment of hot flashes with hormone and non-hormone therapies. She is frequently asked to lecture and is the creator and force behind the Midlife Community Educational Symposia targeting different types of women.

Dr. Pinkerton's awards include the Castle Connolly Exceptional Women in Medicine in 2018, the 2013 UVA Sharon Hostler Women in Leadership award, and BEST DOCTORS and TOP DOCTORS in America every year since 2010. She won an American Library Association Award for her book, *Understanding Midlife Health*.

Dr. Pinkerton received her BA with distinction from the University of Virginia in 1976, and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia in 1981. She completed a four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center. In 1985, she joined the faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center and is now a tenured Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.