

# The Intersection of Regenerative Medicine and Women's Health: A Workshop

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

## Statement of Task

A planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will organize and conduct a public workshop to examine opportunities in regenerative medicine to address current gaps in basic science, translational research, and related therapies that, if not considered, may result in health care disparities for women. The overarching goal of this workshop is to explore strategies to better understand underlying biology that would enable development of regenerative medicine therapies for women. The public workshop may include invited presentations and discussions to:

- Consider the gaps within regenerative medicine basic and translational research (including the development of cell and animal models) related to conditions that are female-specific and/or are more common or differently impact women.
- Explore emerging regenerative medicine therapies and technologies (and gaps in these areas) for conditions that are female-specific and/or are more common or differently impact women.
- Understand the representation of women within the regenerative medicine workforce, efforts to expand representation, and how research and clinical care may be impacted.
- Examine obstacles that may restrict access to regenerative medicine therapies, opportunities to expand access to care, and efforts to improve health literacy and communication.

The planning committee will organize the workshop, develop the agenda, select and invite speakers and discussants, and moderate or identify moderators for the discussions. A proceedings-in brief of the presentations and discussions at the workshop

## SESSION I: Opening Remarks and Keynote

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8:30 – 8:35 AM ET

### Welcoming Remarks

**Katherine Tsokas**, *Forum Co-Chair*

Vice President

Regulatory, Quality, Risk Management and Drug Safety

Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

**Krishnendu Roy**, *Forum Co-Chair*

Bruce and Bridgitt Evans Dean of Engineering and University Distinguished Professor  
Vanderbilt University

8:35 – 8:40 AM

### Introduction and Charge to the Workshop Speakers and Participants

**Kimberlee Potter**, *Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair*

Scientific Program Officer

Department of Veterans Affairs

8:40 – 9:00 AM

### Keynote

**Vivian Ota Wang**, *Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair*

## The Intersection of Regenerative Medicine and Women's Health: A Workshop

Deputy Director  
NIH Office of Research on Women's Health

**9:00 – 9:10 AM**

### **Reactants**

**Linda Goler Blount**  
President and CEO  
Black Women's Health Imperative

**Teonna Woolford**  
Co-Founder and CEO  
Sickle Cell Reproductive Health Education Directive

**9:10 – 9:45 AM**

### **Panel Discussion**

*Moderator: Elizabeth Garner, KNI Health Consultants, American Medical Women's Association*

## SESSION II: The Impact of Sex and Hormones on Regenerative Medicine

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*Moderator: Kathleen Zackowski, National Multiple Sclerosis Society*

### **Session Objectives:**

- Examine the impact of sex and hormones on innate regeneration and as a biological variable in the efficacy of regenerative therapies.
- Discuss how the inclusion/exclusion of sex as a biological variable and women in clinical trials has resulted in gaps within basic and translational research and impacted the translation of regenerative therapies.

**9:45 – 10:00 AM**

**Monica Laronda**  
Assistant Professor  
Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Department of Pediatrics  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University

**10:00 – 10:15 AM**

**Riley Bove**  
Associate Professor, Neurology  
University of California, San Francisco

**10:15 – 10:30 AM**

**Kimberly J. Templeton**  
Professor  
Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine  
University of Kansas Medical Center

**10:30 – 10:55 AM**

### **Panel Discussion**

**10:55 – 11:00 AM**

**Reflections on the Discussion**  
*Kathleen Zackowski, National Multiple Sclerosis Society*

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

### **Break**

## SESSION III: Cellular Approaches to Address Women's Health

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Moderator: *Juan Gnecco, Tufts University*

### Session Objectives:

- Consider recent advances in understanding the innate regenerative capacity of female-specific cells and tissues, examining how these advances inform the development of therapies aimed at treating conditions that are female-specific and/or are more common in or differently impact women.
- Explore different cellular approaches aimed at addressing the current gaps in regenerative medicine basic and translational research and treating such conditions.

**11:15 – 11:30 AM ET**

**Caroline Gargett**  
Research Group Head  
Endometrial Stem Cell Biology  
Hudson Institute of Medical Research

**11:30 – 11:45 AM**

**Ji-Yong Julie Kim**  
Susy Y. Hung Professor  
Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Science in Medicine  
Co-Director, Center of Reproductive Science  
Northwestern University

**11:45 – 12:00 PM**

**Melissa Kaufman**  
Professor, Department of Urology  
Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Urologic Surgery  
Chief Division of Reconstructive Urology and Pelvic Health  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**12:00 – 12:15 PM**

**Doris A. Taylor**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Organamet Bio Inc.

**12:15 – 12:30 PM**

**Samik Basu**  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Cabaletta Bio

**12:30 – 12:55 PM**

**Panel Discussion**

**12:55 – 1:00 PM**

**Reflections on the Discussion**  
*Juan Gnecco, Tufts University*

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Break for Lunch**

## SESSION IV: Non-Cellular Innovations in Women's Health

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Moderator: *Margot Damaser, The Cleveland Clinic*

### Session Objectives:

- Discuss non-cellular innovations used to advance regenerative basic and translational research and improve the diagnosis of conditions that are female-specific and/or are more common in or differently impact women.
- Explore emerging non-cellular regenerative therapies, such as biomaterial-based and gene therapies, developed to treat these conditions.

**2:00 – 2:15 PM**

**Erika Moore**  
Assistant Professor  
Fishell Department of Bioengineering  
University of Maryland

**2:15 – 2:30 PM**

**Manu O. Platt**  
Director  
Center for Biomedical Engineering Technology Acceleration (BETA)  
Senior Investigator  
Head  
Mechanics and Tissue Remodeling In Computational & Experimental Systems (MATRICES)  
NIH Distinguished Scholar  
Associate Director for Scientific DEIA  
NIH National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

**Brendan Harley**  
Robert W. Schaefer Professor  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**2:45 – 3:00 PM**

**Alejandro J. Almarza**  
Professor  
Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences  
University of Pittsburgh

**3:00 – 3:15 PM**

**Karen Christman**  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Welfare  
Pierre Galletti Endowed Chair for Bioengineering Innovation  
Professor of Bioengineering  
Jacobs School of Engineering  
University of California San Diego

**3:15 – 3:40 PM**

**Panel Discussion**

**3:40 – 3:45 PM**

**Reflections on the Discussion**  
*Margot Damaser, The Cleveland Clinic*

**3:45 – 4:00 PM**

**Break**

## SESSION V: Final Reflections and Future Opportunities

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### **Session Objectives:**

- Discuss opportunities in the regenerative medicine field to further address health care disparities for women.
- Consider how the representation of women within the regenerative medicine workforce impacts research and clinical care and explore efforts to expand representation.
- Examine obstacles that may restrict access to regenerative medicine therapies, opportunities to expand access to care, and efforts to improve health literacy and communication.

**4:00 – 4:45 PM**

### **Panel Discussion**

*Moderators: Eric Sid, NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Katherine Tsokas, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine*

#### **Linda Goler Blount**

President and CEO  
Black Women's Health Imperative

#### **Erika Moore**

Assistant Professor  
Fishell Department of Bioengineering  
University of Maryland

#### **Akua Roach**

Health Science Program Manager  
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

#### **Doris A. Taylor**

Chief Executive Officer  
Organamet Bio Inc.

#### **Kimberly J. Templeton**

Professor  
Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine  
University of Kansas Medical Center

**4:45 – 5:00 PM**

### **Closing Remarks**

**Kimberlee Potter**, *Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair*  
**Vivian Ota Wang**, *Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair*

**5:00 PM**

### **Adjourn**