

# FACILITATOR AND SPEAKER BIOS

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## OPENING



**Jennifer G. Robinson, MD, MPH, FAHA**  
**Chair, National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention**  
**Professor, Departments of Epidemiology and Medicine**  
**Director, Prevention Intervention Center**  
**University of Iowa**

Jennifer G. Robinson, MD, MPH is a Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology and Medicine (Division of Cardiology), and Director of the Prevention Intervention Center at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

As an active researcher, Dr. Robinson has performed numerous clinical trials sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the pharmaceutical industry. She has conducted extensive research on a wide range of anti-atherosclerotic and metabolic agents, including lipid-modifying, anti-inflammatory, antihypertensive, weight loss, and diabetic treatments as well as postmenopausal hormone therapy. She is the principal investigator for the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) at the University of Iowa. Her current research interests include clinical trials to cure atherosclerosis.

Dr. Robinson has published over 225 peer-reviewed articles in the area of lipids-modifying drugs, cardiovascular risk stratification, and cardiovascular prevention, with multiple recent publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology and Circulation*. She has lectured widely on preventive cardiology and the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of lipid metabolism in the US and internationally.

She was Vice Chair of the 2013 ACC/AHA cholesterol guideline, and a member of the 2013 ACC/AHA risk assessment guideline. In addition to long involvement in multiple American Heart Association (AHA) committees, recent leadership roles include serving as Chair of the Lifestyle Track for the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. She is the Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, a consortia of over 90 governmental, public health, academic, and industry groups.

While at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Dr. Robinson received her medical degree and completed an Internal Medicine residency with the College of Medicine, and received a Master's of Public Health from the College of Public Health. She is a diplomate of the American Boards of Internal Medicine and Clinical Lipidology and a Fellow of the American Heart Association.

Jennifer G. Robinson, MD, MPH in the past year:

Research grants to Institution: Acasti, Amarin, Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, Esai, Esperion, Merck, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi, Takeda.

Consultant: Amgen, Merck, Novo-Nordisk, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi

## **PATH 1: INNOVATIONS TO GET BACK ON TRACK**

### **MODERATOR**



**Betsy L. Thompson, MD, MSPH, DrPH**  
**Captain, U.S. Public Health Service**  
**Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Dr. Thompson is currently the Director of the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. In that role, she provides public health leadership to improve cardiovascular health for all, and reduce the burden and eliminate disparities associated with heart disease and stroke.

During 17 years of federal service, she has served in a number of capacities. Before returning to CDC in 2018, she served as Deputy and Acting Regional Health Administrator (RHA) for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health in Region IX from 2014-2018. The RHA is considered the department's senior federal public health official and scientist in the region. From 2009-2014, Dr. Thompson was the Region IX Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the principal liaison to professional organizations with respect to quality improvement and health reform. From 1991-2000, Dr. Thompson held several positions at CDC, beginning as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and Preventive Medicine Resident and ending as a branch chief. She has experience in other facets of preventive medicine including as a clinician in underserved areas, Chief Medical Director for a non-profit health plan, and author of Colorado legislation providing first-dollar coverage for preventive services.

Dr. Thompson is board certified in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine, and holds a master's and a doctorate in Public Health. Throughout her career, Dr. Thompson has focused on the intersection of prevention policy and science whether at the individual, community, state or national level.

### **PANELISTS**



**Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH, FAHA**  
**Director of Research Clinics**  
**Kaiser Permanente Northern California**

Dr. Stephen Sidney is a Senior Research Scientist and Director of Research Clinics at Kaiser Permanente Northern California, where he has conducted research studies since 1983, authoring over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He received a BA from Yale University, MD from Stanford School of Medicine, and MPH in Epidemiology from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He is Board certified in internal medicine and a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology.

His primary research interest is cardiovascular disease epidemiology with a major focus on health disparities. His research projects include the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults the (CARDIA)

study, funded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, and a Stroke Prevention/Intervention Research Program (SPIRP) funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The ongoing CARDIA study has studied the evolution of cardiovascular risk and disease over a 30-year period in a cohort of black and white men and women, age 18-30 years at baseline. He has published 3 recent articles regarding U.S. trends in cardiovascular mortality since 2000 as well as a white paper published by the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention on this topic.

Dr. Sidney volunteers considerable time to public health efforts in Alameda County, California, a large county which has substantial racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity with consequent health disparities. He is the co-chair of the Frank E. Stammers, Sr., MD, Hypertension Project which aims to lower the burden of hypertension in Alameda County. He has helped promote the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention's Move with the Mayor Program in Oakland. Dr. Sidney was awarded the Heart Healthy Stroke Free award from the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention in 2017.



**David C. Goff, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP, FAHA**  
**Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences**  
**National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute**

David C. Goff, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., FACP, FAHA is Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. In this role, he leads a diverse team of scientists and administrators committed to turning discovery into cardiovascular health.

Prior to joining the NHLBI, he served as Dean and Professor of Epidemiology in the Colorado School of Public Health and as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. He received an MD from the University of North Carolina and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health. He trained in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He is an elected member of the American Epidemiological Society, and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Heart Association. His research interests include the epidemiology and prevention of heart disease and stroke with a focus on issues related to high blood pressure, diabetes, and dyslipidemia. He has published over 300 manuscripts, book chapters, and other scientific reports. He has served in a variety of leadership roles in multiple NIH-, CDC-, and AHA-funded studies and committees. He has directed the Ten-Day Seminar on the Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease since 2000. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, President of the Board of Directors for the Denver Metro Division of the American Heart Association, Chair of the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention for the American Heart Association, and Chair of the Council on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research for the American Heart Association.

The major focus of his research has been on developing, testing, and implementing better strategies for promoting cardiovascular health and preventing CVD. This work has involved 5 aspects, including etiologic research, efficacy trials, quality of care research, implementation research, and evidence synthesis.

Etiologic research: He served as a Co-Investigator for several NHLBI-funded observational studies, including MESA, IRAS and ARIC. His most recent efforts focused on the CARDIA study, for which he served as Chair of the Steering Committee. CARDIA is studying the maintenance of cardiovascular

health and the incidence and progression of cardiovascular disease in a biracial cohort of black and white men and women enrolled in 1985 and followed to date for 30 years. CARDIA has characterized the evolution of health behaviors (including diet and activity), risk factors, subclinical disease markers, and clinical outcomes over this period, and has contributed to understanding the metabolic, genetic, lifestyle, social, and environmental bases of these phenotypes.

Efficacy trials: He contributed to important randomized clinical trials, including ALLHAT, ACCORD, and SPRINT. In ALLHAT, he served at the Coordinating Center as a leader of the Lipid-Lowering Trial and as the primary liaison with the Regional Coordinators. In ACCORD and SPRINT, he served as a Clinical Center Network PI, member of the Steering Committee, and Chair of several subcommittees. In each case, these studies began with important unanswered questions about care for hypertension, dyslipidemia, or diabetes, and the results have influenced clinical care in major ways.

Quality of care and outcomes research: He led several studies designed to test strategies to improve care in clinical practices, including AHA, CDC, and NHLBI-funded grants to test strategies to improve use of statins in coronary heart disease, ACE inhibitors and beta blockers in heart failure, and ATP III and JNC 7 guideline-based care in primary care practices. He directed an NHLBI-funded training grant that supported career development of scientists interested in this field.

Implementation and dissemination research: He led the HELP Prevent Diabetes Project, a community-based translation of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). At the time, little was known regarding how to translate the expensive DPP into the community. To enhance feasibility and dissemination potential, HELP Prevent Diabetes tested a program that was based in a community resource (a diabetes education program), simplified inclusion and outcome assessments, integrated task shifting of intervention delivery from trained professionals to lay community health workers, and converted the intervention to group delivery. The program showed outstanding cost-effectiveness in the implementation project, and the model is now being evaluated in a dissemination project in NC.

Evidence synthesis and policy development: He participated in efforts to translate evidence into policy. He chaired the Working Group for the Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Attacks and Stroke, and the Risk Assessment Working Group for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction for the NHLBI, ACC, and AHA. He served on the ACC/AHA Performance Measures Task Force, and Hypertension Guideline Committee.



**Janet Wright, MD, FACC**  
**Executive Director, Million Hearts®**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

Janet S. Wright MD, FACC is the Executive Director of Million Hearts®, a national initiative co-led by CDC and CMS with the explicit goal to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes in the U.S. over five years. From 2008 to 2011, Dr. Wright served as Senior Vice President for Science and Quality at the American College of Cardiology. In that role, she provided medical and scientific oversight of clinical guidelines, performance measures, health policy statements, and appropriate use criteria; quality improvement projects; and the National Cardiovascular Data Registry, a suite of databases containing more than 12 million patient records in both inpatient and outpatient care settings.

Dr. Wright practiced cardiology for many years in Chico, California, and during those years, she served on ACC's Board of Trustees, NCQA's Physician Program Committee, and the Center for Information Therapy, a non-profit organization committed to the provision of personalized health information during each health encounter. Her primary interests are the design and implementation of systems of care to achieve optimal outcomes for patients and the full deployment of hooks, tricks, and cues that help people get and stay healthy.



**Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH**  
**Lieutenant General (USAF, Ret.)**  
**Medical Chair, National Defense University**  
**Clinical Professor, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**  
**Former Director, Defense Health Agency**

Lt. Gen. Douglas J. Robb (USAF ret) is currently the Medical Chair, National Defense University and a clinical professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine & Biostatistics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD. General Robb retired from the Air Force Jan 1, 2016 as the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA), Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. He led a joint, integrated Combat Support Agency enabling the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps medical services to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to Combatant Commands in both peacetime and wartime.

General Robb entered the Air Force in June 1979 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy (BS biology). He received a medical degree (1984) from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, IL, and completed a residency/board certification in aerospace medicine (1994). He holds a Master's degree (1992) in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA, and a Master's degree (2000) in Strategic Studies from the National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. He is a fellow in the Aerospace Medical Association and an honorary fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine.

General Robb spent 20 years in the practice of aerospace medicine in support of Air Force, joint, and coalition aviation forces. Clinically, he has held the positions of chief of flight medicine, aerospace medicine squadron commander and hospital and medical center commander. Additionally, he has held staff positions as the chief flight surgeon for U.S. Air Forces in Europe; Command Surgeon, U.S. Central Command; Command Surgeon, Air Mobility Command; and Joint Staff Surgeon and Senior Medical Advisor to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity; and most recently, Director, Defense Health Agency. In 2014-2015 General Robb was appointed by Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as the Co-Chair, Defense Advisory Committee on Tobacco (DACT). The DACT reviewed various non-aligned DoD and military services' tobacco policies and identified along with military Services and Undersecretaries options to advance health, productivity, and readiness of the military force through a comprehensive tobacco control program and shaping DoD and military Service policy. This led to Secretary of Defense issuance of a Department of Defense wide DoD Tobacco Policy, Policy Memorandum 16-001.