

# 2025 Ruth K. Palmer Research Symposium

Promoting Inclusivity and Health Equity through Nursing Research



## **Morning Schedule**

### **9:00AM - Opening Remarks**

Dr. Karen Saban, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarly Innovation,  
Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing

Dr. Lorna Finnegan, Dean, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing

Dr. Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, Vice Provost for Research, Loyola University  
Chicago

Dr. Tim Carrigan, Chief Nursing Officer, Loyola University Medical Center

### **9:15AM - Morning Keynote**

Dr. Tené Lewis: "Social Stressors and Indices of Cardiovascular Disease in  
At-Risk Women"

### **10:15AM - Poster Viewing**

### **10:35AM - Podium Presentation**

Dr. Alexandra Nowak: "Molecular Pathways to Preterm Birth in African  
American Women"

### **10:55AM - Podium Presentation**

Dr. Lindsey Garfield: "Mindfulness for African Americans Postpartum  
(MAAP) Study"

### **11:15AM - Mindfulness Activity**

Dr. Sandi Tenfelde

### **11:30AM - Podium Presentation**

Dawn Vollers: "Health & Human Rights Impact of Anti-Transgender  
Legislation: Nursing's critical role in gender-affirming care"

### **11:50AM - Lunch**

## **Afternoon Schedule**

### **1:00PM - Poster Blitz**

Ashley Ford: "Correlation Between Preterm Infants' Birth and NICU Clinical  
Health Status and DNA Methylation of NR3C1 exon 1F and HSD11B2  
Promoters"

Dr. Joanne Dunderdale: "Virtual Reality Across Three Different Learning  
Environments: Outcomes, Challenges, Successes"

David Belknap: "Impact of Initial Specimen Diversion Techniques on  
Reducing Blood Culture Contamination Rates"

Kyla Cassandra Santos: "Relationship Between Racial Discrimination,  
Anxiety and Risk for Depression in Pre-Licensure Nursing Students of  
Color"

Yuzhou Liu: "Perceived discrimination in healthcare settings associated  
with pain severity"

### **1:45PM - Poster Viewing**

### **2:00PM - Afternoon Keynote**

Dr. Lenette Jones: "Working Towards Health Equity for All: Your Role as a  
Catalyst in Nursing Research "

### **3:00PM - Podium Presentation**

Dr. Mary McNamara: Advancing Inclusivity and Health Equity through  
Nursing Academic-Practice Partnerships

### **3:20PM - Closing Remarks**

Dr. Karen Saban