

## 133<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice

### Speaker Biographies

June 7 - 8, 2016



**Dr. Christine Bachrach** is Research Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Maryland Population Research Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, and co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health & Society Scholars program. She served as Acting Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health from 2008-2010, and as Chief of the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development from 1992-2008.

She currently serves as board member and managing director of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, a new scientific association dedicated to advancing an integrative understanding of the multiple pathways – from the biological to the behavioral to the societal – that interact to produce health. Dr. Bachrach was president of the Population Association of America in 2013 and has served on numerous boards and committees for scientific organizations and programs in the health and population fields.

Dr. Bachrach received her PhD in Population Dynamics from Johns Hopkins University in 1979. A social demographer, her scientific interests that have spanned the areas of fertility, family formation, marriage and divorce, adoption, sexual behavior, contraceptive practice, population health, and survey methodology. Her current research activities focus on the contributions of cognitive science to understanding culture and demographic behaviors. Current projects focus on a social-cognitive theory of fertility intentions and qualitative analysis of parenting schemas among low-income women. A co-authored volume, *Understanding Family Change and Variation: Towards a Theory of Conjunctural Action*, was published in 2011.



**Dr. John Cech** serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs and the Chief Academic Officer for the Montana University System. His job areas include system academic planning, academic program-approval recommendations, and management of grant-funded system initiatives and programs for state higher education from the two-year and community college level through graduate programs. He serves on several national-level councils, including the National Council of State Community College System Directors, which he chaired from 2013-2016, the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, and the executive

committee of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education Community College Alliance which he chaired from 2015-2016. Dr. Cech has been very active with Workforce

Development efforts in Montana, partnering with the Governor's Office and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. He is active in higher education research where he currently serves on three doctoral dissertation committees (Oxford University, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Montana). Dr. Cech is also a member of the editorial board for the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* (2013-present). Dr. Cech served as the CEO/Dean of City College at Montana State University Billings from 2002-2010, where one of his accomplishments was establishing that College's first Associate of Science – Registered Nurse degree. Dr. Cech has prior faculty and senior leadership experience at public and private universities/colleges in Montana.



**Dr. Yonette F. Thomas** is science advisor for urban health to the New York Academy of Medicine, a member of the International Society for Urban Health board, and a senior research advisor to the Association of American Geographers. She is a founding board member and the vice president of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. Dr. Thomas is a faculty affiliate of the Maryland Population Research Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, and a voluntary associate professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where she teaches social epidemiology. She was formerly the associate vice president for research compliance at Howard University. Previously she served as the chief of the Epidemiology Research Branch and program director for the social epidemiology program at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health. She has held faculty appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and in the School of Pharmacy at Howard University. She is a member of the Consortium of Social Science Associations Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee of the National Hispanic Science Network. She served on the National Academy of Sciences *Committee on Revisions to the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*. Her primary research and publications have focused on the social epidemiology of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and the link with geography, including edited volumes: [Geography and Drug Addiction](#), and [Crime, HIV, and Health: Intersections of Criminal Justice and Public Health Concerns](#). She has a PhD in medical sociology and demography, with post-graduate training in epidemiology.