

Health Equity and Migration in the Americas: A knowledge building and policy change strategy to improve our collective understanding and actions

Workshop leaders/presenters

Dr Alonzo L. Plough Ph.D., MPH, MA Chief Science Officer and Vice President for Research and Evaluation, RWJF (speaker and chair)

Dr. Karabi Acharya, Director Global Ideas for US Solutions , Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,

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The workshop will be for 90 minutes comprising a panel of three speakers providing 20 minute presentations and engaging with audience for 30 minutes for discussion.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest private philanthropy devoted to health improvement in the United States. Four years ago we added a division to build connections with innovators in other countries who have developed approaches to improving health and wellbeing that could be adapted and applied in the US. This global program funds research and builds collaborations addressing fundamental issues of inequity in health outcomes. This panel will describe research funding and collaboration opportunities available to global partners and will present key findings and recommendations from one recent example of our collaborative knowledge building and policy strategy projects: cross national challenges in achieving health equity in the context of the migration of vulnerable populations across North, Central and South America. This collaboration, involving governmental, NGO, research, and community advocacy organizations from multiple countries, is a research driven but strategy focused learning community that will build sustainable cross national linkages to share data, promising practices, and support innovation and systems change. We present this as a model of cross national collaboration that goes deeper than the health ministry or governmental level to include activist researchers and community level change agents. We believe that this is an approach that is generalizable and could be used in other regions throughout the world as the challenge of migration and health equity requires data sharing and collaborations that must cross national borders.