



HAITIAN AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
OF HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK, INC.

SEVENTH ANNUAL NURSING EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM 2024

In Collaboration with Sigma Theta Tau



Goal:

To promote the health and social welfare of women and families globally.

Objectives:

1. To identify various global health issues impacting women's physical and mental well-being.
2. To explore factors influencing maternal health care in the US and beyond.
3. To recognize the crucial role that policy and legislation play in women's health.
4. To empower women to access healthcare, adhere to preventive measures, and seek necessary treatment.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
8AM - 2PM

MERCY UNIVERSITY
ROTUNDA BUILDING
DOBBS FERRY, NY

To Promote the Health and Social Welfare of Women and Families Globally.

October 4, 2024
AGENDA

Time	Topics & Speakers
8:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast Registration & Networking
9:00am- 9:05am	Greetings & Announcements <i>Bibiane D. Sykes, MSN, RN, PhD (Hon) Min., EdD (c)</i> <i>Chair of Education/Symposium Committee</i>
9:05am- 9:10am	Convocation <i>Linda Benoit, BSN, RN, PhD (Hon) Min.</i>
9:10am- 9:20am	Introduction <i>Florence Pierre-Pierre, BBA, BSN, RN</i> <i>President of HANA of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc.</i> <i>Berthilde Dufrene DNP, RN, MSN, CARN</i> <i>President of Sigma Zeta Omega at-Large Chapter</i> <i>Founder of HANA of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc.</i>
9:20 am 9:30am	Rockland County Nurses Honor Guard <i>Elizabeth Falco , RCNHG President</i>
9:30am- 9:50am	Keynote Address <i>Marie O. Etienne, DNP, APRN, FNP, PNP, D. Min. (h.c.), PLNC, FADNL</i> <i>President of Florida Nurses Association (FNA)</i> <i>Haitian Alliance Nurses Association International, Immediate Past President</i>
9:50am -10:05am	DeMystifying Bias in Maternal Health <i>Janet Williams DNP, RN, MSM, CNM</i>
10:05am - 10:25am	Role of Policy & Legislation in Women's Health <i>Rodney Pepe Souvenir, Esq.</i>
10:25am -10:45am	Factors Influencing Maternal Health Care Globally <i>Marlyn Lestage-Laforest MA, MPH, CNM-PhD (h.c)</i>
10:45am - 11:05pm	Alzheimer's Disease and its Impact on Women <i>Meg Boyce LMSW, CDCP</i>
11:05pm -11:35pm	Games & Trivia <i>Jen Morin, MSN, RN</i> <i>Second Vice-President of HANA of Hudson Valley, New York Inc.</i>
11:35pm -12:45pm	Lunch & Learn Female Genital Mutilation - Video Awareness
12:45pm -1:05pm	A Needs Assessment of the Haitian Community <i>Margarett Alexandre PhD, RN, MS, FNYAM, ACUE</i> <i>Associate Professor, York College CUNY</i> <i>Founding Member: Haitian Studies Institute Executive Committee</i>
1:05pm - 1:25pm	Black Maternal Mortality <i>Oluwakemi Adegoke</i> <i>MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology</i>
1:25pm -1:45pm	Women Access to Healthcare, Preventive Measures <i>Gaelle Duvivier DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC</i>
1:45pm - 1:55pm	Questions & Answers
1:55-2:00pm	Closing Remarks

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Founder and Past President

Welcome Message

from the Symposium Chair



Bibiane D. Sykes
MSN Ed, RN, EdD (c)
Chair of Education/
Symposium Committee
Past President

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the Seventh Annual Nursing Education Symposium. The Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA) of Hudson Valley, NY, Inc. is dedicated to providing nurses with a platform to convene, exchange ideas, and actively engage with issues and services pertinent to the health and well-being of our local and global communities. I am delighted that we have been able to consistently organize these educational forums in line with our mission and make a meaningful impact on our community. This year, we are honored to collaborate with the Sigma Zeta Omega at-Large Chapter to further our mission.

This symposium, themed “Transforming Communities, Promoting Health, and Empowering Change,” is a testament to our collective efforts to advance women’s and families’ health and social well-being globally. This theme is not just a title but a mission we all share and work towards. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Sigma Zeta Omega at-Large chapter and Mercy University for their collaboration, as well as to the HANA of Hudson Valley Board for their unwavering commitment and effort in bringing this event to fruition.

Most importantly, I sincerely appreciate you, the attendees, for your crucial role in these annual symposia. Your participation is what makes these events genuinely impactful. We trust you will derive

satisfaction from the content, rekindle previous connections, forge new associations, and acquire fresh insights. Above all, we are excited for you to partake in an enriching experience that will broaden your perspectives and inspire your future work in nursing and healthcare.

Sincerely,

Bibiane D. Sykes, MSN, RN, EdD (c)
Education & Professional Development Chair

Keynote Speaker



Marie O. Etienne
DNP, APRN, FNP, PNP, D.
Min. (h.c.), PLNC, FADNL

Marie O. Etienne, DNP, APRN, FNP, GNP, PNP, D. Min. (h.c.), PLNC, FADNL is a tenured full Professor at Miami Dade College (MDC) Benjamin Léon School of Nursing. Her academic contributions at MDC began in 1997 exemplary as a best practice educator. Her experience includes pediatrics, geriatrics, family practice, community health nursing, leadership, and course developer of online teaching for the RN-BSN program. She is a certified Professional Legal Nurse Consultant.

Dr. Etienne earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Miami in 2010. She is the Immediate Past President of Haitian Alliance Nurses Association International (2017-2024), past President of HANA of Florida (2005-2007), and served as Chairwoman of Haitian American Professionals Coalition (2008-2010). Dr. Etienne is Past President of Miami Chapter - Black Nurses Association 2022. In August 2023, Dr. Etienne was elected to a Board of Directors for the National Black Nurses Association (2023-2025). In July 27, 2024, Dr. Etienne was inducted as one of the Fellows of the Inaugural Class of Luminary Academy of Diversity Nursing Leaders (FADNL) at NBNA's 52nd Annual Institute & Conference, in San Francisco, California. Dr. Etienne served as the first Elected Chairwoman of the City of North Miami Commission for Women (2022-2024). Dr.

Etienne is the Founder and Immediate Past President of Alpha Beta Epsilon at-Large Sigma Chapter (Miami Dade College & Baptist Health South Florida (2021-2024). Dr. Etienne is the first Minority Nurse to serve as the President of Florida Nurses Association (2023-2025) in its history.

Dr. Etienne is the 2007 recipient of the MDC Stanley G. Tate and Family Endowed Teaching Chair for Excellence in Academia. Dr. Etienne founded Global Innovative Foundation, Inc, a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization which creates global awareness for the prevention of crimes with the mission to empower survivors of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Gun Violence through support, education, and scholarships. Dr. Etienne has been appointed by Miami-Dade Chairman Oliver Gilbert III to serve on the Domestic Violence Oversight Advisory Board.

As a transformational servant leader, Dr. Etienne's goal is to inspire others to become social innovators, leaders and changemakers in their respective communities.

Speaker



**Marlyn
LeStage-Laforest**
CNM, NP, MPH, RN, PhD
(Hon) Min
Past President

Marlyn joined the OB/GYN team at Jacobi Medical Center in 2004. She continues to provide full-scope midwifery care to women and adolescents in the Bronx. From 2019 to 2021, Marlyn led the Haitian American Nurses Association of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc., as president during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of great uncertainty. Under her leadership, the organization spearheaded virtual activities, playing a positive role in the community.

Marlyn's journey in the healthcare field is a testament to her commitment to learning and growth. It began in Haiti when she became a nurse in 1985 Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Her determination and passion for nursing led her to the United States. In 1988, she passed the Licensed Practical Nurse exam in New York, and the following year, she obtained her license as a Registered Nurse through the National Council Licensure Examination. Her career led her to St Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, where she worked as a Registered Nurse for eighteen years.

In 1998, Marlyn's unwavering commitment to her profession led her to the midwifery program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, from which she graduated in 2000. She then embarked on her career as a midwife at Kings County Hospital, a testament to her dedication. Marlyn's

passion for learning is a driving force in her career.

In 2008, she earned a Master of Public Health from Lehman College, and in 2015, a Master of Arts in Nurse Executive from Teachers College, Columbia University. She continues mentoring and precepting students, receiving awards for her outstanding contributions. Marlyn also mentors Black student midwives, a program launched by the National Black Midwives Alliance (NBMA) to foster intergenerational knowledge transfer and professional growth.

Marlyn is a board member of the Haitian Alliance Nurses Association International (HANA-I) and continues to make significant contributions. In May 2022, her commitment to community engagement and humanitarian services was recognized with an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary of South Florida. Marlyn's journey of learning and growth continues as she pursues a Ph.D. in nursing at The Conway School of Nursing, The Catholic University of America.

Speaker



**Rodney L.
Pepe-Souvenir**
BA, JD

Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir is an attorney with over 30 years of experience practicing public interest law in New York City. Rodney has concentrated her legal career litigating for various New York City agencies. She began her public service career as a Kings County Assistant District Attorney, conducting arraignments, trials, investigations, and grand jury presentations. Rodney worked as a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel with the Administration for Children's Services, using her legal skills to protect abused and neglected children. Rodney's career path led her to work as an Affirmative Action Administrator with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, and then as the University Title IX Director with the City University of New York ("CUNY").

At CUNY, Rodney collaborated with the Office of the General Counsel and managed the 25 CUNY Title IX Coordinators and Chief Diversity Officers to build a solid Title IX and NonDiscrimination program to protect over 250,000 students and staff employed at CUNY's campuses. Rodney managed resolution of those complaints through mediation and or hearings before in-house hearing panels.

Currently, Rodney is the Kings County Democratic Commissioner for the New York City Board of Election and serves as the President to the Board of Election Commissioners. Sitting in the role as a jurist, Rodney along with the other nine Commissioners, hear matters related to election law and apply it to the facts to

arrive at a ruling. In addition, as a Commissioner, Rodney participates in disciplinary hearings of employees, considers the evidence presented and determines whether a matter is referred to law enforcement for further inquiry.

Born and bred in Brooklyn, Rodney is the mother of two sons, Christian and Serge, is the proud new grandmother to Maxwell Richard, and a devoted member of the Christian Cultural Center of Brooklyn. She is one of nine children born to Haitian parents, who while only having a fifth and eighth grade education, emphasized throughout Rodney's life the importance of education and serving the community. Rodney graduated from Pace University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication, and in 1993 graduated from Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree. She is admitted to practice in New York State.

Speaker



**Dr. Janet A.
Williams**

DNP, MSM, CNM, FACNM

Dr. Janet A. Williams, DNP, MSM, CNM, FACNM, received her Doctorate from Wilkes University and a Masters in Midwifery from SUNY Downstate. She is a board-certified Nurse Midwife who worked for 20 years in full-scope municipal midwifery practice, delivering more than 900 babies and has cared for women from puberty to menopause. She held an appointment as a clinical instructor for Columbia graduate midwifery students and has precepted students from NYU and SUNY Downstate and Medical Students from Albert Einstein

School of Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Before becoming a midwife, she was a Certified High-Risk OB Nurse by the ANCC. She served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserves early in her career, where she learned that leadership, mentoring, and growth as a nurse had no limits. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of BQLI Area Health Education Center.

Dr. Williams is the Founder & CEO of Transitions Women's Health Consulting, where she works with organizations as a consultant, speaker, and course creator to impart information to women and healthcare providers. She is the author of the journal for new moms entitled "Transitions 4th Trimester Journal ...Transforming.

The maternal health statistics, especially in black women, led her to create her signature program, a five-part framework used to educate health professionals. entitled "B.L.A.C.K. Mothers Interrupted." Women in our care must be listened to, connected with, and believed. This cutting-edge program has launched Dr. J as the go-to maternal health professional for educating providers about implicit bias, racism, and how it affects the care given to women.

Speaker



Dr. Gaelle Duvivier
DNP, MSN, CNM

Dr. Gaelle Duvivier is a Certified Nurse Midwife and a boardcertified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner who is passionate about caring for a diverse group of women. She serves as an Assistant Professor in the nursing program at SUNY Rockland Community College and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Nurse Practitioner graduate program at Long Island University.

Dr. Duvivier has worked in various areas of nursing including Community Health, Medical/Surgical, and Labor & Delivery. She believes that the foundation of nursing relies on education and communication. Dr. Duvivier's scholarship and research has focused on improving breastfeeding initiation and exclusivity rates. Her areas of interest include education, closing the inequality gap in maternal child health, prenatal care, and adolescent health. Dr. Duvivier earned a Doctorate in Nursing Practice, Post-Graduate Certificate, and Master of Science in Nursing from Frontier Nursing University and her undergraduate degrees in Nursing from The City University of New York, New York City College of Technology. Her professional affiliations include the American College of Nurse Midwives, Haitian American Nurses Association of Hudson Valley NY Inc, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Speaker



**Dr. Oluwakemi
Adegoke**
BS, MD

Oluwakemi Adegoke is a graduate of the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, with honors. She subsequently earned her medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in Bronx, NY, and completed her residency at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Connecticut.

As an immigrant from Nigeria, she has witnessed firsthand the impacts that inadequate healthcare systems can have around the world, which influenced her decision to pursue a Global Health fellowship. She completed a fellowship in Global Health and Human Rights in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard, alongside earning her Masters in Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to healthcare and education, serving as an attending Physician at Providence Hospital in Olympia, WA, where she provided supervision and instruction to residents and medical students in the Department of Family Medicine. Additionally, she assumed the role of supervising attending at Sagam Community Hospital in Sagam, Siaya County, Kenya, overseeing the OBGYN department and mentoring medical students, interns, and residents from Kenya and South Sudan.

Dr. Adegoke holds the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of OBGYN Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she is also engaged as the assistant clerkship director for the medical students and a provider for the Sexual Assault Response Team for NYC Health and Hospitals. Currently, she sits on the advisory board for Salcedo Doctor's Hospital, a mission that provides free medical services and gynecological surgery in Eastern Samar province in the Philippines.

Speaker



Meg E. Boyce

LMSW

Alzheimer's Association,
Hudson Valley Chapter

Vice President,
Programs and Services

Mrs. Boyce received her Master of Social Work from Fordham University in 1995. From 1995 until 2000 Meg worked in the Long-Term Care field as Director of Social Work for two Nursing facilities in Dutchess County. In 2000 she joined the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as the Program Director and was promoted to Vice President of Programs and Services in 2013. In this role she oversees the programs and services that are offered by the chapter in order to meet the needs of the community the chapter serves. Meg played an integral part in opening the first unit in the Country for inmates with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. She also provided a web-based training that reaches police officers throughout the state of New York and was involved in the development of a webcast that provided awareness and education to the medical professionals about the underdiagnoses and miss-diagnosis of diverse populations who are at higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Meg is also a Research Champion for the Alzheimer's Association.

Speaker



**Dr. Margaret
Alexandre**
BSN, MSN, MD

Dr. Margaret Alexandre is an Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing at CUNY York College. She holds a bachelor's in nursing and a master's in nursing with concentration in Administration and Education from Adelphi University. She earned her doctoral degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, where she also earned the distinction of being a Jonas Scholar. Drawing on her work in Haiti, her research agenda focuses on the physical and emotional health of Haitian Adults post 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Her current works address the Incidence of Hypertension in College Students and the Utilizing of Simulation to Bring Theory into Practice for Undergraduate Nursing Student. She also pursues research interest in nursing students as millennium learners and innovative pedagogical approaches to teaching.

Dr. Alexandre has been a mentor to graduate, undergraduate and high school students in their educational journey. She is a recipient of the Caribbean American Healthcare Award and is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Alexandre serves on the Executive Board of the Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College and is an Advisor to HANA of Hudson Valley. Dr. Alexandre serves as reviewer for several nursing journals. She continues to work

with various underprivileged communities nationally and internationally, especially through her nonprofit organization, the Grandbois Youth Empowerment Mission, Inc.

Notes



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**The
Haitian American Nurses Association
of Hudson Valley, NY, Inc would like to
offer our sincere gratitude for your
support of our**

**7th Annual Nursing
Educational Symposium.**

**Our success is due to your ongoing
support and generosity.**

Save the Date:
September 19th, 2025
8th Annual Nursing
Educational Symposium

