The disparity data in Black maternal mortality and morbidity are dismal. There are many opportunities for interventions to prevent maternal deaths and improve outcomes and experiences that are hampered by obstetric racism. For hospital and health systems to prevent deaths, there is a need for greater community-based partnerships. This session will highlight first-of-its-kind work led by Black women community leaders and scholars to illuminate the voices, feelings and experiences of seeking care and support while Black and pregnant during the pandemic. A survey developed by Dr. Karen A. Scott focused on more than 800 Black mothers across 348 hospitals in 34 states and Washington, D.C. with a goal of transforming the culture of obstetric care by establishing community-driven benchmarks for advancing equity.

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

About the Speaker

Dr. Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH, FACOG is the Chief Black Feminist Physician Scientist, Founding CEO and Owner of Birthing Cultural Rigor, LLC, with more than 20 years of experience supporting women, girls, and persons across the sexual and reproductive life course in urban and suburban communities across the Midwest and California. She is an improvement and implementation scientist and activist grounded in a Black feminist-reproductive justice praxis with formal training and experience as community-based OBGYN and applied epidemiologist. Dr. Scott’s ethical, theoretical, and methodological approaches interrogate health services provision, evaluation, and training in antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum units as sites through which obstetric racism is enacted and imposed upon the humanity, bodies, and lives of Black women, mothers, and people, in the afterlife of slavery and passage of the Congressional Act of 1807 (which took effect in 1808, prohibiting further participation of the United States in the slave trade.). She is also the developer and owner of the first and only validated Patient Reported Experience Measure of Obstetric racism©, known as the PREM-OB scale© (pronounced Oh-Bee), and principal investigator of the SACRED Birth study. Dr. Scott also developed the Virtual Perinatal Quality Improvement Prioritization by Affected Communities (V-QPAC) Protocol, a Black feminist ethnographic methodology to facilitate community participation in prioritizing untested socio-cultural perinatal QI recommendations across the domains in the PREM-OB Scale™ in order to mitigate obstetric racism during hospital labor, birth, and postpartum.