American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology appoints Wanda K. Nicholson, MD, MPH, MBA, as Editor for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

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The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (AJOG) plays an important and global role in publishing high-quality and impactful research in the areas of obstetrics, gynecology, and women’s health. As such, we recognize a responsibility to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in all our work including (but not limited to) our peer review processes and editorial oversight. We continue to work on diversifying our editorial team in relation to race or ethnicity, gender, age, practice background, and region. As editors, we work to consider diversity as we invite peer reviewers to review submitted manuscripts. Lastly, we hope to publish important research to better understand and overcome racial disparities in women’s healthcare outcomes. Acknowledging the importance of ongoing attention and a broader scope needed in this area, we have established a new editor position, the Editor for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are now pleased to announce that Wanda K. Nicholson, MD, MPH, MBA, will fill this AJOG role.

Dr Nicholson is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a practicing obstetrics and gynecology specialist at The University of North Carolina. She has national leadership experience in the DEI area, most notably as past Chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence Workgroup. She is currently the Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where she serves as Chair of the Committee on Equity and Inclusive Excellence. She recently began the important role of vice chair of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Dr Nicholson’s research has focused on chronic disease (cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and depression) identification and prevention in reproductive-age women. Most recently, Dr Nicholson was the institutional principal investigator for a multicenter (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute/Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) funded study to assess the comparative effectiveness of surgical options for uterine fibroids on patient-centered outcomes.

Dr Nicholson has been an associate editor for the Journal since 2019. Given her expertise and interest in health equity, she has often served as a consultant for submissions that focus on health disparities and provided input on the subject of diversity. With this new appointment, we aim to broaden and formalize her contributions in this area with the goal of increasing AJOG’s commitment toward diversity of individuals engaged in peer review and to policies to ensure equity in the peer review process.

As the inaugural Editor for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Dr Nicholson will review and develop health equity, diversity, and inclusion-related policies for the Journal and may solicit the submission of content in this area. She will contribute to the editorial overview of articles that focus on health equity by serving as a consultant reviewer and/or directly managing the peer review of such articles. This work is important. We are confident that her leadership in this new role focused on racial equity will further the excellence of AJOG’s product and our goal to positively impact the practice of women’s healthcare.