



Webinar & Discussion Date: July 20, 2021

## Exploring Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Identity and Health Equity PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES



**Simona Kwon, DrPH, MPH**  
**Associate Professor**  
**NYU Grossman School of Medicine**

Dr. Simona C. Kwon, DrPH, MPH is an associate professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine at NYU Langone. Dr. Kwon is the director and multi-PI of the NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities-funded Center of Excellence, the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health. Dr. Kwon also co-leads the Community Outreach and Engagement Core of the NYU Langone Perlmutter Cancer Center, a NCI-designated

Comprehensive Cancer Center, and serves as the community engagement and dissemination lead for the CDC-funded NYU BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Early Detection of Dementia. She is a socio-behavioral epidemiologist with extensive experience in the use of, among other methods, community-based participatory research, mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) approaches, evidence-based strategies, dissemination and implementation science, and multidisciplinary teams to address community-level health disparities. She works in collaboration with multisector coalitions made up of local and national community-based organizations, governmental agencies, service delivery organizations, and researchers from discrete disciplines. Dr. Kwon's research examines the social and cultural factors that influence health and health outcomes in racial and ethnic communities, with a particular focus on Asian Americans. She employs a social determinants of health framework to implement and evaluate evidence-based strategies in community settings, focusing on cultural relevance and impact, and finding more effective channels through which to translate research into practice.

## County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

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Mobilizing Action Toward  
Community Health (MATCH)  
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



**Nia Aitaoto, PhD, MPH, MS**  
**Associate Professor, University of Utah's College of Health**  
**Adjunct Associate Professor, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Dr. Nia Aitaoto is an Associate Professor at the University of Utah's College of Health, and an adjunct Associate Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has a PhD in community and behavioral health from the University of Iowa, MPH in community health development, and MS in epidemiology, both from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Dr. Aitaoto is a principal investigator of several research studies in Hawai'i and the Pacific, and has over 20 years of experience in the health and education field focusing on cancer, diabetes, cultural competency, physical activity, nutrition, medication adherence, and tobacco related initiatives. Dr. Aitaoto also specializes in providing technical assistance, data assessment, and evaluation support to ministries of health, community health centers, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of Belau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

