



# Workplace DEI Conference

JUNE 10, 2021 | VIRTUAL

**Crystal Wiley Cené, MD, MPH, FAHA**  
**System Executive Director for Health Equity**  
**UNC Health**



Crystal Wiley Cené, MD, MPH, FAHA, is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Epidemiologist in the UNC Department of Medicine and the Division of General Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology. She serves as the System Executive Director for Health Equity at UNC Health and the Director of the Program on Health Disparities at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. The pursuit of health equity is a unifying theme for her research, teaching, and leadership roles.

As System Executive Director for Health Equity, Dr. Cené is leading efforts across UNC Health to plan, implement, and evaluate evidence-based strategies and interventions to help address the structures, policies, and practices that perpetuate health disparities and impede health equity for our patients. In collaboration with stakeholders across the health system and the state, she will partner with other entities and organizations in the creation of healthy communities in North Carolina.

Dr. Cené is an accomplished, nationally and internationally recognized, health services and health disparities researcher. Her work has focused on the contribution of social determinants of risk and outcomes (particularly race, ethnicity, and social networks) to health. Her observational research has been conducted in populations with or at risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD), including older women. Trained in implementation science, her research focuses on implementing and evaluating interventions to enhance patient- and family-centered care and interventions to reduce disparities in care and outcomes by race and socio-economic status. Crystal's research draws on social science theories and methods (e.g., social network analysis) and uses stakeholder engagement as both an object of study and a methodological tool. She is active in and has held leadership roles in national and international organizations, including the American Heart Association, the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Women's Health Initiative. Dr. Cene has published over 70 peer-reviewed articles and has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on research project grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and other state and local funders.

Dr. Cené is a native North Carolinian - from Sneads Ferry, NC (Onslow County) - and a graduate of the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill (BA in Psychology). Crystal received her MD from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University; she completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Yale University. Crystal completed a 3-year General Internal Medicine (GIM) Fellowship in health services research and her master's degree in Public Health (cardiovascular epidemiology) at Johns Hopkins University. She has been a member of the faculty at UNC since 2008.