

# Lean In, Women in Science 2026

## Panelists and Keynote

*Presented by:*



North Carolina  
School of Science  
and Mathematics



### **Ms. Cammie Gee**

#### ***Chief Medical Physicist at NorthMain Radiation Oncology***

Ms. Cammie Gee is the Chief Medical Physicist at NorthMain Radiation Oncology and Signature Health, bringing more than 20 years of experience in the medical physics profession across both clinical and corporate settings. As a clinical physicist, Ms. Gee oversees the dosimetry and technical aspects of patient treatment, ensuring the highest standards of precision, safety, and quality in radiation therapy delivery. Her leadership integrates advanced physics principles with patient-centered oncology care.

Ms. Gee earned her Master of Science degree from Lehigh University, where she focused on Atomic and Molecular Physics. During her time at Lehigh, she encountered an article describing the emerging field of Medical Physics. Inspired by its application of physics to direct patient care, she redirected her career path to pursue specialized training in this evolving discipline. She subsequently earned her M.S. in Medical Physics from Columbia University.

Since completing her graduate studies, Ms. Gee has worked in a variety of clinical and corporate medical physics roles, contributing to program development, quality assurance initiatives, technology implementation, and regulatory compliance. Her career reflects a strong commitment to advancing radiation oncology services while maintaining a steadfast focus on patient safety and clinical excellence.



## **Dr. Amanda Henderson**

### ***Neuro-Ophthalmologist at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine***

Dr. Amanda Henderson is the Frank B. Walsh Associate Professor of Neuro-Ophthalmology and Chief of the Division of Neuro-Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She attended medical school at Emory University, then completed Residency in Ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia and Fellowship in Neuro-Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. She evaluates vision problems that may be related to the optic nerve, brain, or nervous system and works with patients to understand what may be driving sudden or progressive visual changes.

In addition to her work as a clinician, Dr. Henderson is involved in clinical and translational research and has published over 65 peer-reviewed publications. Her research interests include optic neuropathies, specifically non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy; high-value care; and the use of big data to answer neuro-ophthalmic questions. She also has an interest in education, serving as the Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellowship Director and Co-Director of Medical Student Education at Wilmer. She holds committee leadership positions in the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society and has received multiple education-related and leadership development awards. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and spending time with her husband and two cats.



## **Dr. Dianne Keen-Kim '91**

### ***Senior Vice President of Natera; producing advanced genetic tests for cancer detection***

Dr. Dianne Keen-Kim is a clinical molecular geneticist and biotechnology leader who works at the intersection of genomics, medicine, and innovation. She currently serves as Senior Vice President and Corporate CLIA Laboratory Director at Natera, where she oversees clinical laboratory operations and quality systems supporting advanced genetic tests used in cancer detection, women's health, and transplant monitoring. Earlier in her career, Dr. Keen-Kim held leadership roles at Color Genomics and Genoptix, helping develop and scale high-complexity molecular and cytogenetic testing programs.

Dr. Keen-Kim graduated from NCSSM; she earned her Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, her undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University, and completed her

clinical training in molecular genetics and cytogenetics at UCLA Medical Center. In addition to her industry leadership, Dr. Keen-Kim serves as an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, where she helps train future physicians and scientists in genomic medicine. She is passionate about mentoring students and encouraging young women to pursue careers in STEM, and enjoys sharing how curiosity, resilience, and a love of problem-solving can lead to exciting careers that improve people's lives.



## **Dr. Maia Popova**

### ***Chemistry faculty member at UNC Greensboro studying chemistry and chemistry education***

Dr. Maia Popova is a chemistry professor, researcher, and mentor at UNC Greensboro who studies how students learn chemistry and how science classrooms can better support all learners. She didn't always see herself as a scientist. In fact, her own experiences as a student made her curious about why chemistry feels exciting to some people and intimidating to others. That question eventually became her career. Today, Dr. Popova leads a research group where she works closely with undergraduate and graduate students to study how students learn and how instructors teach chemistry. She also designs and tests evidence-based teaching approaches that improve student learning. Her work has been supported by multiple national grants, and she regularly speaks at various conferences about improving science education.

Dr. Popova's path into science has taken her across the world. Born in Moldova, she moved to Russia as a teenager, where she finished high school and completed her B.S. in Chemistry. She later moved to the U.S. to earn her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Miami University. Today, she is an Associate Professor at UNC Greensboro, where she combines her love of chemistry, education, and mentoring to help the next generation of scientists find their own path in STEM.



## **Ms. Mekka Williams**

***Director of Innovation and Solutions at NetApp; co-host of The STEMINISTS podcast***

Ms. Mekka Williams is the Director of Innovation and Solutions in the Office of the CTO at NetApp, leading enterprise-scale initiatives that help organizations adopt emerging technologies responsibly and effectively. Her work spans generative AI and agentic systems, modern application architectures, and the data foundations required to bring AI into production with strong governance, provenance, lineage, and compliance.

Ms. Williams earned a B.S. in Computer Science from Georgia Tech and launched a career that began in software design as a Member of Technical Staff and progressed through senior and principal engineering roles. She combines hands-on technical depth with strategic leadership, translating customer needs into repeatable, production-ready solutions in collaboration with hyperscalers, open-source communities, and global teams. She is also committed to expanding access and belonging in STEM through mentoring and volunteer work with the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Ms. Williams co-hosts The STEMINISTS podcast that expands the conversation around tech and explores the latest trends.



## **Dr. Ruth Winecker**

***Director of Forensic Sciences at RTI International***

Dr. Ruth Winecker is a Director of Forensic Sciences at RTI International. She supports the National Laboratory Certification Program in the areas of scientific research, strategic planning, proficiency testing, regulated laboratory inspection, and other activities as requested by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She is an American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT)-certified forensic toxicologist (F-ABFT) with more than 30 years' experience in postmortem forensic toxicology, anti-doping, and workplace drug testing.

Dr. Winecker has a Ph.D in Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology from the University of Florida College of Medicine. Before joining RTI International, she served as the Chief Toxicologist for the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There, she was responsible for all aspects of this ABFT-accredited laboratory which performed forensic testing for >11,000 medical examiner cases per year. She is an active member of five scientific professional organizations and has served as the President, Vice President, Secretary, Director, and/or committee

member in several of these organizations. In February 2019, she accepted the Rolla N. Harger Award for outstanding contributions to the field and practice of forensic toxicology at the annual meeting of AAFS, a professional society dedicated to the application of science to the law.



## **Dr. Lindsay Zanno**

### ***Head of Paleontology at NC Museum of Natural Sciences; National Geographic Explorer***

Dr. Lindsay Zanno holds a joint appointment as Head of Paleontology at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and Associate Research Professor at NC State University. Dr. Zanno is a vertebrate paleontologist specializing in the evolutionary history and ecology of non-avian dinosaurs. Her research integrates field discovery with advanced analytical approaches to address fundamental questions about major transitions, life-history strategies, trophic dynamics, and the interplay between biodiversity and climate change. She has secured more than \$20 million in collaborative research and engagement funding and authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Zanno has led expeditions worldwide, resulting in the discovery and naming of more than 15 dinosaur species, most recently *Nanotyrannus lethaeus*, one of Earth's last surviving tyrannosaurs.

Dr. Zanno has a B.S. in Biological Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and M.S. and Ph.D. in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Utah. In parallel with her research program, Dr. Zanno has developed nationally recognized initiatives to broaden participation in science. She founded Expedition Live!, an early initiative connecting audiences with real-time field research, and led the creation of the open-access SECU DinoLab and Dueling Dinosaurs experience at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Dr. Zanno is a National Geographic Explorer and President of the Jurassic Foundation.