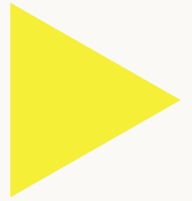


PRESENTED BY:



CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Women, Life & Science

CONFERENCE 2025

May 15, 2025 USC School of Medicine Greenville



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women, Life, and Science is committed to creating a dynamic forum that brings together women thought leaders and industry experts from across the country to Upstate South Carolina. This full-day conference is designed to accelerate and empower women at every stage of their journey—whether they are entrepreneurs, executives, leaders, founders, or emerging professionals.

Now in its second year, our annual conference will spotlight women's health and advocacy, featuring an interactive session to help you uncover your purpose and passion, practical tools for navigating career and life transitions, and a panel discussion exploring diverse workplace experiences and the evolving professional landscape.

In partnership with the **South Carolina Public Health Association (SCPHA)**, we are also offering continued education credits (**CEs**) for attendees, providing a valuable opportunity for professional growth and development.

BOARD AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kandi Fredere, Board Member
Julie Hamilton, Advisor and Committee Member
Scott Hicks, Committee Member
Leigh Holcomb, Board Member
Lillia Holmes, Board Member
Margaret Jenkins, Board Member
Cecilia Zapata-Harms, Founder/President/Executive Director

CONFERENCE DETAILS

DATE: May 15, 2025
REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM
PROGRAM START: 8:30 AM - 5:00PM

LOCATION: USC School of Medicine Greenville, 607 Grove Rd, Greenville, SC



2024 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The inaugural Women, Life, and Science conference took place on April 30, 2024, at the USC School of Medicine in Greenville, South Carolina. This groundbreaking event gathered women thought leaders and experts bringing their inspiring stories to the Upstate region. The main panel discussion centered around ***embracing the beauty of uncertainty and exploring its infinite possibilities***. Throughout the day, seasoned women leaders and professionals delivered a series of engaging talks covering topics such as navigating early career challenges, overcoming obstacles faced by female founders, and managing life and career transitions. One of the most reassuring aspects of the conference was hearing firsthand the personal journeys and experiences of these incredible women, offering valuable insights and inspiration to all attendees.

Rachel Kuhlen, a renowned leadership and development coach, reassured women still navigating the early stages of their careers that it's perfectly normal to feel uncertain about their path. She emphasized that not having everything figured out yet is a natural part of the journey.

Funding presents a significant challenge for founders, particularly women. Lindsey Calcutt, founder of Incora Health which develops innovative solutions for women's health, highlighted during a discussion that it's challenging for women in Femtech to articulate their value proposition to investors.

The audience was highly engaged with lively Q&A sessions following each keynote. The interactive sessions allowed attendees to connect directly with the speakers and gain deeper insights into the topics discussed.

Now it's your turn to be part of this incredible community!



Meet the Board and Organizing Committee



Cecilia Zapata-Harms
Founder/President/Executive Director



Leigh Holcomb
Board Member



Lillia Holmes
Board Member



Kandi Fredere
Board Member



Shontavia Johnson
Board Member



Margaret Jenkins
Board Member



Julie Hamilton
Advisor and Committee
Member



Scott Hicks
Committee Member

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DIRECTION GUIDE

Directions to USC – School of Medicine Greenville from Downtown Greenville
Total drive time: 7 – 8 minutes

1. Head SW on S. Main St. toward Falls Park Dr.
2. Turn left onto Augusta Street and drive for 1.1 miles
3. Turn right onto Grove Rd. 0.9 miles
4. Turn left on Gate 2 of the campus (Prisma/Greenville Memorial).
5. Follow road to behind the building and park in garage. Alternative parking on surface lot - go to entrance gate 3 from Grove Rd.
6. Take elevators to lobby.

Picture below shows the bldg. only. Please follow the signs for other parking.



Note: We are not allowed to park in front of the building.



Women, Life & Science

CONFERENCE 2025

*Find Your Why
Amplify Your Voice*

AGENDA

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM

Welcoming Remarks - A Special Word from Dr. MacGilvray

9:15 AM - 9:20 AM

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

9:20 AM - 10:05 AM

Keynote Speaker - Cortney Mcdermott

10 mins. Transition Break

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Crystalizing Your Why: A Reflective Journey for Women in Life and Science
Facilitator: Scott Hicks

10 mins. Transition Break

11:25 PM - 12:15 PM

Women's Health and Advocacy
Moderator: Dr. Kandi Fredere
Co-Presenter: Kim Smith, Lisa Waddell, Phyllis MacGilvray, Tameca Wilson

12:15 PM - 1:25 PM

Networking Lunch

Fire Chat Discussions (Growth Activators)

1:30 PM - 2:35 PM

1st Discussion - **Career Pathing: Promotions and Pivots**

Moderator: Dr. Leigh Holcomb
Co-Presenter: Dr. Jumaah Goldberg, Chelsea Burgess, Dr. Lindsey Calcutt

10 mins. Transition Break

2:50 PM - 4:00 PM

2nd Discussion - **Strengths Through Change: Evolving Together in the Workplace**

Moderator: Lillia Holmes and Margaret Jenkins
Co-presenter: Cady Nell Keener, Melissa Rayner
Interactive audience participation

4:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Synthesis by Shontavia Johnson

4:30 PM

Adjourned

Featuring Keynote Speaker



Cortney Mcdermott

TEDX Speaker and Mind-body enthusiast
Best Selling Author of "Change Starts Within You: Unlock the Confidence to Lead with Intuition,"

Presented by:



InnovaSphere





Meet the Speakers



Cortney Mcdermott

An award-winning author, TEDx speaker, and trusted strategist to industry leaders and global think tanks. With a mission to inspire, educate, and activate human potential, Cortney redefines sustainability—not as something external, but as the ability to sustain and elevate yourself from within. She believes that by becoming a better version of yourself, you inherently contribute to a better world.



Scott Hicks

A servant leader who believes that people are the foundation of any successful organization. Guided by the principle that building strong individuals leads to stronger businesses, she founded L.O.S.T. (Leading Organizational Success Together) to help leaders and teams thrive. Her work in coaching, consulting, and developing leadership programs reflects her commitment to personal growth and purpose-driven leadership. Her talk, "*Crystalizing Your Why: A Reflective Journey for Women in Life and Science*," draws directly from this experience, offering women the tools to align their personal values with their professional path.



Dr. Kandi Fredere, PhD, FACHE

Dr. Kandi Fredere is a dedicated leader at the forefront of enhancing public health, not just in the Upstate Region but across communities that reflect the diverse needs of our state. With a strong focus on women's health and advocacy, she brings a wealth of experience in developing and implementing public health programs that are both locally responsive and aligned with state and national health priorities. Her passion for community well-being, combined with a strategic and inclusive approach to health equity, makes her a powerful advocate and an inspiring voice in the conversation around women's health.



Meet the Speakers



Lisa Waddell

A board-certified preventive medicine and public health physician with over 30 years of leadership at the local, state, and national levels. As the former Chief Medical Officer of the CDC Foundation, she led key COVID-19 response efforts—including the COVID-19 Corps Surge Staffing initiative—and supported community-based organizations through national webinars and public health campaigns like Million Hearts' "Live to the Beat."



Kim Smith, FACHE

Founder & CEO of Health Evolve Technologies with 18 years of executive leadership experience in top healthcare systems—including Duke Medicine, Tenet Healthcare, and MUSC Health. Kim's passion for maternal health equity is deeply personal - shaped by her own experience with HELLP Syndrome and the growing maternal mortality and morbidity rates. Currently, her team is focused on the development of "Lauren", a digital care navigator designed to support women's heart health and stress management from conception through postpartum care.



Phyllis MacGilvray

serving as Dean and Professor of Family Medicine at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. She teach and mentor medical students, residents, and faculty, and oversee all aspects of the medical school's operations. Her mission is to promote health and wellness for individuals, communities, and populations, and to inspire and equip the next generation of physicians to do the same. I am passionate about advancing the field of lifestyle medicine, which focuses on the use of evidence-based lifestyle interventions to prevent, treat, and reverse chronic diseases.



Meet the Speakers



Tameca Wilson

Serves as the Director of Maternal and Infant Health for March of Dimes in South Carolina where she leads mission-driven initiatives to improve maternal and infant health outcomes across the state. With a career rooted in healthcare, Tameca brings a wealth of experience from academic medical centers, federally qualified health centers, and healthcare consulting. These diverse roles have fueled her passion for enhancing patient experiences and driving better health outcomes.



Dr. Leigh Holcomb, PhD, ELI-MP

CEO of Career Catalyst Edge (www.careercatalystedge.com). She uses her Pharmaceutical Industry experience plus coach training to support professionals in Pharma & Biotech as they transition successfully to their next job opportunity or promotion. Dr. Leigh has a unique perspective having been on both sides of the interview table and is passionate about helping others find their dream job and career path.



Dr. Jumaah Goldberg, DPT, MBA

A strategic healthcare leader with over 18 years of experience, Dr. Jumaah Goldberg brings a unique blend of scientific and business acumen to the pharmaceutical and med tech industries. Dr. Jumaah synergizes efforts across key opinion leaders, regulatory bodies, and patient advocacy groups to align business objectives with scientific innovation.



Meet the Speakers



Chelsea Burgess

With nearly seven years in both headhunting and in-house recruiting, she offers a well-rounded view of how careers evolve. Her own pivot into the pharmaceutical industry shows she walks the talk, and her experience helping others navigate career moves makes her a relatable and insightful co-presenter for Career Pathing: Promotions and Pivots.



Dr. Lindsey Calcutt, PhD

Lindsey Calcutt is driven by a passion for transforming women's health through the power of cutting-edge technology. With a focus on creating innovative solutions, she is dedicated to fostering a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and empowerment. Lindsey is committed to breaking down barriers that women face in managing their health, ensuring they have the tools and support to take control of their wellness and make informed decisions about their lives.



Lillia Holmes

Lilia Holmes is the Chief Operations Officer of life sciences enterprises including Palmetto Innovashpere Inc. She brings a unique blend of scientific expertise and strategic operational leadership to every role she takes on. With a strong track record in cross-functional leadership and navigating organizational change, she is deeply experienced in guiding teams through periods of transformation. Lilia's insight into evolving workplace dynamics and team cohesion offers a valuable perspective for professionals adapting to continuous change in fast-paced environments.



Meet the Speakers



Margaret Jenkins

A retired marketing executive with a rich background in consumer marketing, advertising, and account management. Now based in Greenville, South Carolina, she brings her deep experience in navigating organizational change and team dynamics to her work in corporate and non-profit governance. Drawing from her career evolution and leadership journey, Margaret will share insights on how embracing change and leveraging collective strengths can drive growth and resilience in the workplace.



Cady Keener, MBA, CFRE

Executive Director of the Greenwood Genetic Center Foundation, where she leads strategic fundraising initiatives to support innovative genetic care and research. With over a decade of experience in development, including leadership roles in higher education and healthcare philanthropy, she is passionate about connecting mission to impact. Cady Nell is a South Carolina native and currently resides in Greenwood with her husband and two children.



Melissa Rayner, MS, MB(ASCP)

With extensive experience as a Vice President of Operations in the biotechnology and oncology industries, Melissa Rayner brings a unique perspective on navigating change in fast-paced, high-stakes environments. Her proven success in driving revenue growth, improving clinical accreditation standards, and managing complex regulatory processes demonstrates her ability to adapt and lead through change. With a strong background in market access, laboratory reimbursement, and molecular biology, Melissa's insight into how organizations can evolve, stay resilient, and capitalize on their strengths during periods of transformation will provide valuable takeaways for anyone looking to thrive in today's dynamic workplace.



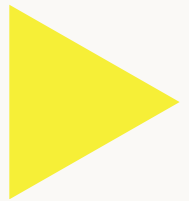
Meet the Speakers



Shontavia Johnson

Currently building the intellectual property program at Savannah River National Lab, where she serves as the Intellectual Property Counsel. She founded the Brand and Business Company, which helps people start scalable companies with robust intellectual property portfolios. Prior to her current work, she served as a law professor and IP Center director with full tenure and an endowed chair at Drake University Law School.

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