



WOMENHEART

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
WOMEN WITH HEART DISEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WomenHeart Honors Leaders in Heart Health and *WomenHeart Champions* at 21st Annual Wenger Awards

July 22, 2021 – WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease recognized contributions to women’s heart health at its 21st annual Wenger Awards held virtually last night.

Wenger Award recipients include Dr. LaPrincess Brewer, CardioNerds and the Alliance for Aging Research who were recognized at the virtual awards ceremony. In addition, keynote speaker, Dr. Janine Austin Clayton, Director of the NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health, gave remarks celebrating the gains in knowledge and the path to better health for women over the decades.

“This past year, WomenHeart has accomplished a lot,” said Celina Gorre, CEO of WomenHeart, as she kicked off the night’s celebration. “We launched an app that brings SisterMatch into the hands of every woman with heart disease who can now look for one-on-one support simply through her device. With the support of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, or PCORI, we hosted a convening and issued a report focused on solutions to missed and delayed diagnosis of heart disease in women. We launched Advocacy Corps to empower our Champions to work for change at the policy level. And we hosted our first *virtual* Science & Leadership Symposium.”

The evening also featured a compilation of videos of *WomenHeart Champions* sharing what it means to them to be part of WomenHeart. Dr. Sharonne N. Hayes, Medical Director of the WomenHeart Science & Leadership Symposium, recognized and honored their contributions to the women in their communities. She noted, “The *WomenHeart Champion* community is now over 1000 strong... I certainly didn’t conceive that this day would come – almost 20 years after our first program, or that *WomenHeart Champions* would be as relevant and as critical to moving the science and the care for women with heart disease forward as they were in the first class of 2002.”

Named after Nanette Kass Wenger, M.D., a pioneer in women’s cardiovascular medicine and research, the Wenger Awards is the only annual event that recognizes individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to women’s heart health.

The 2021 Wenger Awards Honorees were recognized for their contributions in medical research, medical innovation and patient advocacy:

- **LaPrincess C. Brewer, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C., F.A.S.P.C., F.A.C.P. —Excellence in Medical Research—** Dr. Brewer is a cardiologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine within the Mayo

Clinic Department of Cardiovascular Medicine in Rochester, MN. Her primary research focus is addressing cardiovascular health disparities through community-based behavioral interventions for risk factor modification in racial/ethnic minority populations, particularly African-American women. She is currently principal investigator of the FAITH! trial, a cardiovascular health promotion intervention in partnership with African-American churches.

- **CardioNerds— Excellence in Medical Innovation—** CardioNerds is a medical education platform that hosts a podcast, mentorship program and more aimed at making cardiology education available to everyone. Founded by Daniel Ambinder, M.D. and Amit Goyal, M.D., CardioNerds podcasts cover topics such as cardio-obstetrics and women’s cardiovascular health. Their commitment to diverse voices and bringing forward patient experiences will impact the care that women with heart disease receive now and in the future.
- **Alliance for Aging Research — Excellence in Patient Advocacy—** The Alliance for Aging Research is dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to improve the experience of aging and health. Its work to advocate for older Americans, to build coalitions and to educate about various types of cardiovascular disease is a benefit to women living with heart disease. The Alliance leads the annual Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day initiative.

The event’s sponsors include Novartis, Bristol-Myers Squibb/ Pfizer Alliance, Amgen, Esperion, and Abbott.

To learn more about the Wenger Awards, visit <https://www.womenheart.org/wenger-awards/>

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WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

As the leading voice for the nearly 48 million American women living with or at risk of heart disease, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the nation's only patient-centered organization solely dedicated to advancing women's heart health through patient support, community education, and advocacy. To donate, visit www.womenheart.org.