

# Webinar: Evaluating COVID-19-Related Surveillance Measures for Decision Making

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM ET

## Purpose

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, decision makers have made critical decisions in rapidly changing circumstances, with limited information and uncertainty about the best available data or evidence. As the pandemic has continued to evolve, the types of data available have changed with the identification of new variants, the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, the introduction of new COVID-19 therapeutics, the reopening of the economy, and the relaxing of mitigation measures. In addition to analyzing positive COVID-19 cases, hospitalization data, and vaccination rates, as was common earlier in the pandemic, decision makers may take into consideration surveillance strategies like wastewater surveillance and genome sequence testing and surveillance.

**Join the Societal Experts Action Network for a webinar highlighting new and updated COVID-19-related data measures and surveillance strategies that have emerged and learn how they can be used to inform policy decisions.**

3:30–3:33

## Welcome and Introductions

Adrian Raftery, University of Washington  
*Member of the Societal Experts Action Network Executive Committee*

3:33–3:40

## COVID-19-Related Surveillance Measures for Decision Making

Janet Currie, Princeton University  
*Member of the Societal Experts Action Network Executive Committee*

3:40–4:00

## Practitioner Perspective

Erica Pan, California State Epidemiologist  
Ashwin Vasan, New York City Commissioner of Health  
Marian McCord, Senior Vice Provost, University of New Hampshire

4:00–4:28

## Moderated Q&A

*Moderated by Adrian Raftery*  
Janet Currie, Princeton University  
Erica Pan, California State Epidemiologist  
Ashwin Vasan, New York City Commissioner of Health  
Marian McCord, Senior Vice Provost, University of New Hampshire

4:28–4:30

## Closing Remarks

Adrian Raftery, University of Washington  
*Member of the Societal Experts Action Network Executive Committee*

## **PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Janet Currie** (NAS/NAM) is the Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University and the Co-director of Princeton's Center for Health and Wellbeing. She also co-directs the Program on Families and Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Currie is a pioneer in the economic analysis of child development. Her current research focuses on socioeconomic differences in health and access to health care, environmental threats to health, the important role of mental health, and the long-run impact of health problems in pregnancy and early childhood. Currie is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and of the American Academy of Art and Sciences. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Society of Labor Economists, and of the Econometric Society, and has honorary degrees from the University of Lyon and the University of Zurich. She was named a Nomis Distinguished Scientist in 2019 and was named one of the top 10 women in Economics by the World Economic Forum in July 2015. She has served as the President of the American Society of Health Economics, the Society of Labor Economics, the Eastern Economic Association, and as the Vice President of the American Economic Association. She has served on the Board of Reviewing Editors of Science, as the Editor of the Journal of Economic Literature, and on the editorial boards of many other journals.

**Marian McCord** joined the University of New Hampshire (UNH) as Senior Vice Provost for Research, Economic Engagement and Outreach in February 2020. The University of New Hampshire is the flagship university of NH, and an R1 with approximately \$145M in research expenditures, as well as home to NH's land-, sea-, and space grants. The Office of Research, Economic Engagement, and Outreach comprises a staff of approximately 400, and in her role, Dr. McCord oversees all research administration, compliance, and development; environmental health and safety; NH Cooperative Extension; professional development and training; innovation and entrepreneurship; and outreach and engagement activities. Last year, over 2,000 businesses in NH were served by UNH's cooperative extension program. McCord came to UNH from North Carolina State University, where she was a founding member of the Joint UNC/NCSU Department of Biomedical Engineering and served as Director of Global Health Initiatives in the Office of Global Engagement. Immediately prior to joining UNH, Dr. McCord was the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Natural Resources.

Dr. McCord serves as the state director for NH EPSCoR, providing vision and leadership in connecting UNH's research infrastructure to building capacity in NH, and is currently the Secretary of the EPSCoR/IDEA Coalition Board. She participates on the APLU COR executive committee, and on the Future of Research working group, where she the liaison to the APLU Commission on Economic & Community Engagement's Investigating and Strengthening University-Industry R&D Collaborations Working Group. A biomedical engineer, McCord's research focuses on health applications of textiles and biomaterials. She co-founded two startups based on her research: Katharos, Inc., which aims to provide phosphate filtration solutions for end-stage renal disease patients, and Vector Textiles, LLC, which produces textile-based vector protection for humans, plants and animals. McCord received an M.S. in bioengineering and Ph.D. in textiles and polymer science from Clemson University. She received a Sc. B. in biomedical engineering from Brown University.

**Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP**, the California Deputy Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases and State Epidemiologist, was sworn in July 13, 2020. She is also the Acting State Public Health Officer since August 10, 2020. Prior to joining the California Department of Public Health, Pan served in several positions at both the Alameda County Public Health Department since 2011, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health from 2004 – 2011. She is also a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Francisco. She maintained her clinical work at San Francisco General Hospital and at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland in Infectious Diseases until 2019.

**Adrian E. Raftery** (NAS) is professor of statistics and sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, and was a lecturer in statistics at Trinity College Dublin from 1980 to 1986, and then an associate (1986-1990) and full (1990-present) professor of statistics and sociology

at the University of Washington. He was the founding director of the Center for Statistics and Social Sciences (1999-2009). Raftery has published over 170 refereed articles in statistical, sociological and other journals. His research focuses on Bayesian model selection and Bayesian model averaging, model-based clustering, inference for deterministic simulation models, and the development of new statistical methods for sociology, demography, and the environmental and health sciences. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy, a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Statistical Association, a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and an elected member of the Sociological Research Association. Dr. Raftery obtained a B.A. in mathematics (1976) and an M.Sc. in statistics and operations research (1977) at Trinity College Dublin. He obtained a doctorate in mathematical statistics from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, France.

**Dr. Ashwin Vasan** is the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Vasan is a primary care physician, epidemiologist and public health expert with nearly 20 years of experience working to improve physical and mental health, social welfare and public policy for marginalized populations here in New York City, nationally and globally. Since 2014 he has served on the faculty at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, and he continues to see patients as a primary care internist in the Division of General Medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Vasan most recently served as the President and CEO of Fountain House, a national nonprofit fighting to improve health, increase opportunity, and end social and economic isolation for people most impacted by mental illness. Early in his career, Dr. Vasan spent nearly a decade at the intersection of global health, HIV and primary care, working with the nonprofit Partners In Health (PIH) in Rwanda, Lesotho and Boston, and at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Uganda and Geneva. From 2016 to 2019, Dr. Vasan served as the founding Executive Director of the Health Access Equity Unit at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which focused on the intersection of clinical and social services for the care of people involved in the justice system and other vulnerable populations.