



AMERICA'S
ESSENTIAL
HOSPITALS

Preconference Workshop: Combating Structural Racism through Workforce Development

Speaker Bio

Deborah Jones, RN, PhD
Senior Vice President, Dean
University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing



Jones is well-known for her outstanding mentorship, excellence in education, significant research contributions, and commitment to promoting workforce diversity and professional development. She has held several administrative and leadership roles in academia, health care facilities, and professional organizations.

Her background includes leading organizational strategic planning, innovative curricula design and delivery, interprofessional teams, organizational restructuring, and developing faculty professional development programs.

Jones is recognized for her research and advocacy for evidence-based oral health practices and interprofessional oral health education in vulnerable populations, specifically acute and critically ill adults, and persons with Parkinson's disease. Her contributions have furthered the development of national oral care protocols that aim to reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia and inflammatory risks in ventilated adults. Jones' research also focuses on the professional and personal effect of moral distress on interprofessional health care providers.

Jones has held several board and leadership positions, including serving on the board of directors and diversity and inclusion committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, as an executive sponsor for the UTMB Women's Resource Group, and on the boards of directors for the Southern Nursing Research Society, the Texas Oral Health Coalition, and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses—the largest nursing specialty organization.