

Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP, an accomplished researcher of health inequities and a respected women's health leader, has been named chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She joined Penn on Sept. 1, 2020. She is a NIH-funded ob/gyn health services researcher and her major research interests are the intersection between quality of care and disparities in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and postpartum depression and its impact on underserved communities. She has served on several expert committees including for the Institute of Medicine, NIH, the Joint Commission, ACOG, and international external scientific advisory boards. She Co-Chaired the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Working Group on Reduction of Peripartum Racial Disparities, served on the Governor's Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes for New York State and currently serves on the New York City Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Steering Committee for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She has provided congressional testimony to the Subcommittee on Health of the Energy and Commerce Committee in a hearing entitled, "Improving Maternal Health: Legislation to Advance Prevention Efforts and Access to Care."

Dr. Howell received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and received her medical and public policy degrees at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She received her residency training at Cornell /New York Hospital and is a board certified obstetrician gynecologist. Dr. Howell received her post doctoral training in clinical epidemiology as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Yale Medical School.