Work as a social determinant of pregnancy outcomes:
Can we untangle the Gordian knot?

Dr. John Meyer
Monday, February 7, 2022
9:00a PST via Zoom

About the Lecture: This talk will review Dr Meyer’s research into workplace psychosocial factors and work characteristics and their association with adverse pregnancy outcomes. Differing from past studies, this work suggests increasing risk in service industries, over that seen in manufacturing. Additionally, discordance between work complexity and educational attainment may pose a risk, particularly in those populations suffering historical discrimination. Longitudinal modeling of work characteristics and methods that account for other social determinants of health might improve capacity to integrate occupational factors into a life-course model that examines antecedents and consequences for maternal and child health.

About the Speaker: John Meyer MD MPH is Director of the New York-New Jersey Education and Research Center (ERC), Professor of Environmental Medicine & Public Health, and Interim Director of the Division of Occupational Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine. An NIH BIRWCH Scholar from 2003-5, his research focuses on reproductive hazards and risks for low birth weight and prematurity, with a focus on the psychosocial hazards of work, and health disparities in minority populations arising from occupation. He has been the PI on grants from NIOSH and NICHD investigating occupational characteristics and their link to adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Dr Meyer received his MD from Cornell University Medical College in New York, and MPH from the Boston University School of Public Health. In a 25-year history of work in academic occupational medicine, he has directed and taught in OM training programs at Boston University, West Virginia University, the University of Connecticut, SUNY-Downstate School of Public Health, and in the UK at the University of Manchester. Dr. Meyer has served on the NIOSH Study Section for Occupational Safety and Health, the NBME/USMLE Epidemiology and Biostatistics Committee, and is currently a Director of the American Board of Preventive Medicine. For his work in multidisciplinary teaching of residents, promotion of OM trainee research, and his research activities in reproductive health and occupational social disparities, Dr. Meyer was awarded the ACPM "Rising Star" award in 1998 and the ACOEM Centennial Award for Education and Research in 2016.