GLOBAL Research & Medical Care Roundtable
Panel 1: COVID-19 & Down Syndrome

Karen Gaffney, World-Renowned Swimmer & Self-Advocate,
GLOBAL Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Awardee

NDSC Annual Convention From Your Couch - Thursday June 25, 2020
Welcome to the 48th NDSC Annual Convention!

I am excited to introduce the first panel for the GLOBAL Research and Medical Care Roundtable

Today we have important speakers who will present on Down syndrome and COVID-19:
- Dr. Joaquín Espinosa
- Dr. Ed Janoff
- Dr. Michael Ybarra, and
- Michelle Sie Whitten

After that we will have a 20 minute Q&A and the 2nd Research Panel with Frank Stephens

We hope the hundreds of participants who are attending our webinar today will have lots of questions!
Self-Advocate, Swimmer, GLOBAL Award Winner

- President of the Karen Gaffney Foundation
  - Dedicated to championing the journey to full inclusion for families, schools, the workplace, and the community for people with intellectual disabilities

- College Graduate!
  - Two-year Associates of Science degree from Portland Community College

- World-renowned swimmer
  - Swam the English Channel in a relay team
  - Swam the width of Lake Tahoe

- GLOBAL Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award Recipient
  - Advocate for Physical Fitness and Exercise
  - Advocate for Employment
  - Advocate for Research and Medical Care
Historic LACK of Down Syndrome Research - THANK YOU GLOBAL for changing that!

Research and improved medical care can improve the lives of people with Down syndrome. I am a living example...
COVID-19 Is Effecting Everything Including Research

- **It Hit Me Hard**
  - My Gym closed down, so no swimming for me
  - All my speaking engagements were cancelled
  - I Lost my Job

- **I Had to Restructure My Day:**
  - Trying to keep my body AND my mind ACTIVE
  - And, now I am working on my job search!

- **Research:** The great research on Down syndrome funded by the NIH has been halted along with most labs in the US
  - The focus on COVID-19 has rightly taken over
  - As we shall hear from our panelists, people with Down syndrome are at risk but may also help with treatments for COVID-19!
THANK YOU!

- David & the NDSC team!
- Global Research and Medical Care Roundtable Speakers!
- Michelle, Joaquin, and our super smart scientists at the Global Down Syndrome Foundation!