



GLOBAL
DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION®

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 PANEL 1!

- ❖ 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



The Importance of Down Syndrome Research

- ❖ 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!

