Inspired by a desire to help and serve the most vulnerable, Dr. Shanta Whitaker left the laboratory bench and academia to pursue a career in public health policy. She is currently a senior vice president in the health policy group at Venn Strategies, a government affairs firm in Washington, DC. Shanta joined Venn from her position at LMI as a Health Policy Consultant to agencies including CMS, where she served as a subject matter expert on Medicare and Medicaid Shared Savings Programs and worked extensively with Accountable Care Organizations. Shanta has also been a senior health disparities analyst for the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, has served as an editor for American Journal Experts, and a post-doctoral fellow with the North Carolina State Public Health Laboratory. Shanta received her bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University, a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a doctorate in microbiology from Yale University.