

Patricia (Polly) Pittman

Patricia (Polly) Pittman is the Fitzhugh Mullan Professor of Health Workforce Equity at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University. As director of the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, she has built an extensive research enterprise focusing on policies that enable the health workforce to better address health equity, including protecting the labor rights of health workers. Her current portfolio includes directing an HRSA-supported Health Workforce Research Center and several foundation-supported grants.

Trained in medical anthropology and public health, she works with interdisciplinary teams in mixed methods designs. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and has served as principal investigator on over 40 research grants relating to health workforce policy. These most recently include a background paper commissioned by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the new National Academies of Medicine Committee on Nursing 2020-2030. She teaches health workforce policy.

Before joining the Department of Health Policy in 2010, she taught comparative health systems at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and served as executive vice president of AcademyHealth. Over the years, she has worked as a consultant on health systems research for the Pan American Health Organization, WHO's Tropical Disease Research Program, World Bank, Johns Hopkins University, and multiple foundations. In the early part of her career, she lived in Argentina, where she worked in human rights and later as the director of social programs for the Province of Buenos Aires.