

Welcome

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 | 8am to 4pm EST

The Forum at Columbia University, 605 W 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Thank you for joining the COMMUNITY Center: Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Hunter College CUNY, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research at Northwell Health, Physician Affiliate Group of New York, and Weill Cornell Medical Center, the Trust Collaboratory at Columbia University, and our community partners for this event.

CONNECT promises to be a fruitful opportunity for everyone involved to develop and strengthen partnerships, share experiences, and gain insight with the goal of improving the living conditions and health outcomes of New Yorkers.

Special thanks to the following organizations and institutions for their engagement in organizing this conference, and their collaboration to further the collective mission to eliminate health disparities and forward health equity.



The COMMUNITY center and our COMMUNITY BUILD partners are sponsored by:

- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health Award #U24MD017250
- National Institute of Health Grant OD-OT20D031915
- Columbia University Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center



Agenda

8:00am-8:30am	Check In	Atrium	A light breakfast will be served
8:30am-9:00am	Welcome	Auditorium	Welcome and overview of COMMUNITY Center and the CONNECT event Opening remarks by Dr. Robert (Bob) Fullilove
9:00am-10:30am	Science and Impact Presentations	Auditorium	Presentations on community-engaged research and the science and impact of Community Health Workers
10:30am-10:45am	Break		
10:45am-12:30pm	Concurrent Workshops led by Community Organizations Dialogue Sessions Moderated by Rev. Dr. Lula Mae Phillips		
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch and Investigator Development Core Poster Presentation	Atrium	Connect over lunch and view posters of current research led by early-stage investigators
1:30pm-1:45pm	Break		
1:45pm-3:30pm	Large Group Discussion: Public Health and Health Policy Panel	Auditorium	Moderated by Dr. Torian Easterling
3:30pm-3:50pm	Keynote Speaker	Auditorium	Closing remarks and a call to action by Dr. Olajide Williams

Welcome & Opening Session Speakers



Elizabeth Cohn, RN, PhD, FAAN (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Conference Welcome Remarks

Title: Vice President for Health Equity Research, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research Zucker School of Medicine COMMUNITY Center MPI and CONNECTOME (Community Engagement) Core PI

Bio: Elizabeth Cohn, RN, PhD, FAAN is the Rudin Professor of Community Health at Hunter College, City University of New York. She is an Obama White House Champion of Change in Precision Medicine and Health Equity. Dr. Cohn is a translational nurse scientist and the chair of the NIH supported Nursing Science Translational Research Group. She is the current author of the seminal text produced by the CDC and the NIH, the Principles of Community Engagement 3rd Edition, now in its 30th Year. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, on NPR All Things Considered and in Men's Health.



Mary Beth Terry, PhD, (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Conference Welcome Remarks

Title: Professor Department of Epidemiology Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University Chronic Disease Unit Leader, Department of Epidemiology; HICCC, Associate Director COMMUNITY Center MPI and Administrative Core Core PI

Bio: Mary Beth Terry, PhD, is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health and the Associate Director of Population Science and Community Outreach at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University. She is the Contact Principal Investigator for the COMMUNITY Center and is thrilled to partner with everyone today to reduce health disparities in multiple chronic diseases in the New York City Region. She has over 25 years of experience conducting studies examining environmental chemicals and lifestyle exposures and how they affect cancer risk. She is committed to training and is very involved in high school and undergraduate training programs for youth in the local communities.



Robert E. Fullilove, EdD

CONNECT Conference Role: Conference Opening Speaker

Title: Professor of Sociomedical Sciences (in Social Work) at Columbia University Medical Center, Adjunct Full Professor, Teachers College, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs

Bio: Robert E. Fullilove, EdD has authored numerous articles in the area of minority health. From 1995 to 2001, he served on the Board of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) at the National Academy of Sciences. He has served on five IOM study committees that have produced reports on a variety of topics including substance abuse and addiction, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and damp indoor spaces and health. In 2003 he was designated a National Associate of the National Academies of Science. In 1998 he was appointed to the Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention (ACHSP) at the Centers for Disease Control, and in July, 2000, he became the committee's co-chair. He served on the National Advisory Council for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health [NIH]. Since 2010, he has been teaching public health courses in six New York State prisons that are part of the Bard College Prison Initiative (BPI) and serves as the Senior Advisor to BPI's public health program. Dr Fullilove serves on the editorial boards of the journals Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and the Journal of Public Health Policy and has been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at the Mailman School of Public Health three times. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Bank Street College of Education.

Science and Impact Presentation Speakers



Tashi Chodon

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Chief Population Health Officer (CPHO) at Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN)

Bio: Ms. Chodon, BSN, MPH has over thirty years of experience with various government and non-government organizations in population health program design, development, management, and oversight. Her work has included programs in smoking cessation, asthma, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS prevention, and other chronic disease prevention and management. As the CPHO at BCHN, she leads the growing Community Health and Wellness Program through transition toward population health improvement, driving greater accessibility and growth in healthcare delivery and prevention and health promotion. She oversees the operations and quality of BCHN community health and wellness programs and services, ensures that appropriate infrastructure is in place to support current activities and projected growth.



Kevin Fiori MD, MPH, MS

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Vice Chair for Community Health & Engagement, Director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Montefiore Health System, Associate Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Bio: Kevin Fiori MD, MPH, MS is the Vice Chair for Community Health & Engagement and inaugural Division Chief for the Division of Community and Population Health within the Department of Pediatrics, Director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Montefiore Health System, Director of Social Determinants of Health for Montefiore Health System's Office of Population and Community Health, and Associate Professor in both Pediatrics and Family and Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His research aims to address health disparities in communities both in the Bronx and abroad and he is primary investigator on multiple ongoing implementation research studies in Togo, West Africa and the Bronx, particularly focused on community health worker integration within health systems. He is a founding member of the Community Health Impact Coalition that aims to make professionalized community health workers a norm worldwide and is a co-lead in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supported Global Learning for Health Equity Network.



Sandra Marin

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Diabetes Educator, Health People

Bio: Sandra Marin is a bilingual diabetes educator for over seven years; she is also a grandmother raising four grandchildren in the Bronx. She originally came to Health People as a participant for the pre-diabetic program, which helped her lose weight - 120 pounds since she joined the organization! She has since been trained to facilitate the Diabetes Self-Management Program and National Diabetes Prevention Program, in English and Spanish, and is a fierce advocate for diabetes education, after seeing how much it has helped her, her family and her community.



Maureen Miller, PhD

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Infectious Disease Epidemiologist and Medical Anthropologist

Bio: I am a Columbia University trained and affiliated infectious disease epidemiologist and medical anthropologist. My career straddles academic and public spheres, and targets systems level change to disrupt the transmission of infectious diseases. My work, which focuses primarily on the social and structural drivers of infectious disease, integrates multiple scientific methodologies. I have worked with diverse stakeholders to evaluate both global and local responses to public health challenges to develop best practices, to share lessons learned, and to address information gaps with senior leadership, frontline staff, and community members. My work is broadly focused on health disparities, with subject matter expertise in the social determinants of health, population health and health systems strengthening. I am currently on contract with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene leading operations, planning and evaluation for the COVID-19 Health Equity Program.



Chris Norwood

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Founder and Executive Director, Health People

Bio: Chris Norwood, a prize-winning author and healthcare advocate, was one of the first journalists to sound an alarm about HIV/AIDS in the early 1980s before it was widely recognized as a deadly epidemic. Norwood broke the story in Ms. Magazine that women with AIDS were routinely undercounted with their deaths attributed to other causes. She also authored the first book on women and HIV, "Advice for Life: A Woman's Guide to AIDS." That book, which came out in 1987, became the inspiration for her founding Health People (then known as Health Force) in 1990 as a women's prevention and support program. A pioneer in using peer education to enable communities to take control of their health, Chris has been recognized nationally and internationally for her work in HIV/AIDS and peer-delivered health education. In 2005, Chris was one of 1,000 women nominated worldwide for a special Nobel Peace Prize for women's work in community health.



Renee Whiskey-LaLanne, MPH, MCHES, AE-C

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Director of Community Partnerships, at the Community Health Systems Lab at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Associate Director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Montefiore Health System

Bio: Renee Whiskey-LaLanne, MPH, MCHES, AE-C - Director of Community Partnerships, at the Community Health Systems Lab at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Associate Director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Montefiore Health System, is a public health professional with 13 + years of experience in program development and implementation in the field of population health. Her most recent work has focused on strategic development of comprehensive health education and Community Health Worker programs, addressing health and social needs of underserved and vulnerable populations in the Bronx. Currently Mrs. LaLanne's role is to oversee strategy and operations focused on working with communities to improve health outcomes. She completed her MPH at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Her professional goal is to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and harness those voices to drive meaningful change.



Oni Tongo, MS, RD

CONNECT Conference Role: Speaker

Title: Assistant Director of Population Health at Bronx Community Health Network

Bio: Oni leads a team of community health workers and health educators who provide needed resources, education, programming, and support to address the clinical and non-clinical health needs of Bronx residents. She has over 10 years of experience in public health program planning, implementation, management, and coordination. As a Bronx native, Oni loves spending time exploring the many beautiful parks in the Bronx and using these walks as inspiration for her paintings.

Concurrent Workshop Presenters and Dialogue Session Panelists



Alzahraa (Zahra) K. Ahmed (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Community Health Representative and Patient Navigator at the Perlmutter Cancer Center's Stamp Out Cancer Brooklyn Program at NYU Langone Health

Bio: Alzahraa has long been passionate about the social constructs of health and communal, vernacular ways of disease prevention. Throughout her career, Alzahraa has been working with and providing social services to many Arabic-speaking communities originally from the MENA region, including LGBTQ+ sub-community, in both the US and abroad. Alzahraa is currently pursuing her MSW in order to extend this work in the future.



Ramatu Ahmed (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: CEO of African Life Organization

Bio: Known for her activism in fighting for social justice, she advocates for improving social and health services, immigration issues, housing, school education, and making referrals to community members to access services. Her years of experience in community development prompted her to create the African Life Center, ALC, in the Bronx, seeking to serve the African community. She conducted youth mental health leadership training in the community with support from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In her leadership, ALC was amongst the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) neighborhood coalition in response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color finding solutions to challenges confronting their daily lives. She was instrumental in the creation of the Medina clinic within Harlem hospital for the underserved Muslim/African community. Ramatu collaborated with the Department of Minority Health Resource Center in Washington, D.C., and organized the fourth U.S. "African Health Conference 2016" in New York City. Founding member of the Bronx Multi Faith Advisory Group partnering with the New York City Department of Health- Office of Faith-Based Initiatives aimed at promoting better health in the Bronx. Ramatu is currently working with a research team funded by the National Institute of Health focusing on a valuable initiative on Ghanaian and Mental well-being in New York City to understand immigrant stress-related mental health.



Mirtha Gloria Arzu

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Community Organizer, The Black Institute

Bio: Born in the Bronx, NY to immigrant parents from Honduras, Mirtha Gloria Arzu is a first generation Garifuna- American. She attended Long Island University and received a scholarship to attend medical school at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM). Mirtha engaged in community service within the Bronx, including at Casa Yurumein Center, an organization founded by her mother M. Colon. Mirtha partnered with Garifuna members to create Miss Garifuna USA in New York. Mirtha has worked at Mount Sinai Hospital within the emergency room, obtained her Community Health Worker [CHW] certification from LaGuardia Community College and has participated in the Intouch CHW program with Columbia University. She has supported people from all ethnic and national backgrounds with applying for asylum, and connecting families to social services. Currently, Mirtha works for The Black Institute as their Community Organizer. One of her professional service-oriented goals is to create a CHW program for the Garifuna community in New York.

Concurrent Workshop Presenters and Dialogue Session Panelists



Ana Leon Bella (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop Lead (Moving for Life: DanceExercise for Older Adults)

Title: Director of Programming, Moving For Life, Inc.

Bio: Ana Leon Bella has worked in movement for over 20 years as a dancer, fitness expert, and dance educator. She is a Laban Certified Movement Analyst (CMA), a Registered Somatic Movement Therapist/Educator (RSMT/E) with ISMETA, a Certified Polestar Reformer Instructor, a Certified Teacher of BodyMind Dance (CTBMD), and a Certified Moving for Life Instructor (MFLCI) working with people of any age affected by chronic health issues. Ana is currently the Director of Programming at Moving for Life, Inc. Ana uses movement to activate and motivate positive body function, enhanced mindfulness, and integration of both to reach an individual's fullest potential. She works with private clients, offers workshops, develops group fitness and wellness classes, and lectures on various topics.



Sharley Castro

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Provider Liaison, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Bio: My name is Sherllay Castro, and I work for the NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Provider Liaison for the New Family Home Visits initiative. Our program improves access to quality health care and supportive services for pregnant and parenting families residing in TRIE neighborhoods. I worked as a community health worker in the Healthy Start initiative at Bronx Community Health Network, Inc. for 5 years. As a CHW I worked with primary care teams in health centers to improve patient care and health outcomes. I specialized in Maternal and infant health, actively raising public health awareness and connecting families with resources. I am a certified lactation counselor, Mental Health First Aid Instructor and doula. I was born and raised in the Bronx, and have made it a personal mission to serve my community. I am my community, that is one of my biggest strengths. I know and have experienced the challenges my people face and therefore dedicate my career to being part of the solution.



Mary Charlson, MD

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: William T. Foley Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluative Sciences Research at Weill Cornell Medical College

Bio: Mary Charlson, MD, is the William T. Foley Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluative Sciences Research at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is a member of the American Association of Physicians and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research. Dr. Charlson is a methodologist and clinical epidemiologist and leads a multidisciplinary research team including clinical epidemiologists, informatics experts, and biostatisticians who have successfully completed numerous clinical trials and population-based studies with an emphasis on cardiovascular diseases. As a clinical epidemiologist, her work has focused on developing interventions targeted at improving outcomes in chronic illness. She developed the widely used Charlson Comorbidity Index. She has a long track record of successful RCTs among patients with chronic illness and has been the PI on 8 separate NHLBI-funded RCTS involving 2,725 patients. She is Co-PI on a PCORI-funded RCT to reduce unplanned hospitalizations in patients with high comorbidity.



Rakim Covington (He/Him)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop Lead (Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing)

Title: Field Coordinator, Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing

Bio: Rakim Covington was born and raised in Brooklyn, largely by New York's foster care and group home system. He is an expert on what youth endure in the system and the effects of system involvement on young Black and Brown people. Moving from the system, to foster care, to a group home, Rakim was eventually released into his mother's custody before facing a state bid a few years later. With the void the system inevitably creates in any life, he sought the love he craved from family in the streets. After completing five years in prison, Rakim came to CNHJH and, despite having "felt like [he'd] heard it all before," kept returning to connect with CNHJH staff. In time, he considered the Center to be an extended family and devoted himself to expanding its reach. A doting father of a young daughter, he is passionate about meeting young kids he ran the streets with, offering his experience and advice on where they will end up if they fail to pursue their own positive potential. Rakim spearheads recruiting and consults on programmatic issues around violence prevention and youth empowerment work.



Carmen Garcia

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Community Health Worker Supervisor, Make the Road New York

Bio: Carmen Garcia is a Community Health Worker (CHW) Supervisor at Make the Road New York (MRNY). Originally from Ecuador, she has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. She joined MRNY as a CHW in 2015 after completing the organization's training program. Carmen started at MRNY helping families with children under age 6 prevent and fight tooth decay through educational home visits. She currently supervises the Community Health Workers projects at MRNY. She conducts home visits to assess and minimize exposure to asthma triggers, provides asthma education, and connects patients and their families to social services at MRNY.



Mariama Kora, MPH

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Senior Program Administrator for the Institute for Training Outreach and Community Health (InTOuCH) at the Columbia Center for Community Health.

Bio: Prior to joining the InTOuCH team, Mariama was the Deputy Regional Team Manager for the COVID-19 contact tracing initiative in Onondaga County. Throughout this role, she worked closely with local health departments to track COVID cases and provide health education, but most importantly, to ensure exposed community members had access to resources while they were in isolation and/or quarantined. During the statewide lockdown, Mariama graduated with her Master of Public Health degree, from Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, with a concentration in Data Analytics and Community Health. While working on her degree, she engaged in service learning and volunteer work with Syracuse's refugee community and a local homeless shelter that served men and women who experienced substance abuse and mental health issues. In her free time, Mariama loves engaging in her favorite forms of self-care, traveling, and spending quality time outdoors with her family and friends.



Guillermina Maritza Martinez

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Community Health Worker and advocate.

Bio: Mrs. Martinez is a Community Health Worker and advocate working in the East Harlem Community for approximately fifteen years. She's had the opportunity to learn, collaborate and grow while working with this diverse population who are most at risk of illness, disability, and death. In this position Ms. Martinez provides a wide range of services, including outreach, support groups, health education, client-centered counseling and case management. She assists individuals and the community to adopt healthy behaviors and provides more access to resources thus helping clients become self-sufficient in their chronic disease, mental health, and social determinants needs. Mrs. Martinez is passionate about her work because it involves universal accessibility inclusion, equity, and social justice.



Rosemarie Archilla

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Panelist

Title: Community Health Worker, Bronx Community Health Network

Bio: Rosemarie Archilla is a trusted Community Health Worker at Bronx Community Health Network. She works as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access and provide services that help to reduce and eliminate the disparities in health care. As a frontline worker she is dedicated to working alongside an outstanding team who are passionate team players that are committed to improving health and wellness outcomes in the community through a range of activities, such as outreach, education, and advocacy.

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." — Charles Dickens



Lula Mae Phillips, RN, MED, MDiv, DMin

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Workshop Moderator

Title: Community Engagement & Research Manager

Bio: Reverend Dr. Lula Mae Phillips has enjoyed a significant career as an educator, pastor, and registered nurse. As the Community Engagement & Research Manager for the Weill Cornell Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC), she presents a public face for the CTSC in many of its front-line interactions with diverse groups of constituents across the New York City (NYC) area, with a special emphasis on working with faith-based organizations. She has experience as a Clinical Research Coordinator with Hunter College, as a member of the nursing faculties of York College and Long Island University, and as a former Director of Nursing at Willoughby Nursing Home. She received her Master's degree in Divinity from Alliance Theological Seminary and her Master's in Education from Teacher's College.



Nakisa Pourkey, MPH (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop Lead (IGNITE CHW Data Sandbox)

Title: Program Director, IGNITE, Institute of Health System Science, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Northwell Health

Bio: Nakisa Pourkey, the IGNITE Program Director at Northwell Health - Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, has over 9 years of experience in public health research and coordination, working in both academic institutions as well as the National Cancer Institute, where she helped launch a national database dedicated to studying cancer. Currently, she oversees the IGNITE Grant, funded by the NIH All of Us Research Program, which aims to create a pathway for minority scientists, clinicians, students, community-engaged researchers and community scientists to use the All of Us dataset in ways that are meaningful to the health of communities. She received her Master's Degree in Public Health from The George Washington University, with a focus in Epidemiology.



Jamie Rhoden (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop Lead (Harlem Grown Mobile Teaching Kitchen Cooking Demonstration)

Title: Chef and Mobile Teaching Kitchen Operator, Harlem Grown

Bio: Jamie Rhoden is the Mobile Teaching Kitchen Operator at Harlem Grown. She is responsible for leading and implementing Mobile Teaching Kitchen programming within and beyond Harlem. Rhoden employs a Harlem-based historical lens to create culturally relevant recipes using produce grown on Harlem Grown farms. Rhoden shares and demonstrates these recipes alongside Harlem Grown youth and families. She has 10 years of experience working in hospitality within Harlem including working Front of House and Back of House, creating Standard Operating Procedures for newly opened restaurants, and managing pop-ups for a celebrity Chef. With over 18 years of experience in the restaurant industry, Jamie Rhoden is a certified Chef, Pastry Chef and Mixologist.



Joan Riebman, MD

CONNECT Conference Role: CHW Dialogue Workshop Panelist

Title: Medical Director, H+H WTC Environmental Health Center

Bio: Joan Reibman, M.D. is a Professor of Medicine and Environmental Medicine at New York University/Bellevue Hospital and an attending in Bellevue Hospital, the largest public hospital in NYC. She is the Medical Director of the NYU/Bellevue Asthma Airways Environment Program, a program initiated to provide state-of the art care and research in asthma. She has been the Director of the Bellevue Asthma Clinic since 1991, when it was funded under a New York State Primary Care Initiative Grant. She has been the Medical Director of the Health and Hospitals Asthma and COPD Community Health Worker program since 2019, when she helped expand it into an adult as well as pediatric program with clear educational goals including: connecting patients to care; educating patients about asthma, medications and device use; mitigating unhealthy environmental exposures; and reducing adverse social determinants of health. She is also the Medical Director of the H+H World Trade Center Environmental Health, a program she began for treatment Center of Excellence in the WTC Health Program funded by law under the James Zadroga Health and Compensation Act. In addition, Dr. Reibman has been the recipient of multiple NIH awards to study mucosal immunity and ambient pollutants and was the Principal Investigator for the New York Consortium of the American Lung Association Airway Clinical Research Centers, a multi-center program for clinical trials in asthma and COPD.



Brittany V.Z. Smith (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop Lead (Workshop Lead (Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing)

Title: Program Manager, Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing

Bio: Brittany was born and raised in Jamaica, Queens, New York with an older brother and incredible single mom, who instilled the importance of honesty, leadership and following one's dreams. Witnessing the challenges her family members faced while reintegrating into society after their incarceration, as well as the school system's attempts to stigmatize her son, Isreal ("Izzy"), who, at his tender age, already fears police violence, Brittany decided to become part of the solution. In 2014, she started as a CNHJH intern through Berkeley College, mostly interested in the youth and juvenile justice initiatives where she could help influence and empower them. Brittany is committed to instilling positivity in the lives of system-involved youth so they maintain a hope for a fruitful and productive life. As Program Manager, she oversees the Center's programmatic and logistical planning, scheduling, organizational management and project development and completion. She is the resident Project ReNu expert, assisting community members with obtaining rap sheets and determining their eligibility for the Certificate of Rehabilitation.

Public Health and Health Policy Forum Speakers



Faven Araya, DrPH(c), MPH

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Community Engagement & Relations Manager, Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH)

Bio: Faven Araya currently serves as the Community Engagement and Relations Manager at the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health where she manages the Institute's community engagement and research initiatives on mental health, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and the social determinants of health (SDOH) among others. She also leads Communities Together for Health Equity (CTHE), a city network of over 70 community-based organizations working to address the SDOH by bridging gaps between the community and the healthcare system. Through strategic partnerships, she collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, sectors and institutions to ensure equitable strategies and solutions that leverage community experience and expertise are integrated into research, health care planning, and inform policies and practices. She received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Public Health at the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.



Quentin Ball (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop lead (I Challenge Myself: The SEL and Civic Engagement of Cycling) and Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Executive Director, I Challenge Myself

Bio: Quentin Ball has over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit and corporate sectors, most recently at the Whitby School in Greenwich and as the Executive Director of the Rowan Center before that. Quentin is an active triathlete, having competed in over 50 events in the past 15 years. Quentin also coaches girls softball and loves the impact that sports can have on confidence, commitment, and teamwork.

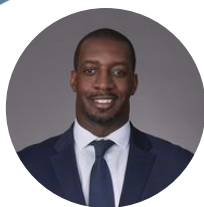


Jonathan Cho, PharmD, MBA

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Chief Operating Officer, Physician Affiliate Group of NY (PAGNY)

Bio: Dr. Jonathan Cho is the Chief Operating Officer at Physician Affiliate Group of New York (PAGNY). Prior to joining PAGNY, he served in various leadership and academic positions focusing on hospital operations and post-graduate training. Dr. Cho received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of the Pacific and Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas. Following graduation, he completed PGY1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residencies at Lee Health. He is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed publications related to pharmacotherapy and serves as editor for a textbook, "Infectious Diseases: A Case Study Approach".



Torian Easterling, MD, MPH (He/Him)

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Moderator

Title: Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health, Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer One Brooklyn Health

Bio: Dr. Easterling is a family medicine and public health physician, who was recently named Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health and Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer for One Brooklyn Health (OBH). Prior to his role at One Brooklyn Health, Dr. Easterling served as the First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer at the NYC Health Department. He led the City's equity response for the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines to populations and communities hardest hit. He also led implementation of anti-racist public health practices including the agency's internal Race to Justice program and oversaw the Health Department's Take Care New York initiative which centers community collaboration to reimagine neighborhood health. Prior to the Health Department, Dr. Easterling served as an Assistant Professor for the Department of Family Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) training medical students and implementing community health initiatives.



Martha Eddy, Ph.D (She/her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Founder, Moving For Life

Bio: Martha Eddy, international teacher/lecturer, Registered Somatic Movement Therapist (MSMT) with a doctorate in Movement Science from Columbia. Her book *Mindful Movement: The Evolution of the Somatic Arts and Conscious Action* (2016) addresses the history and applications of somatic movement in health, education, psychology and politics. Martha founded Moving For Life, Inc (MFL) in NYC in 1999. MFL has been featured on all major television networks and on public radio, receiving the Community Impact Award from the Susan G. Komen Foundation in 2020. Dr Eddy has presented on Moving For Life's approach to health equity for women across races and classes with members of Latina SHARE (Cancer support) and the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care in East Harlem.



Lori Frank, Ph.D (She/her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Senior Vice President for Research, New York Academy of Medicine

Bio: Lori Frank, PhD is Senior Vice President for Research with the New York Academy of Medicine and adjunct Senior Scientist with the RAND Corporation. Her work focuses on inclusion of community and other stakeholder perspectives in health care and research, with a goal of advancing public health by addressing health equity. She serves on the Board of the Personalized Medicine Coalition and on the Memory Screening Advisory Board of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Dr. Frank founded and served as Program Director of the Evaluation and Analysis Program at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), establishing a research program to examine stakeholder engagement, along with survey research and portfolio analysis functions. While at PCORI she oversaw the merit review program and initiated the evaluation program. She has also served as Executive Director, Center for Health Outcomes Research, with MEDTAP International/United BioSource Corporation. She founded and served as Principal Investigator of the Cognition Initiative with the Critical Path Institute Patient-Reported Outcome Consortium. She completed postdoctoral training in geriatric mental health services research with the VA Health Services Research and Development program. Her PhD is in Human Development/Gerontology from the Pennsylvania State University and her MA is in Biopsychology from the Johns Hopkins University.



Julia E. Iyasere, MD, MBA (She/her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Moderator

Title: Senior Vice President, Center for Health Equity and Justice; Executive Director, Dalio Center for Health Justice, New York Presbyterian

Bio: Julia Iyasere, MD, MBA, is Senior Vice President, Center for Health Equity and Justice; Executive Director, Dalio Center for Health Justice. In this role, she leads the Center's efforts to address longstanding health disparities due to race, socio-economic differences, limited access to care, and other complex factors that impact the wellbeing of our communities disproportionately. Established in 2020, the Center for Health Justice works collaboratively with representatives from NewYork-Presbyterian, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons to be a leader in the understanding and improving of health equity, and to drive action that results in measurable improvements in health outcomes for all. Dr. Iyasere brings more than a decade of experience in medicine to her role. She was previously the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Service Lines and the Co-Director of the Care Team Office. She was also Director of the Leadership Education and Development for Physicians (LEAD) Academy, Associate Designated Institutional Official for Graduate Medical Education at NYPH, and the Associate Program Director of the Columbia Internal Medicine Residency Training Program. An Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Dr. Iyasere continues to see patients as an internist in the Section for Hospital Medicine.



Power Malu (He/Him)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop lead (Artists.Athletes.Activists) and Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Executive Director, Artists.Athletes.Activists (AAA)

Bio: Power Malu has been on a journey to connect the many paths he's walked in the service of justice and healing. Using his platform and vast life experience, Power strives to educate, inspire and guide activists fighting for racial, social, economic and food justice in New York, Puerto Rico, and worldwide. In March 2018, he founded Artists Athletes Activists, a nonprofit organization that takes action to support vulnerable communities by connecting them to critical services and resources. His organization was instrumental during Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico, launched the Plant-Based Community Fridge Initiative, and most recently has been on the frontlines responding to the migrant crisis in NYC.



Kyung-Ji Kate Rhee (She/Her)

CONNECT Conference Role: Workshop lead (Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing) and Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Co-Executive Director, Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice and Healing

Bio: Kyung-Ji Kate Rhee oversees the policy, advocacy and training agenda at CNHJH. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in campaign strategy development, youth justice advocacy and dynamic training design for system and community stakeholders on culture change, racial disparity and leadership growth. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY), a project of the W. Haywood Burns Institute, and the Steering Committee of the New York City Task Force on Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System. She has been featured in a range of publications, including Utne Reader (Top 30 Visionaries under 30), Village Voice, The Source (Top 10 Artists, Albums, & Political Players of the Year), The KoreAm Magazine, Gotham Gazette, New York Sun and Brooklyn Free Press, among others. She received her BA from the University of Chicago where she worked with Michelle Obama and Pamela Bozeman to launch a public service community summer internship program for University of Chicago students.



Julian L. Watkins, MD (He/Him)

CONNECT Conference Role: Public Health and Health Policy Panelist

Title: Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Health Equity Capacity Building, Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Bio: Dr. Julian L. Watkins, is the Assistant Commissioner of the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Bureau of Health Equity Capacity Building. He is an internal medicine physician and public servant who supports city efforts to reduce racial inequities and promote community wellness and empowerment through tailored engagement and community centered program design. Dr. Watkins is a Culture of Health Leader, recently completing a national leadership program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is a Climate Health Equity Fellow supported by the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health and Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality and was recently named a member of the 2023 class of the 40 under 40 in public health by the de Beaumont Foundations.

Keynote and Call to Action Speaker



Olajide Williams, MD, MS

CONNECT Conference Role: Keynote Speaker

Title: Professor Neurology, Senior Vice Chair Department of Neurology Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), and Vice Dean of Community Health at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. COMMUNITY Center MPI: CHURCH R01 study

Bio: Dr. Olajide Williams obtained his medical degree from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and a Master's degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York. He is currently a tenured Professor of Neurology, Vice Dean of Community Health at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and Senior Vice Chair of Neurology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). Dr. Williams is a global leader in race-ethnic stroke disparities, co-Chair of the Anti-Racism Task Force, co-Director of the Columbia Center for Community Health, which houses the Community Health Worker Training Center, and Principal Investigator of multiple NIH health disparities-focused research awards, including several large randomized clinical trials. Dr. Williams is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and has received many prestigious awards throughout his career. He is an elected member of the Association of American Physicians and has been featured multiple times on New York Magazine Best Doctors lists. Along with Hip Hop Pioneer Doug E Fresh, he is co-Founder and President of Hip Hop Public Health, an award-winning internationally recognized New York-based nonprofit organization that leverages hip hop music, art, and science to promote health literacy and healthy behaviors in communities of color.

Investigator Development Core Researchers



Arnab K. Ghosh, MD, MSc, MA

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University

Bio: Arnab K. Ghosh's research program focuses on climate change and health, and development of interventions to protect vulnerable populations against climate-amplified threats. His work is funded by the NIH, NSF, Environmental Defense Fund, and several other funding bodies. He previously served on a NAM-Burroughs Welcome Trust panel on climate and health and is the current co-chair of the national subcommittee of health policy and research at the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Poster Title: *"Evidence-based urban greening programs – A mixed methods approach to improving environmental and climate justice"*

Abstract: Recently, governments, climate scientists, and public health institutions have needed to respond, as well as provide solutions, to extreme heat impacts on urban communities. Often, these solutions provide short-term remedies, such as setting up cooling centers or distributing air conditioners. However, long-term strategies, such as reducing outdoor air temperature through urban greening, promise to have powerful cooling effects in cities.

Unfortunately, the cooling benefits of urban greening are often unequally distributed across communities, with many racially and socio-economically marginalized communities receiving less benefits. A lack of access to green space ultimately makes these communities more vulnerable to heat-related health issues. To alleviate these health issues, our team is designing a model to better predict the ideal tree species to grow in urban environments, and the best locations to plant them in.

However, as a group of scientists from various backgrounds, we also acknowledge that communities have important perspectives and preferences about tree planting in their own neighborhoods. Therefore, to respond to the specific needs of vulnerable communities, it is necessary for urban greening efforts to be rooted in climate justice— the connection of the climate crisis to broader social, racial, and environmental issues. With this in mind, we are seeking input from community-based organizations through an advisory board, focus groups, and interviews to understand the concerns, barriers, and questions they may have about urban greening, and its potential impact on health. Ultimately, we hope to create a framework for urban foresters and urban planners that is centered around community needs.

Investigator Development Core Researchers



Devika Jutagir, PhD

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: Assistant Attending Psychologist Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Assistant Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College

Bio: Devika Jutagir, PhD provides psychological services to patients with cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering's Ralph Lauren Center in Harlem and conducts research to increase access to cancer care.

Poster Title: *"Implementation of psychosocial distress screening to detect comorbid psychosocial distress in NYC municipal hospital patients diagnosed with cancer"*

Abstract: Diagnosis and treatment of cancer can be a significant source of distress for patients, and can adversely affect treatment adherence and health outcomes, including survival. However, less than 10% of cancer patients who experience psychosocial distress seek or receive treatment. This project will design and pilot a psychosocial distress screening protocol within Metropolitan Hospital Center's oncology practice (60% Black, 40% Hispanic; 40% English-speaking, 35% Spanish-speaking). We will conduct and rapidly analyze in-depth interviews with staff members and cancer patients at Metropolitan Hospital Center and use this information to develop a linguistically and culturally sensitive model for screening cancer patients for distress and referring patients to appropriate resources to address distress and essential needs. Our long-term goal is to eliminate treatment disparities for underserved patients with comorbid psychiatric disorders and cancer.

Plans/ideas for community engagement: Plans for the study were presented to the COMMUNITY Stakeholder meeting and the Linking Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the COMMUNITY Center's CONNECTOME Core. The Linking CAB provided feedback on the study design and the guide to be used to interview patients at Metropolitan Hospital. Feedback was integrated into the study protocol and study materials.

How community-members can become involved: We will consult community members during interpretation of research findings. Community members can also be involved in communicating about the research findings to populations who would benefit from knowing about the results.



Nadia Liyanage-Don, MD, MS

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: General Internist, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Bio: Dr. Liyanage-Don is a member of the research faculty at the Center for Behavioral Cardiovascular Health. Her research focuses on the design and implementation of behavioral health interventions aimed at treating and preventing chronic diseases. She is specifically interested in the application of remote patient monitoring and other digital health technologies to improve treatment adherence and clinical outcomes for cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, particularly among minoritized patient populations. Dr. Liyanage-Don received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine. She completed residency training in internal medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in general internal medicine at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, during which she also earned a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.

Poster Title: *“Feasibility and Acceptability of Implementing Systematic Medication Nonadherence Screening for Multiple Chronic Conditions into Clinical Care”*

Abstract: Medication adherence is a cornerstone of chronic disease prevention and management, yet many patients do not take their medications as prescribed. There are also significant disparities in medication adherence, with worse rates consistently seen in minorities and those of lower socioeconomic status. While guidelines recommend assessing for medication nonadherence as part of standard care, this has not been systematically integrated into clinical practice, especially for patients with multiple chronic conditions. Little is known about barriers and facilitators to screening for medication nonadherence in real-world settings. Furthermore, there are no validated tools for measuring adherence to multiple medications simultaneously.

This study will assess the feasibility and acceptability of implementing a validated medication nonadherence questionnaire into clinical practice in a group of socioeconomically diverse patients with multiple chronic conditions. We will also examine how social determinants of health impact the feasibility, acceptability, and uptake of screening. Finally, we will assess the concurrent validity of the medication nonadherence questionnaire when used for patients prescribed multiple medications.

Focus groups with patients and physicians will be used to identify barriers, facilitators, and contextual factors affecting implementation of the medication nonadherence questionnaire. Themes explored in patient focus groups will include feasibility, acceptability, and appropriateness of questionnaire implementation, as well as interpretations of questionnaire items. Themes explored in physician focus groups will include importance of systematic screening for medication nonadherence, perceptions of questionnaire implementation, and clinical applications of questionnaire responses. The results will be used to adapt available measures to screen for nonadherence to multiple medications simultaneously.



Carmen Oviedo Hilario, MD

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: Primary Care Physician and Associate Internal Medicine Program Director at NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln

Bio: Dr. Oviedo Hilario completed their Internal Medicine training in 2017 and am deeply committed to improving the health and well-being of patients and the community. As part of these efforts, we will soon implement the Lifestyle Medicine Program in our Hospital, which I will be directing. In partnership with Mott Haven Community Partnership, I have conducted workshops within the community, focusing on lifestyle changes that can positively impact health outcomes. By working in this underserved community, I have realized the health disparities that they face and the need for better resources and policy changes that will eventually translate into better health outcomes and the important role we play as advocates for our patients.

Poster Title: *“Focus group evaluation about barriers and facilitators for healthy diet at a safety net Hospital, and role of EFNEP and Community Advisory Board to implement dietary learning in our community”*

Abstract: Cardiovascular health in the U.S. is suboptimal, in part due to poor nutrition. There is a critical need in our community for better nutrition-related knowledge and access to healthy foods, however diet is complex and tied to multiple factors, including cultural identity. There are significant gaps in knowledge regarding the key determinants of food choices in our South Bronx community. A better understanding of these influences will provide the foundation for a research project intended to improve diet quality especially among those with multiple CVD risk factors. We propose to conduct focus groups with a group of patients from our primary care clinic. We will directly engage our community as our research follows the principles of community based participatory research.



Alexie Puran, MD, MS ,FAAP, FACEP, CPXP

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, Physicians Affiliated Group of New York (PAGNY) ; NYC Health + Hospitals / Harlem

Bio: Dr. Alexie Puran previously served as the Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Associate Director of the Emergency Department at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Harlem. Dr. Puran is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Puran is board certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine. He earned his Doctor of Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine after graduating from Stony Brook University with a double major in pharmacology and political science. He also earned a master's in business administration from the University of Rochester. Dr. Puran completed a residency in Pediatrics at Jacobi Medical Center and a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital. Dr. Puran is passionate about improving the patient experience as well as the physician experience, and serves as the Director of Harlem Reads, an innovative program which promotes literacy for patients who are cared for in the Pediatric Emergency Department.

Poster Title: *"Attack Asthma In Kids: Improving Asthma Disparities by Targeting Health Literacy for Children and Families in Harlem, New York City"*

Abstract: According to NYS DOH, Harlem's hospitalizations/Emergency Room visits for childhood asthma more than double NYC as a whole, highlighting disparities. Despite availability of a wide range of controller and reliever therapies, uncontrolled asthma remains a challenge and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Allergies is a risk factor for asthma with 80-90% of children who have asthma also suffer from allergies. With successful management of allergies, asthma becomes easier to control.

To improve asthma control and manage allergy challenges in children, a new health campaign targeting health literacy has been designed entitled, Attack Asthma in Kids. Unlike many sociodemographic variables, health literacy can potentially be addressed in the health care setting. Attack Asthma in Kids engages asthmatic children/families with a new low health literacy asthma action plan.

This study will span 2 years and will test the hypothesis: asthma and allergy control can be achieved with the use of a low health literacy asthma action plan. Opportunities for engagement with community-based partners will include: Facilitate community participation with recruiting parents/guardians with a child diagnosed with asthma in completing a brief survey assessing attitudes and preferences to the newly created low health literacy asthma action plan at local meetings or events.

Provide technical assistance and guidance in program planning and development with a local school for a cohort of 30 students to be followed for a 6-month period. Disseminate and communicate educational and awareness resources pertaining to the study. Establish relationships to help provide long-term support in sustaining health initiatives.



Amil Tan, PhD, MHC, RN, MEDSURG-BC

CONNECT Conference Role: Poster Presentation, COMMUNITY Center Investigator Development Core Researcher

Title: Assistant Research professor at the CUNY Hunter School of Nursing

Bio: Dr. Amil Tan completed his Ph.D. degree at the CUNY Graduate Center. Dr. Tan is a registered nurse by profession. He teaches public health nursing courses for undergraduate students. His past research projects include addressing long-term care reform efforts on outcomes sensitive to nurses and the older adult population. Projects have included exploring nurse practice environment, moral distress, and nurse retention in long-term care; investigating the impact of a nurse-led interdisciplinary heart failure team program on rehospitalization and nurse-patient interaction among older adults with heart failure in a nursing home and being involved in understanding resident-to-resident aggression in assisted living facilities. He is also interested in psychometric evaluation. He has done research on validating long-term care moral distress questionnaires and collaborated in developing and testing the Lucidity in Dementia and Neurological Impairment Measure (LD-NIM) questionnaire. Dr. Tan is currently involved in research projects addressing social health determinants and chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart failure. He is also leading a project to reduce falls and injuries among hospitalized older adults with cancer.

Poster Title: "Using ZIP Code Level Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Diabetes, and Obesity in a Primary Care"

Background: A combination of chronic diseases like diabetes and obesity comorbidity remains a significant health burden. The New York State Department of Health (2018) reported there are about 900,000 New Yorkers with diabetes. In that year, the adult obesity rate in Queens country was 22% and rate for diabetes rate was 11%.⁶ Studies linking SDOH to diabetes and obesity management and dependents include social background, social insecurity, poverty, education, health insurance, food security, social isolation, health literacy, and housing status.

Aim: Investigate the role of ZIP code level SDOH on rates of patient-level diagnoses and markers of type 2 diabetes mellitus (fasting blood glucose levels, HbA1c) and obesity (BMI).

Methods: The proposed retrospective cross-sectional will analyze the electronic health records (EHR) of persons with diabetes and/or obesity. The (KFF) SDOH conceptual framework guides this study. The ICD-10 code diagnosis from the EHR of a primary clinic will be merged with and nested within ZIP code level SDOH variables obtained from the New York City Neighborhood Health Atlas, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, and the 2020 Census. IRB approved 2023-0229-Hunter.

Plan of Analysis: The SDOH variables will be converted into proportions, and general linear regression analysis will be used to explore association between SDOH and markers of type 2 diabetes mellitus (fasting blood glucose levels, HbA1c) and obesity (BMI) while controlling for age, sex, race, ethnicity, and comorbidities.

Conference Planning Acknowledgments

Planning Committee and Volunteers

This conference event would not have been possible without the hard work and assistance of a broad group of people who share the same vision and determination in seeing this conference come to fruition. We gratefully acknowledge all the individuals who helped to make this conference possible.

Planning Committee

- ❖ Quentin Ball
- ❖ Ana Leon Bella
- ❖ Nicole Bayne
- ❖ Andre Brown
- ❖ Cristian Capotescu
- ❖ Marisol Castellano
- ❖ Carmen Cruz
- ❖ Carmen Garcia
- ❖ Judelysse Gomez
- ❖ Joanne Hsu
- ❖ Melissa McLeod
- ❖ Jhovelis Mañana
- ❖ Guillerma Maritza Martinez
- ❖ Tashi Chodon
- ❖ Evelyn Ortiz
- ❖ Lula Mae Phillips
- ❖ Noelia Jimenez Rosario
- ❖ Paulette Spencer
- ❖ Oni Tongo

Volunteers

- ❖ Zi Yan Cao
- ❖ Jasmine Chen
- ❖ Anita Karr
- ❖ Yejin Lee
- ❖ Ariana Lopez
- ❖ Lisa Matthews
- ❖ Ethan Motschmann
- ❖ Michelle Ortega
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