



## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### ***2024 Commission on HIV Annual Conference Program***

#### ***Bold Transformation to Confront and End HIV***

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#### **Joy Berry, National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition HOME TA Center Director**

Joy Berry works tirelessly to improve access to health care for people living with HIV (PWH) through innovation, execution of plans, and oversight of multiple systemic and structural interventions. With over a decade of experience working within government and non-profit organizations, she brings her expertise in program development and implementation, coupled with several years of HIV and sexual health program management. Joy prides herself on improving societal-level determinants of communities and building meaningful relationships across networks. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University in Psychology and a Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University – Chicago.

#### **Juli Carlos-Henderson, MPH, Supervising Epidemiologist, Division of HIV and STD Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Juli Carlos-Henderson leads various data analysis projects for the Division of HIV and STD Programs. She received her MPH from Boston University and her BA in Psychology from UC Irvine.

#### **Adam Castillejo, London Patient**

Adam Castillejo is the second person known to be cured of HIV when his body became resistant to HIV infection after receiving a bone marrow transplant. In his case the transplant was to treat Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Timothy Ray Brown, known as the “Berlin Patient”, was the first person cured of HIV with a stem cell transplant, similar to Castillejo. Brown died in 2020 from a recurrence of cancer, and Castillejo revealed his identity that year so he could be an “Ambassador of Hope” to inspire others living with HIV. Castillejo is a British-Venezuelan man who has resided in London since 2000. In 2003, he was diagnosed with HIV. From that point forward he chose a life of health—exercising, eating well, and becoming a head chef. In 2011, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 lymphoma. After intense monitoring, many ups and downs in treatments, and much intensive preparation, Castillejo received the stem cell transplant that cured him of HIV in London in 2016. After this treatment, his body became resistant to HIV infection, and he subsequently stopped HIV medication in 2017. Since 2020, he has been an international champion of HIV research.

#### **Toni Cooper, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles**

Toni Cooper, MAT supports several programs within the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine’s Training, Research, and Community Engagement department. She provides training/

capacity building assistance for local HIV service organizations and supports the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Toni brings 10 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, specifically with children and families that have been exposed to trauma and unhoused youth and adults.

**Thomas Donohoe, MBA**

Tom Donohoe, recently retired, was the Director/Principal Investigator of the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC). He also served as the Associate Director of UCLA Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and was a Founding Member of the US/Mexico Border AETC Steering Team (UMBAST).

**Paul Edmonds, City of Hope Patient**

Paul Edmonds is an American recognized as the oldest individual to achieve remission from both HIV and leukemia. He is known as the "City of Hope Patient" from the hospital where he underwent treatment in Duarte, California. Diagnosed with HIV in 1988 at the age of 33, Edmonds spent over three decades living with the virus until 2018, when he faced a new challenge—a diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndrome, evolving into acute myelogenous leukemia. His journey to recovery, culminating in a stem cell transplant in 2019, at age 63, involved a donor with a rare genetic mutation (homozygous CCR5 Delta 32) resistant to most HIV strains. Edmonds ceased his HIV treatment in March 2021, with subsequent tests revealing no evidence of HIV in his body.

**Joaquin Gutierrez, Children's Hospital Los Angeles**

Joaquin Gutierrez is a community organizer, and creative from Los Angeles, CA via parents from Jalisco, Mexico. Joaquin leads the multi-agency sexual health coalition Connect to Protect Los Angeles (C2P LA). Joaquin's work is rooted in innovative community centered strategic planning, intergenerational relationship building and leadership development. For over 15 years Joaquin has worked alongside federally qualified health centers, community members, and both state and local health organizations at addressing the intersection of the social determinants of health of BIPOC youth and HIV prevention and care.

**Tiffany Hogan, Drew Cares, Charles Drew University**

Tiffany currently works as Patient PrEP/PEP Navigator at Drew CARES where she assists clients on PrEP and PEP with support services. She also facilitates many education sessions on sexual health prevention, STIs, HIV, and PrEP/PEP throughout the South LA community. Tiffany recently graduated with her Master's in Public Health in hopes of implementing the education she received in the classroom to the community to improve health outcomes in communities of color.

**Shellye Jones, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker, Drew CARES**

Shellye Jones is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years working with people living with HIV. As the Clinical Social Worker for Drew CARES, she supervises the Patient Navigation team, provides support groups for clients LWH and coordinates the Community Advisory Boards for OASIS and CFAR. Shellye received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College and graduated top of her class with a Master of Social Work from the University of Connecticut.

**Bo-Kyung Elizabeth Kim, PhD, Associate Professor University of California Los Angeles, Fielding School of Public Health**

Dr. Bo-Kyung Elizabeth Kim is an Associate Professor at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health in the Department of Community Health Sciences. Her work seeks to bridge the research-practice gap in community-based service delivery models addressing the mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs of youth in and at-risk for being involved in the juvenile justice system. Over the years, her research has evolved from universal approaches to community-based prevention to directly challenging systemic inequity (e.g., racial and socioeconomic). Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Justice, National Institute of Health, City of Los Angeles, and Foundations. In collaboration with the UPenn Center for Guaranteed Income Research, Dr. Kim is currently serving as the site-PI for BIG:LEAP, a randomized controlled trial testing the effect of guaranteed income among families living in the City of Los Angeles.

**Kristina Meza, Executive Director, [Poverty Alleviation Initiative](#), Chief Executive Office, Los Angeles County**

Prior to her appointment as the Executive Director of Los Angeles County's Poverty Alleviation Initiative, Kristina served as the Assistant Director of Workforce Development, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Kristina joined DEO after serving as Chief of CalWORKs, or TANF Director, for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Prior to that role, Kristina oversaw CalFresh Policy and led the CalFresh Employment & Training program for the state. Kristina started her career in L.A. County as an eligibility and intake specialist assisting youth through WIOA funded services and several state-funded grants. This work led to an opportunity with the Orange County Development Board as an Administrative Manager, where she was responsible for transitioning CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work programs to a local nonprofit. Through the transition, Kristina joined the non-profit Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) to expand on efforts to increase wrap-around service access and broader system alignment through innovative practices.

**Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M., M.Sc., D.Phil., Executive Vice President, The Wistar Institute, Director, HIV Cure and Viral Diseases Center**

Dr. Montaner studies the mechanisms of disease in HIV-1 infection, cancer, COVID-19, and emerging viral infections (monkeypox), exploring new strategies to boost the natural function of the immune system in order to combat viral-associated disease or cancer progression. Dr.

Montaner obtained his D.V.M., Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University in 1989 and his D.Phil. in Experimental Pathology from University of Oxford, U.K., in 1995. He joined The Wistar Institute in 1995 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 2007. Dr. Montaner was named the Herbert Kean, M.D., Family Endowed Chair Professorship in 2015.

**Faith Oladimeji, MPH, Charles Drew University**

Faith Oladimeji is the HIV Testing Program Manager at Drew Cares, where she oversees both the storefront and social and sexual network programs. With a deep passion for addressing health disparities, Faith is dedicated to achieving health equity in the realm of HIV prevention and care.

**Pickle, City of West Hollywood Drag Laureate**

Pickle is a live-singing, drag queen host, entertainer, and storyteller. A Los Angeles native, she attended Hamilton High School Academy of Music before receiving her BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College. Pickle has focused on blending education initiatives into her drag work and runs the LA chapter of Drag Story Hour. She has partnered with many organizations, including the Academy Museum, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the City of West Hollywood, the Independent Shakespeare Company, LA County Library, LA Public Library, LACMA, the Music Center, Tinder, and many more, to present unique and dynamic drag programming. Pickle is dedicated to expanding drag as a medium both for herself and for the community as a whole. She has appeared on television on NBC's The Weakest Link, the Discovery Channel's Dodgeball Thunderdome, and Tyler Perry's Sistas. She is the first Drag Laureate of the City of West Hollywood.

**Marilynn Ramos, UCLA LAFAN**

Marilynn Ramos is a Peer Navigator for the Los Angeles Family AIDS Network, UCLA and is dedicated to using her lived experience and passion in helping women, children, and adolescents achieve healthy and fulfilling lives. She has extensive work experience in health education, outreach, case management and housing services.

**Mallery Jenna Robinson, Transgender and HIV Healthcare Advocate**

Mallery Jenna Robinson is an AfroCarribbean binary transgender woman as well as a transgender and HIV healthcare advocate for Los Angeles and the State of California. She is the creator of A Hateful Homicide, a true crime and investigative journalism podcast covering the hate crimes and hate violence of the Transgender, Gender Non-binary/Nonconforming, Intersex and Two-Spirit community members in the United States and abroad. Transgender Empathy Trainings (TET Talks) is a collection of trainings that provides empathetic approaches and procedures to be better connect and work with the TGI community. TET has been presented by Sony PlayStation, and LA County Board of Supervisors to list a few.

**Francisco Ruiz, MS, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), The White House**

Appointed in April 2024, Francisco Ruiz takes the helm as the first Latino ONAP Director whose history and lived experience demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to equity across the diverse communities impacted by HIV. Francisco has worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 2013. In his former role as the Senior Advisor for Program Innovation and Coordination within the Division of HIV Prevention, he played an integral role in shaping and advancing programs and partnerships across the Division's ten branches and six offices. Additionally, he advanced the agency's engagement with community partners, ensuring that impacted populations were part of message development and the creation of new initiatives. Before joining the federal government, he worked at NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors), collaborating extensively with health departments to address the impact of HIV among key populations, including Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities. His focus on engaging and working with diverse communities, his experience working in public health, and his commitment to addressing health disparities and inequities will continue to be of great benefit to the HIV service community and those who continue to work toward ending the HIV epidemic.

**Dr. Glenn San Agustin, Associate Medical Director at the JWCH Institute/Wesley Health Centers**

Dr. Glenn San Agustin is a board-certified Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease specialist. He is an Associate Medical Director at the JWCH Institute/Wesley Health Centers, a Federally Qualified Health Center and Ryan White funded community health center. He serves as a Provider Representative with the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV and is a member of the Los Angeles County Ryan White Medical Advisory Committee. He previously served on the California ADAP Medical Advisory Committee. He received his medical degree from the University of California Davis and his Bachelor of Science from UC Berkeley.

**Natalie Sanchez, MPH, UCLA LAFAN Director**

Natalie Sanchez is a two-time BRUIN with an MPH degree and a BA in Sociology. She has dedicated over 15 years of her career to reducing HIV and improving medical outcomes in Latino communities. Natalie was the former Administrator of AltaMed's Specialty Department where she managed a team of 50 employees overseeing HIV services for over 1,700 clients each year. In August 2018, Natalie joined UCLA's Department of Pediatrics as the Director of the Family AIDS Network. Natalie has created and led some of the largest and most successful multicultural HIV campaigns as well as implemented a combination of public health strategies to reduce HIV infections. Sin Vergüenza, Ask Me About PrEP, Free to Be campaigns have become prominent HIV educational tools across the country. In June 2019, Natalie launched the

Women and HIV initiative in Los Angeles County to bring attention to Women living with HIV in Los Angeles County and their needs calling for women-centered programs that address the HIV disparities. Natalie is a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

**Dr. Hilda Sandoval, Director of Behavioral Health at JWCH Institute**

Hilda Sandoval, PhD, LMFT, co-founded the Social Exchange Institute in 2019, where they engage in producing media content to promote social justice and equity. Hilda served as the Director of Behavioral Health at JWCH Institute in the same year. From 2011 to 2018, they worked at AltaMed Health Services as a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Mental Health Manager. Additionally, they were a Medical Social Worker at Kaiser Permanente from 2014 to 2016. Hilda Sandoval, PhD, LMFT completed their Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy/Counseling at California Graduate Institute from 2000 to 2003. Hilda later obtained their Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology from The Chicago School in 2010.

**Elia Silveyra, MSW, UCLA LAFAN**

Elia Silveyra obtained her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California in 2011. She has worked for Phoenix Academic, San Fernando Valley Community Health Center, Department of Family and Children Services, and has obtain knowledge in the specialty sector of ageing and end of life programs. In 2011, her career serving PLWH started when she worked with the geriatric population in a hospice doing Home Health Services. In 2012, she was hire as the social worker assigned to the Care-4-Families (C4F) Clinic under the UCLA Pediatrics Infectious Diseases Department.

**Lauren Simao, MA, Health Program Analyst, Division of HIV and STD Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Prior to joining DHSP, Lauren worked for the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and served in the AmeriCorps. While at CHAI, she managed to Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Community Advisory Boards and facilitated meaningful community involvement in pediatric testing, treatment, and retention cascade. In graduate school, Lauren studied development and global health, and conducted qualitative research in Kibera, Kenya for her thesis on the connection between water access, sanitation, health, and gender equity.

**Nika Soon-Shiong, Founder and Executive Director, [The Fund for Guaranteed Income](#)**

Nika is the founder of F4GI and directs its flagship Compton Pledge program. She is also the Public Safety Commissioner of West Hollywood and special advisor to the Los Angeles Times. She is board chair of One Fair Wage, and sits on the boards of the Committee to Protect Journalists, and the Compton Development Corporation. Her track record combines local activism with international development expertise to re-imagine the social contract. For nearly four years as a Social Protection consultant at the World Bank Group (WBG), she supported a

\$394.1M operation providing ID to 100 million West Africans and led an innovation challenge to unearth social insurance platforms for informal sector workers. Previously, working in the Office of the WBG President, she established partnerships with Google, Amazon, and Microsoft to mitigate the risks of disruptive tech in developing countries. Before the WBG, Nika researched national school infrastructure delivery and public procurement for a grassroots activist movement in South Africa. Their Department of Education committed to implementing her policy recommendations following the community organizing of high schoolers across the country. Nika speaks Spanish, Italian, Xhosa and Hindi, holding a M.A. in African Studies as well as a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University's Department of International Development, where her research investigates unconditional cash programs and citizenship in India.

**LaShonda Spencer, MD, Director, Drew CARES**

Dr. LaShonda Spencer is a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Director of Drew CARES at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU). Dr. Spencer serves as the Clinic Director of OASIS Clinic at MLK Outpatient Ambulatory Center. She provides primary and preventive HIV care to adolescent and adult patients at MLK Oasis Clinic and also serves as the Medical Specialist for adolescent girls/young women on CDU's Zambia project. Her areas of research interest are HIV disease in women and adolescents and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in LGBTQI and CSEC populations. Importantly, Dr. Spencer is a MPI for the recently funded NIH UCLA-CDU CFAR. Dr. Spencer has participated in multiple observational and therapeutic trials and has been site principal investigator (PI) for several IMPAACT studies as well as PI for her own investigator-initiated trials and pharmaceutical studies which have resulted in several peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Spencer recently completed an implementation science grant from AIDS United as well as received funding for Patient Navigation services from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Currently, Dr. Spencer serves as a technical advisor to HRSA Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS)-funded Black Women's First Initiative. Dr. Spencer's committee responsibilities include the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH), COH Women's Caucus, and the OASIS Quality Improvement Committee.

**Aaron Strauss, Senior Program Manager, Office of Community Wealth, City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department, BIG: LEAP Program**

Aaron Strauss is the Senior Program Manager for the Office of Community Wealth at the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD). He spearheads a portfolio of financial empowerment and anti-poverty programs, including BIG:LEAP, LA's Guaranteed Income Pilot program. Prior to joining CIFD, Aaron was a Policy Analyst within the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations, improving the effectiveness of programs through implementation of interagency and mayoral initiatives. He covered policy areas such as local media, temporary housing, demographic data collection, traffic safety, and COVID-19

vaccinations. He was born and raised in Los Angeles and attended Cornell University, earning his degree in Economics and Spanish.

**Julie Tolentino, MPH, Senior Program Manager, Division of HIV and STD Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Julie Tolentino brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge in public health, program development and implementation, evaluation and partnership development. She has several years of experience managing and leading programs focused on HIV, STDs, nutrition and physical activity, and school/community-based health initiatives.

**Dillon Trujillo, MPH, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health**

Dillon Trujillo is a first-generation scholar and a queer public health advocate. He is a fourth-year doctoral student in Community Health Sciences at UCLA and uses mixed methods and health equity frameworks to address health disparities. His research interests include sexual and gender minority health, HIV prevention, and implementation science. Dillon's expertise in public health includes working on national HIV surveillance projects, HIV-related digital health interventions, and implementing community-based approaches to improve HIV care outcomes.