

Navigating Infodemics and Building Trust during Public Health Emergencies: A Workshop

Panelist Bios

UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY OF INFODEMICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

April 10, 10:30 am-12:00 pm ET



TINA PURNAT, PH.D., is Team Lead for Infodemic Management in the Unit for High Impact Events Preparedness, Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention at WHO. Tina has worked for over 25 years at the WHO, the European Union and academia. Her expertise brings together health research, analysis, and policymaking. She has worked across these to promote better use of data, health information and evidence by patients, communities, across the health system and by policymakers. As part of the WHO COVID-19 response, she worked in developing and formulating WHO infodemic response and infodemic management strategies, for which she received the WHO Pathfinder and Innovation Award 2021. She serves on the editorial board of the JMIR infodemiology and Blockchain in Health journals and is Fellow of the Australasian Institute for Digital Health.



DIETRAM A. SCHEUFELE, PH.D., is the Taylor-Bascom Chair in Science Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since 2013, he's also held an Honorary Professorship at the Dresden University of Technology in Germany. His research deals with the public and political interfaces of emerging science. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, and a member of the German National Academy of Science and Engineering. He currently serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and

Medicine's (NASEM) Division on Earth and Life Studies (DELS) Advisory Committee. He has served on multiple other NASEM projects, including serving as vice-chair of the committee that produced the report, *Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda*. In the past, Scheufele has been a tenured faculty member at Cornell University, a Shorenstein fellow at Harvard University, and a Visiting Scholar at the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. His consulting experience includes work for the Public Broadcasting System, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. Dr. Scheufele has a Ph.D. in mass communication with a minor in political science from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.



UMAIR A. SHAH, M.D., M.P.H., is the Secretary of Health for the great state of Washington, appointed by Governor Jay Inslee in December 2020. He is the first Asian-American physician of South Asian descent to serve in this leadership role in the history of Washington, home to nearly 8 million people. Dr. Shah earned his BA (philosophy) from Vanderbilt University; his MD from the University of Toledo Health Science Center; and completed an Internal Medicine Residency, Primary Care/General Medicine Fellowship, & MPH (management), at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He also completed a global health policy internship at World Health Organization headquarters in Switzerland. Over his career, Dr. Shah

has been a clinician, innovator, educator, and leader in health. He has been a champion for underserved communities, at the intersection of health and health care, while charting a fresh course in health by centering on the cornerstone values of equity, innovation, and engagement.



NANCY TOMES, PH.D., is SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of History at Stony Brook University. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania and teaches at Stony Brook University. Along with many articles and several edited collections, Tomes has authored four books: *A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum Keeping* (Cambridge, 1984; U Penn, 1994 and 2015); *Madness in America: Cultural and Medical Perceptions of Mental Illness Before 1914*, with Lynn Gamwell (Cornell, 1995); *The*

Gospel of Germs: Men, Women and the Microbe in American Life (Harvard, 1998), winner of both the American Association for the History of Medicine's Welch medal and the History of Science Society's Davis prize; and *Remaking the American Patient: How Madison Avenue and Modern Medicine Turned Patients into Consumers* (UNC Press, 2016), winner of the 2017 Bancroft Prize. In 2011, Tomes received the American Public Health Association's Arthur Visel tear Award for her "distinguished body of scholarship in the history of public health." Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, and the National Institute for Mental Health. the National Library of Medicine, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the World Health Organization/Europe. She recently published (with Manon Parry) WHO Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report 77, "What are the historical roots of the COVID-19 infodemic? Lessons from the past." She is currently a fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

FORECASTING AND SOCIAL LISTENING APPROACHES

April 10, 12:00 pm-12:45 pm ET



NEIL JOHNSON, PH.D., is a Professor of Physics at GW and heads up a new initiative in Complexity and Data Science which combines cross-disciplinary fundamental research with data science to attack complex real-world problems. His research interests lie in the broad area of Complex Systems and 'many-body' out-of-equilibrium systems of collections of objects, ranging from crowds of particles to crowds of people and from environments as distinct as quantum information processing in nanostructures through to the online world of collective behavior on social media. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) and is the recipient of the 2018 Burton Award from the APS. He received his BA/MA from St. John's College, Cambridge, University of

Cambridge, and his PhD as a Kennedy Scholar from Harvard University. He was a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, and later a Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford until 2007, having joined the faculty in 1992. Following a period as Professor of Physics at the University of Miami, he was appointed Professor of Physics at George Washington University in 2018. His published books include Financial Market Complexity published by Oxford University Press and Simply Complexity: A Clear Guide to Complexity Theory published by Oneworld Publications. He co-founded and co-directed CABDyN (Complex Agent-Based Dynamical Systems) which is Oxford University's interdisciplinary research center in Complexity Science, and an Oxford University interdisciplinary research center in financial complexity (OCCF).

MADDIE PERLMAN-GABEL, M.S.P.H., works as a communication, engagement, and research specialist in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Vector Surveillance and Control. During the NYC Health Department's COVID-19 emergency response she worked as an Equity Specialist and Misinformation Lead for the Vaccine Misinformation Surveillance and Response Unit. Maddie is an organizing member of the Agency's Climate and Planetary Health Workgroup and the Bureau of Veterinary and Pest Control Service's equity action team. She received her B.S. in Public Health, with a certificate in Emergency Preparedness, from Rutgers University and a M.S.P.H in Tropical Medicine from Tulane



University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Her team work on infodemiology has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst: Combating Misinformation as a Core Function of Public Health.



ALEJANDRO POSADA, M.S., is the Lead Social Scientist for the Rooted in Trust project at Internews, a global pandemic information response program addressing the unprecedented scale and speed of the spread of rumors and misinformation. He supervises and provides technical support for risk communication and community engagement across the 13 countries where the project is being implemented. Alejandro is also leading global-level research projects looking at the drivers and impacts of health-related misinformation. Alejandro has an academic background in international development and global governance from the University of Toronto and Oxford and has been researching the political economy of knowledge production.



CHRISTOPHER VOEGELI, PH.D., M.P.H., M.A., is the Acting Vaccine Confidence and Demand Lead in the Immunization Services Division of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, he coordinates CDC's domestic portfolio of work to build the public's confidence and demand for all vaccines. Chris also leads the Insights Unit, which works to monitor and mitigate the spread of misinformation and produces the CDC's State of Vaccine Confidence Report. Before moving to NCIRD, Chris worked in the Division of HIV Prevention, where he led the evaluation of their national prevention messaging campaigns to address the HIV epidemic. Chris came to CDC in 2018 as a PPEO evaluation fellow and worked in CSESLS's Division of Public Health Information Dissemination (DPHID) where he presented around the agency on the current state of trust in CDC's health information and the factors that influence trust. While in DPHID, he worked with MMWR and Vital Signs performing evaluations of communication products and programs. Before coming to CDC, he led the DSTDP-funded National Evaluation Center and supported local and state communication efforts around low HPV vaccine confidence, confidence in new pharmaceutical interventions, and other public health-related misinformation topics. In 2021, Chris served as president of the Atlanta-area Evaluation Association and continues to serve as the chair of the Government Evaluation Topical Interest Group for the American Evaluation Association. Chris has an MPH with a concentration in epidemiology and an MA and PhD in community psychology with a specialization in methodology. He did his dissertation on the psycho-social factors related to distrust in government health information and the impact of trust in following public health recommendations.

INFODEMIC PREPAREDNESS- PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS AND PLANS BEFORE AN INFODEMIC OCCURS

April 10, 12:45 pm-1:30 pm ET



IAN BROOKS, PH.D., is the Director of the Center for Health Informatics, the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Information Systems for Health, at the University of Illinois and leads the PAHO/WHO Anti-infodemic Virtual Center for the Americas. His research focuses on the use of data from traditional and non-traditional sources to understand population health and support public health decision makers. Previously, Brooks was the director of Health Sciences at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, co-director of the bioinformatics core of the UIC Center for Translational Science, and a member of the CDC external advisory committee for high-performance computing.



LISA COX, M.S., is the Communications Director at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. She has spent the past 15 years in government and health care, public and media relations and is experienced in communicating with the public during crises of many kinds. In addition to short-term emergencies, Lisa led communications for Missouri's public health agency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to her time in state government, she led public affairs for the Springfield, Missouri Police Department and handled communications for high-profile investigations that included officer-involved shootings, missing children, homicides and more. She also worked in media relations for Mercy Hospital Springfield and supported crisis communications for months following the 2011 Joplin tornado after the twister destroyed a fellow Mercy hospital, displacing the surviving patients. Lisa earned her master's degree in Administrative Studies in Applied Communication and her bachelor's in Public Relations, both from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.



NORMAN OLIVER, M.D., M.A., is the former State Health Commissioner at the Virginia Department of Health (2018-2022). He currently is a Senior Advisor to The McChrystal Group. As the head of the VDH, Dr. Oliver led the Commonwealth of Virginia's COVID-19 pandemic response. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Oliver served as the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health for VDH (2017-2018). Before accepting the Deputy Commissioner position, Dr. Oliver was the Walter M. Seward Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine (2011-2017). Throughout each of these leadership roles, Dr. Oliver has focused on seeking ways to ensure the equitable health and well-being of all. Dr. Oliver worked with others in the health department, other state agencies, and healthcare systems across the state to improve the health and well-being of all citizens of the Commonwealth. He worked diligently to help build cross-agency and multi-sector approaches to implementing

population health initiatives. During his years as a researcher (1998-2011), Dr. Oliver focused his research on investigating the social, economic, and cultural factors leading to racial and ethnic health inequities. As a UVA Health System clinical leader, Dr. Oliver worked to help the healthcare center address these social determinants of health affecting the patients and communities served by UVA. Dr. Oliver attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University, where he also obtained his Master's degree in medical anthropology. He trained in family medicine at Case, and he then practiced broad-spectrum family medicine in rural Alaska for 2 years before joining the UVA Department of Family Medicine in 1998.

INFODEMIC RESPONSE- PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS WHILE THE INFODEMIC EVOLVES

April 10, 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm ET



MYSHEIKA ROBERTS, M.D., is Health Commissioner of Columbus Public Health and a team of more than 500 public health professionals who are focused on neighborhood-based approaches that address the social determinants of health from safe, affordable housing and education to jobs and violent crime to decrease the health disparities that exist. Dr. Roberts has a prolific 20-year public health background at the local, state, and national levels. Prior to her appointment as Health Commissioner in December 2017, she was the Medical Director and

Assistant Health Commissioner at Columbus Public Health. She also built a solid foundation in public health early in her career by investigating outbreaks in Ohio for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and leading an STD clinic and hepatitis prevention efforts at the Baltimore City Health Department. Dr. Roberts extends her service to the community beyond the walls of Columbus Public Health where she serves as the chair elect of the Big Cities Health Coalition and a member of the Lifeline of Ohio Minority Advisory Group, and OhioHealth's Faith, Culture and Community Benefit Committee. She also serves as a mentor in OhioHealth's Physician Diversity Scholars Program. She earned her MD from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and her MPH from the University of Michigan.



KATE STARBIRD, PH.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) and Director of the Emerging Capacities of Mass Participation (emCOMP) Laboratory. Kate is a co-founder of the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public, which formed in 2019 around a shared mission of resisting strategic misinformation, promoting an informed society, and strengthening democratic discourse. Kate's research is situated within human-computer interaction (HCI) and the emerging field of crisis informatics — the study of how information-

communication technologies (ICTs) are used during crisis events. Her research examines how people use social media to seek, share, and make sense of information after natural disasters (such as earthquakes and hurricanes) and man-made crisis events (such as acts of terrorism and mass shooting events). More recently, her work has shifted to focus on the spread of disinformation in this context. Kate's research touches on broader questions about the intersection of technology and society—including the vast potential for online social platforms to empower people to work together to solve problems, as well as salient concerns related to

abuse and manipulation of and through these platforms and the consequent erosion of trust in information.



THOMAS WILKINSON, M.D., is a Board-Certified physician in Family Medicine and practiced for many years in a small rural community before turning to the Peace Corps where he served for 3 tours (just over 7 years) as a medical officer and chief of health informatics. He joined the Office of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction at DHS in late 2019 and now works in the Office of Health Security (OHS). He is the first Chief Medical Information Officer for the Department, and manages the Health Information

Systems and Decision Support and is the Acting Director of the Healthcare Systems and Oversight Directorate. Together with an extraordinary team at OHS, he supports the Chief Medical Officer and the many DHS Components with tools that bridge medical informatics with the people in our care and public health informatics with national security.



ANNE ZINK, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., grew up in Colorado and moved through her training from College in Philadelphia to Medical School at Stanford and then Residency at University at Utah. As a mountaineering guide she had fallen in love with Alaska and after residency in Emergency Medicine became lucky enough to call Alaska home. Not only does she love people and the place, but also the medicine. Alaska is a small, isolated microcosm on the US health care where certain forces like the distance, lack of referral centers, and community involvement help create better systems of care that are

directly related to bedside care. She quickly became involved in helping improve systems of care as the medical director of her group, then in her hospital and with state and federal legislation, including state legislation to improve care coordination, opioid addiction treatment option, integration between private systems and the VA, DOD, and IHS facilities and more. Dr. Zink had the honor of becoming the State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer in July 2019 and is now the ASHTO president elect.

SYSTEMS, CAPACITIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INFODEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

April 10, 2:45 pm-3:45 pm ET



SCOTT BURRIS, J.D., is a Professor of Law and Public Health, at Temple Law School, where he directs the Center for Public Health Law Research. He is also a Professor in Temple's School of Public Health. Burriss began his career in public health law during the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He is the author of over 200 books, book chapters, articles, and reports on issues including urban health; discrimination against people with HIV and other disabilities; HIV policy; research ethics; and the health effects of criminal law and drug policy. He has been particularly interested in developing theory and

methods aimed at promoting effective local health governance. His work has been supported by

organizations including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Department for International Development, AmfAR and the Trust for America's Health, the Drug Policy Alliance, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has served as a consultant to numerous United States and international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Institute of Medicine and to the producers of the Oscar-winning film *Philadelphia*. He is a founder of Legal Science, LLC, a private company dedicated to the social mission of improving access to legal information and the supporting of the practice of policy surveillance. He has been a visiting scholar at RegNet at the Australian National University, and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Cape Town Law School. He is affiliated with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale, and serves as an advisor to the Tsinghua University AIDS Institute, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Research Center for HIV/AIDS Public Policy and the Program in Bioethics at Monash University. In 2014, he was the recipient of the American Public Health Association Law Section Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2018 he was the recipient of the Jay Healey Health Law Professors award. Professor Burris is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis (A.B.) and Yale Law School (J.D.).



RICHARD LEGAULT, PH.D., is the Senior Advisor for Social & Behavioral Science in the Science & Technology Directorate at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Prior to this position, he was the Director of the Office for Public Safety Research, Deputy Director of the Resilient Systems Division, Branch Chief for the Human Behavior and Identification Branch, an associate research scientist and co-director of the Terrorism and Preparedness Data Resource Center (TPDRC), Empirical Analysis of Improvised Explosive Devices Project, and a statistical and methodological advisor for a number of other projects at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) and Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM) at the University of Maryland. He received his Ph.D. from the School of Criminal Justice at the State University of New York at Albany where he also was an assistant editor at the Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics. Dr. Legault has published several scientific research articles, book chapters, and reports as well as a book on a range of issues addressing quantitative analyses of social science data including terrorism, organizational violence, survey analysis, policy evaluation, data usage and measurement, gun ownership and use in America, and violence-reduction strategies.



DAVID SCALES, M.D., PH.D., is an internal medicine hospitalist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and Chief Medical Officer at Critica, an NGO focused on building scientific literacy. His research focuses on medical communication in clinical and online settings, including understanding how structural factors affect our information environments to allow misinformation to propagate and misconceptions to persist. Dr. Scales' work leverages qualitative and quantitative methods to address the problem of health-related misinformation, training "infodemiologists" to build Covid-19 vaccine confidence in online communities with community-oriented motivational interviewing. Dr. Scales received his MD and

PhD from Yale University, where his sociology dissertation examined how the World Health Organization seeks to control the spread of diseases across international borders. He completed a primary care Internal Medicine residency at Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a post-doc with HealthMap.org at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Scales holds a certificate of medical interpretation in Levantine Colloquial Arabic from U. Mass Amhurst and has worked with refugees in the United States and throughout the Levant.



EVE SHAPIRO, M.P.H., is the Senior Director of Programs and Evaluation at West Side United. She is passionate about health equity and access to quality healthcare, education, and livelihoods for Chicagoans. Prior to her work at West Side United, she was an analyst with NORC at the University of Chicago, providing technical assistance to a variety of federal initiatives through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and evaluation services to non-profit and private organizations. Before her life in public health, Eve was a community and labor organizer, working on green jobs with Lakeview Action Coalition (now ONE Northside) and union participation for healthcare employees at SEIU. Eve holds a Master of Public Health from Emory University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Minnesota.

PLENARY SESSION

April 11, 10:10 am- 10:45 am ET



SANDRA QUINN, PH.D., is the Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Science and Senior Associate Director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland. She is currently co-PI on a MPowering the State grant, Predicting and Improving COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance Among African Americans during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and co-principal investigator of a local research team in Prince George's County, MD and a member of the larger Working Committee on a Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative grant, "The Community's Role in an Equitable and Effective COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout (Communivax)" (Schoch-Spana and Brunson, PIs). She has been the PI on CDC, NIH and FDA grants focused on trust, vaccine acceptance, vaccine disparities, and communication during routine and emergency situations, and engagement of racial/ethnic minorities in research. At the University of Pittsburgh, she facilitated development of the graduate certificate in Public Health Preparedness and Response, developed and taught Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication course, and was joint PI (2008-2010) for the CDC funded, Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center. She is currently a member of the NIH funded, COVID-19 Prevention Network expert panel on older adults and the Maryland SARS CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group. She served on the NASEM committee on Evidence-Based Practice for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. She holds a PhD in Health Education from the University of Maryland.



TARA KIRK SELL, PH.D., is a Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Sell's work focuses on improving public health policy and practice to reduce the health impacts of disasters and terrorism. She has led work on public health communication during the Zika outbreak and misinformation during the 2014 Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks. She is now working on research to combat health-related misinformation, improve risk communication, and advance trust in public health emergency preparedness and response. Dr. Sell completed her PhD at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management, where she was a Sommer Scholar. She received a BA in human biology and an MA in anthropological sciences from Stanford University. Prior to her work in academia, she was a professional athlete and won a silver medal in the 2004 Olympics.



ANNIE SUNDELSON, M.SC., is a doctoral student in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering (Health Security Track) at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Ms. Sundelson's research interests include misinformation/disinformation, public health communication, public health diplomacy, and biosecurity. Prior to starting her doctoral studies, Ms. Sundelson was a research assistant at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, where she worked on a mixed-methods study of HIV-related risk behavior among men who have sex with men in the US. Ms. Sundelson holds an MSc in reproductive and sexual health research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and a BA in Russian language and literature from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

INTERVENTIONS AT THE INSTITIONAL AND STRUCTURAL LEVELS

April 11, 10:45 am- 11:30 am ET



TRICIA CORRIN, M.P.H., is an Epidemiologist with the Public Health Risk Sciences Division in the National Microbiology Laboratory at the Public Health Agency of Canada. As part of the Knowledge Synthesis team, she specializes in synthesis methodologies and their application to infectious diseases.



SUE CURRY, PH.D., is a Distinguished Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of Iowa College of Public Health. Dr. Curry joined the University of Iowa as Dean of the College of Public Health in 2008 and served in that role until her service as Interim Executive Vice President and Provost from 2017-2019. Dr. Curry's prior positions include professor of health policy and administration and director of the Institute for Health Research and Policy in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, professor of health services in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of Washington and senior investigator and director at the Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative. Dr. Curry is recognized internationally for her expertise in behavioral science and translation of research findings into health policy. She has participated in two national advisory committees to develop principles and attributes of credible sources of health information. Dr. Curry is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and currently serves on the Governing Council. Dr. Curry served on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force from 2009-2019 and served as chair of the Task Force from 2018-2019. Other completed professional activities include service as vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Truth Initiative (formerly the American Legacy Foundation), member of the Board of Scientific Advisors for the National Cancer Institute, and member of the NAM's Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice.



PHIL MAYTUBBY, B.S., R.P.S., is the current Deputy CEO and Deputy Public Health Officer for Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) and has worked in public health for 33 years. He is the 2018 recipient of the National Public Health Advocate of the Year (NACCHO) as well as the Tim Green Award for Exemplary Service in Environmental Health awarded by the Oklahoma Society of Environmental Health Professionals (2008). Mr. Maytubby is a former local public health representative for the National Academies of Science Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies 2019-2023. His preparedness and response experience dates to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Mr. Maytubby has been an Incident Commander for public health for numerous events in the Oklahoma City area.

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC AS A KEY ELEMENT IN INFODEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

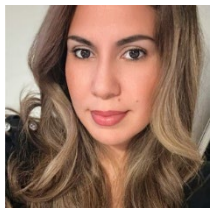
April 11, 11:30 am- 12:15 pm ET

SUSAN KANSAGRA, M.D., M.B.A., serves as Director for the NC Division of Public Health and



provides leadership and oversight of policies and programs that promote the health and wellbeing of North Carolinians. In this role, she has oversight of nearly 1,000 staff and a \$1+ billion budget. She helped lead NC's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts and was the driving force behind the development of NC's first Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan. Her previous roles include serving as Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Health Department, where she led nationally recognized public health policies and programs aimed at reducing chronic disease, as well as Asst Vice President of Population Health at NYC Health + Hospitals, where she led clinical quality

improvement initiatives for the country's largest public healthcare system. She is an appointed member of the CDC Community Preventive Services Task Force and served as Board President of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. She is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence for Outstanding State Service. She completed her undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, her graduate degrees at Duke University, and her medical training at Massachusetts General Hospital.



CLAUDIA REGALADO-CATTHOUSE, M.B.A., is the Director of Community Innovations and Impact at Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. She previously served as the Director of the Covid-19 Response Project supporting the Chicago Department of Health. Her areas of expertise consist of human resources, organizational management, and learning/ development.



MONICA SCHOCH-SPANNA, PH.D., a medical anthropologist, is a Senior Scholar with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and a Senior Scientist in the Department of Environmental Health & Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She also holds faculty positions at the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). Her areas of expertise include

community resilience to disaster, public engagement in policymaking, crisis and risk communication, and public health emergency preparedness. Since 1998, Dr. Schoch-Spana has briefed federal, state, and local officials, as well as medical, public health, and public safety professionals, on critical issues in health security. National advisory roles include currently serving on the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), and the NASEM Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health Research during Large-Scale Emergency Events. Dr. Schoch-Spana has led research, education, and advocacy efforts to encourage authorities to

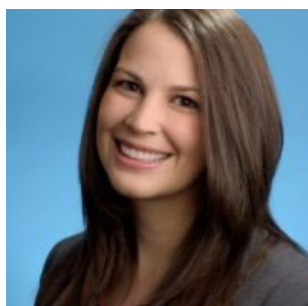
enlist the public's contributions in epidemic and disaster management. Her studies have been influential in debunking myths about mass behaviors in the context of bioterrorism, reframing the management of catastrophic health events to include social and ethical-moral dimensions, and persuading leaders to share governance dilemmas with the public including how to allocate scarce medical resources in a disaster. She has chaired national working groups to produce peer-reviewed, evidence-based consensus guidance for authorities on how to partner with citizens and civil society in relation to bioterrorism response, influenza pandemic planning, and nuclear incident preparedness, and she has organized 3 national meetings on how to strengthen community resilience to extreme health events. From 2003 to 2017, Dr. Schoch-Spana worked at the UPMC Center for Health Security; prior to that, she worked at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, starting in 1998. She received her PhD in cultural anthropology from Johns Hopkins University (1998) and a BA from Bryn Mawr College (1986).



TERESA WAGNER, DR.PH., M.S., C.P.H., RD/LD., C.P.P.S., C.H.W.I., DIP ACLM., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Health Professions at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Forth Worth. She's certified in Public Health, Patient Safety, Lifestyle Medicine, Health Coaching and a certified Community Health Worker Instructor. Dr. Wagner has delivered multiple programs, speaking engagements and trainings on health literacy as a patient safety issue. Her award-winning research focuses on alleviating health disparities in underserved communities through health and nutrition literacy to improve population health. She works particularly closely with Community Health Workers to meet community needs and abate health information barriers causing health disparities in under-resourced and rural communities. As a result of her work, she has received the 2018 Texas Health Literacy Hero Award, 2020 Texas Christian University Distinguished Alumni Award and was selected as a 2022 NIH Aim Ahead Fellow to operationalize Artificial Intelligence in reducing health disparities.

PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO INFODEMICS IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

April 11, 12:45 pm- 1:30 pm ET



AMANDA BOYD, PH.D., M.SC., is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta. She is an Associate Professor at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and is a Co-Director for the Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health, both at Washington State University. She is also an Affiliated Faculty with the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. Her research draws from an interdisciplinary education, which includes communication, Indigenous studies, and rural sociology. She has more than 16 years of communication research

experience with rural and Indigenous populations in the United States and Canada. Dr. Boyd co-leads the Dissemination Cores of two NIH-funded research centers that focus on controlling blood pressure and reducing alcohol-related health disparities among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Her K01 Career Development Award, funded by the National Institute on Aging, advances knowledge about Alzheimer's disease communication and recruitment science among American Indians. Dr. Boyd's current work also includes examining communication about COVID-19, assessing Inuit perceptions of traditional foods and contaminants in Arctic regions, and working with Indigenous youth to create health messaging for their communities. Dr. Boyd engages in research that is informed by Indigenous peoples' priorities and is conducted in ways that respects and is inclusive of their experiences, perspectives, and knowledges.



JULIET K. CHOI, J.D., is President and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, a national health justice organization working to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. She is a cross-sector leader and coalition builder specializing in change management in the areas of immigration, civil rights, healthcare, and disaster relief. In the Obama administration she was chief of staff and senior advisor at HHS and DHS. The proud daughter of South Korean immigrants, she serves on the Presidential

Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and on the boards of NAPABA Law Foundation and YWCA USA.



JILL JIM, PH.D., M.H.A., M.P.H., an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and former member of the Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. Dr. Jim has a Ph.D in Public Health, a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration, and a second Master's in Public Health from the University of Utah. Her career has focused on prevention of chronic diseases and addressing healthcare and health disparities among Native Americans. She has served urban and tribal communities in non-profit, state, federal agencies, and most recently tribal government as an Executive Director for

the Navajo Department of Health.



DOROTHY OLIVER, is a community advocate, retired administrator, and loving mother of 3 who values dedication, service and excellence. She has dedicated her life to helping others and being the voice for her community and church family. Dorothy grew up in rural Cooksville, MS, where she learned at any early age the value of hard work and dedication from her late parents Eddie and Annie Marshall. She graduated from Noxubee County High School

in Macon, MS and attended Meridian Junior College. Dorothy later moved to Panola, AL after meeting the love of her life, Jimmy Oliver, in 1972. It was that move that allowed her to become rooted within Panola's community and history, becoming one of the town's top leaders and advocates. One of Dorothy's first projects in the community was playing a major role in establishing the North Sumter Day Care Center. It was the first non-profit daycare center licensed by the State of Alabama and opened on April 14, 1985. Before that time, there were no local child care resources for residents, and parents often had to travel to a nearby Head Start program. She worked tirelessly as the Vice President of the Center, a position she still holds, to ensure a facility was built from the ground up, proper staff was hired, and state requirements were met. Her daughter Ashley was a member of the Center's inaugural class. Dorothy was also the Vice Chairman of the Sumter County Parks and Recreation Board, appointed by the Sumter County Commission, for over 10 years. During that time, she played a role in opening a public park as well as the Panola Community Enrichment Center in town. Dorothy also used her background as a basketball and softball player to bring youth sports to Panola in 1985 where she coached the town's only softball team, The Panola Posse. She often used personal money for equipment and supplies, as well as used her personal vehicles to transport the team to and from games. The Panola Posse softball team won several championships and remained in existence until 1998. Dorothy has served in several other leadership positions, including being the President of the Sumter County Citizens for Better Government as well as supervising the Recordkeeping and Reporting Department with Waste Management for over 30 years. And in 2007, Dorothy and her partner Reginald Campbell opened R&D General Store in Panola after realizing most residents had to travel 20 to 70 miles for food, supplies, and toiletries. It is the only convenience store in the town and remains open today. The store would later serve as the headquarters for Dorothy's canvassing efforts to get residents vaccinated. Though Dorothy has been a lifelong community leader, it is her latest efforts that has received national attention. Panola is in the poorest county in the State of Alabama, so during the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, Dorothy became worried that the State wouldn't provide enough support to her area. She wanted to ensure that residents were educated on how to stay healthy and were provided with the opportunity to get vaccinated. She immediately sprung into action, working with County Commissioner Drucilla Jackson to create a town-wide education and vaccination plan. That plan included going door-to-door providing COVID-19 facts, assisting residents with registering for the vaccine, using their personal vehicles to transport residents to appointments, and working with local health providers to bring a mobile vaccination site to Panola. Due to these efforts, the town is now 99% vaccinated and Dorothy is continuously working on convincing the remaining 1% of residents, a mere 5 people, to get vaccinated as well as ensuring those who are currently vaccinated get their booster shots. In March 2021, Dorothy's relentless work caught the attention of New York Times writer Andrew Jacobs, who detailed her efforts in the article "All Hands on Deck: When Vaccinating Black People Is a Communal Effort." Filmmakers Jeremy Levine and Rachel DeCruz read this article and requested to film her work in the community, which was then featured in a short documentary called "The Panola Project." The Panola Project has been highly successful, winning awards at the Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham, AL and the Boston Film Festival, while also being featured on the New Yorker's website. Dorothy individually received the 2021 Spirit of Sidewalk Hero Award at Birmingham's Film Festival. The documentary also triggered a finalist nomination

for the 2021 USA Today Best of Womankind Award as well as a series of national interviews for Dorothy. She has been a guest on MSNBC, NBCXL, Black News Channel, ABC News Live, and has been interviewed by the People's Magazine, Business Insider, Montgomery Advertiser, AL.com, Tuscaloosa News and WWPG (104.3 FM). She is still receiving calls from various news outlets, and this attention is solely because of her love and work for her community. Dorothy has never expected any type of reward for her community efforts. She merely has a deep love for her community and neighbors. Providing community service has always been in the forefront of her life, and she will continue her efforts to fight the underprivilege and ensuring everyone has equal access to resources. Being a community leader is her calling and she will continue to answer.

INTERVENTIONS AT THE INFORMATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS

April 11, 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm ET



JESSICA CASTNER, PH.D., R.N.B.C., F.A.E.N., F.A.A.N., is the Professor and Director of Nursing at the University of Albany School of Public Health and the President and Principal Investigator/Consultant of Castner Incorporated. In addition to clinical nursing, her work includes entrepreneur, faculty, editor, and administrative roles. Her current research includes developing the next generation of telehealth nursing, with a special focus on healthy environments to prevent health emergencies. Dr. Castner's accolades include recognition as a Fellow

in the Academy of Emergency Nursing and American Academy of Nursing for unique and enduring contributions to the specialty by pioneering the integration of environmental health research, emergency nursing, and data science mathematical modeling expertise. Dr. Castner is a board-certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) and emergency nurse (CEN). Dr. Castner earned her PhD in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Master's in Public Health Nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Bachelor's in Nursing from Marquette University. Dr. Castner has led organizational improvement initiatives to overcome barriers for women in science, advance diversity, and inclusion, and enhance cultural competence for the combat veteran family.



ADAM DUNN, PH.D., is a Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Sydney, and Head of Biomedical Informatics and Digital Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health. He leads multidisciplinary teams across a broad range of topics in biomedical informatics research and teaching but specializes in applications of machine learning and natural language processing in health data. His key areas of interest are in public health informatics, especially online misinformation, and health behaviours, and in clinical research informatics, especially tools for reducing bias and

increasing the timeliness of evidence synthesis from clinical trials.



RACHAEL PILTCH-LOEB, PH.D., is a Research Scientist at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and an expert in public health emergency preparedness and response and risk communication. She holds appointments as a public health emergency preparedness researcher at both the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the New York University School of Global Public Health. Rachael's work focuses both the systems and individual side to improve the development and execution of practice in public health preparedness, response, and risk communication. She received her Ph.D. in public health from New York University, an M.S.P.H. from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and a B.S. from Georgetown University.



JOE SMEYSER, PH.D., M.S.P.H., is the CEO of The Public Good Projects (PGP), a nonprofit organization that designs and implements large-scale behavior change programs for the public good. PGP selects its work based on three criteria: will it advance public health, will it create change at a large scale, and will it be rigorously evaluated. PGP has designed several opioid awareness campaigns to date, three research studies with Google, Facebook, and The National Academies, and manages a national disease surveillance system monitoring the opioid epidemic. Dr. Smyser's academic background is in public health; he has a PhD and master's in public health with an emphasis in health communication and completed his postdoc at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its Evaluation Fellowship. In parallel to academia Dr. Smyser has worked in both the public and private sectors, designing behavior change programs and social marketing campaigns. Dr. Smyser has designed the core strategies for several of the United States' largest behavior change campaigns. Dr. Smyser is an advocate for leveraging the tools and techniques of private industry for public health, "out of the box" public-private partnerships and fostering private industry innovation for the public good.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION- A VISION FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

April 11, 2:30 pm – 3:30pm ET

DEMETRE DASKALAKIS, M.D., M.P.H., is an infectious disease physician who serves as the Deputy Coordinator of the White House National Mpox Response. Prior to his appointment, he served locally and nationally as a leader in public health as the Director for the Division of HIV Prevention at the CDC, Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Disease Control and Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Daskalakis is recognized internationally as an expert in HIV prevention and has dedicated much of his career to the treatment and prevention of HIV and other STIs with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities. He has also served in leadership roles in several other public health emergencies including measles and COVID-19.



MICHAEL FRASER, PH.D., M.S., C.A.E., F.C.P.P., serves as the chief executive officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. territories, and Washington, D.C., as well as the more than 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials, and governmental public health leaders of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice. Under Fraser's leadership and in partnership with the ASTHO Board of Directors, ASTHO has received multiple awards, including the 2022 Fries Prize for Improving Health on behalf of all state and territorial health agencies for its work responding to COVID-19, as well as several Power of "A" Awards from the American Society of Association Executives for the ASTHO team's outstanding contributions to public health. Since Fraser's arrival, ASTHO has grown in influence and organizational capacity, including by increasing the size and diversity of the ASTHO team and growing the organization's budget with significant new investments from both federal agencies and national and global philanthropies. Fraser is a dynamic leader and brings experience leading both public health associations and medical societies. He has been featured in interviews with The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Politico, The Hill, Governing, CNN, Bloomberg, MSNBC, and other national and regional media outlets. Fraser is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed scientific publications and commentaries, and has contributed to several book projects, including as the co-author of *Vaccinating America: The Inside Story Behind the Race to Vaccinate America*, *Save Lives*, and *End a Pandemic*, co-editor and author of *A Public Health Guide to Ending the Opioid Crisis* and *A Communications Playbook for Public Officials: How to Effectively Manage the Message, the Media, and Yourself* with Robert Johnson. He is currently an editor and author of *Building Strategic Skills for Better Health: A Primer for Public Health Professionals*. Fraser is an affiliated faculty in the Department of Global and Community Health and the Department of Health Administration and Policy at the George Mason University College of Public Health in Fairfax, Virginia. Prior to joining ASTHO, Fraser served as the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Fraser has been a distinguished leader in public



health for 20 years. He served as chief executive officer of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) from 2007 to 2013, where his leadership was recognized nationally with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Director's Award in 2014. In addition, the American Public Health Association's MCH Section awarded AMCHP the Outstanding Leadership and Advocacy Award. Prior to joining AMCHP, Fraser was the deputy executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials from 2002 to 2007 and served in several capacities at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including positions at the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In spring 2015, he was admitted as a fellow at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, one of just a handful of non-physician fellows in the nation's oldest professional society. Fraser received his doctorate and master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master's of Science in Management with a concentration on Management, Strategy and Leadership from the Eli Broad School of Management at Michigan State University. He received his B.A. in Sociology from Oberlin College in 1991.



WILLIAM HALLMAN, PH.D., is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers Global Health Institute. He is a 1983 graduate of Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and earned his PhD. in Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1989. His scholarship has focused on numerous issues concerning food, health, technology, and the environment. These include studies of perceptions, communications, and behavior change strategies regarding food safety, foodborne illness outbreaks, food recalls, food insecurity, food labeling and nutrition, exposure to environmental contaminants, infectious and non-infectious diseases, unexplained symptom syndromes, coastal storm warnings, and preventive health behaviors. He has also conducted extensive studies of consumer perceptions and acceptance of new food technologies, including genetic modification, gene editing, nanotechnology, animal cloning, aquaculture, and cell-based meat, poultry, and seafood. Dr. Hallman is a Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis, has served as the Director of the Rutgers Food Policy Institute, and as Chair of the FDA's Risk Communication Advisory Committee. He recently served as a U.S. Delegate to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Safety Cooperation Forum, which published the *APEC Food Safety Risk Communication Framework and Associated Guidelines*. He is a contributor to the *Risk Communication Applied to Food Safety Handbook*, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. He is also a contributor to *Communicating Science Effectively, A Research Agenda*, published by the United States National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and currently serves as a member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication and as Co-Chair of the NASEM Climate Communications Initiative. Dr. Hallman serves on the Executive Committee of Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) which he helped found in 2008 and founded the New Brunswick Community Farmers Market (NBCFM) and its associated community gardens in 2009. The NBCFM provides access to affordable, fresh, nutritious, locally grown produce to food insecure residents of New Brunswick and surrounding communities.



BRUCE Y. LEE, M.D., M.B.A., is the Senior Contributor at Forbes and Executive Director at the Center for Advanced Technology and Communication in Health, City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health. He has over two decades of experience in industry and academia developing mathematical and computational modeling, artificial intelligence (AI), and other computer-aided approaches to assist a wide range of decision makers in health, medicine, and public health. Currently, he is a Professor of Health Policy and Management at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health where he is the Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Technology and Communication in Health (CATCH) at CUNY, which aims to develop and implement new technologies and approaches to help decision making and communication in health and public health, and Executive Director of the Artificial Intelligence, Modeling, and Informatics for Nutrition Guidance and Systems (AIMINGS) Center. Dr. Lee is also the founder (in 2007) and Executive Director of PHICOR (Public Health Informatics, Computational, and Operations Research, Twitter handle @PHICORTeam) and founder and CEO of Symsilico, which develops and uses computational methods, models, and tools to help decision-making. Dr. Lee has written extensively for the general media. He is a Senior Contributor for Forbes, covering a wide range of health-related topics. His writing has also appeared in many media outlets including The New York Times, Time, The Guardian, STAT, the HuffPost, and the MIT Technology Review. Dr. Lee received his BA from Harvard University, MD from Harvard Medical School, and MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.



JEWEL MULLEN, M.D., M.P.A., M.P.H., is the Associate Dean for Health Equity at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. She also serves as Director of Health Equity at Ascension Seton to help meet health equity goals across its system. Mullen is an internist, epidemiologist, public health expert and the former principal deputy assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). While at HHS, she also served as the acting assistant secretary for health and acting director of the National

Vaccine Program Office. Prior to HHS, she served as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Her career has spanned clinical, research, teaching and administrative roles focused on improving the health of all people, especially those who are underserved. She is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in building effective community-based chronic disease prevention programs and for her commitment to improving individual and population health by strengthening coordination between community, public health and health care systems. A former President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Dr. Mullen is a current member of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Editorial Board, the ChangeLab Solutions Board of Directors, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Policies for Action National Advisory Committee. She was a member of the Study Committee on the Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and is a current member of the NASEM Committee on a Fairer and More Equitable, Cost-Effective, and Transparent System of Donor Organ Procurement, Allocation, and Distribution. Dr. Mullen received her bachelor's and Master of Public Health degrees from Yale University where she also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in psychosocial epidemiology. She graduated from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's John

F. Kennedy School of Government and completed intensive and advanced bioethics courses at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

FINAL WORDS FROM THE SPONSOR



KEVIN GRIFFIS, B.A., is the Director of the Office of Communications (OC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this position, he leads and directs comprehensive communication outreach and delivery of CDC's health information and mission priorities along with managing risk communication and reputational issues for the agency. He serves as the principal public affairs leader and communication liaison for CDC, and coordinates agency-wide communication efforts by overseeing communication strategies and practices directed toward the public; news media; public health partners; governmental, national, and international organizations; and CDC staff. Griffis served as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell. There, he led a diversified public affairs team and spearheaded communication activities for a wide range of issues, including the department's response to the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak and the Zika virus outbreak. He was also instrumental in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the rollout of the tobacco deeming rule. Following his time at HHS, Griffis joined Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 2017 as vice president of Communications, where he led a large, interdisciplinary team at the forefront of reproductive health care delivery and advocacy for women's rights. Most recently, Griffis worked for Centene Corporation, a multinational health care company that covers roughly one out of every 15 Americans and is ranked 26th on the Fortune 500 list. At Centene, he was vice president for Strategic Communications, working on messaging initiatives with the company's health plans in 30 states across the country. Griffis first joined the Obama administration in March 2009 as director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce. There, he served through the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill and major policy initiatives, including the Recovery Act and the National Export Initiative. Prior to joining HHS, Griffis worked as communications director for U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and as communications director and senior advisor for Senator Booker's successful 2013 special election. Griffis spent the first six years of his career covering government and politics as a reporter for newspapers in Maryland and Atlanta, GA. In Atlanta, he covered City Hall and the Georgia legislature for Creative Loafing newspaper from 2000-2004. Griffis holds a bachelor's degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin and grew up in the Snellville, GA area.