

## **Advancing Oral Health Across the Lifespan Committee/ Speaker Biosketches**

### Committee



#### **Anita Glicken, MSW (Chair)**

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center

Anita Duhl Glicken MSW, Professor and Associate Dean Emerita at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center, has over 35 years of administrative, research and education experience. A founding member of the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH), she now serves as the organization's Executive Director. She is an active Board Member of the Sante Fe Group, and immediate past chair of HRSA's Federal Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (ACTPCMD). She was consultant and chair of the award-winning Primary Care Collaborative Advisory Committee's Integration of Oral Health in Primary Care Compendium, and co-chair of a recent National Academies of Medicine Global Forum Workshop on Models of Whole-Person Oral Health Education. Ms. Glicken has served on many oral health project committees including the Meharry University Oral Health Equity Project, the CIPCOH 100 Million Mouths Campaign Advisory Board and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' Medical Dental Integration Project. Ms. Glicken has served on several national expert panels to develop tools and resources supporting workforce research, practice, and policy, including HRSA's National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) on Data and Methods for Tracking, Supply, Demand, Distribution and Adequacy of the Primary Care Workforce, HRSA's 2014 report Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice, and the Qualis Health White Paper, Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care. Ms. Glicken has personally received several national awards; under her leadership the NIIOH has received the ADEA Foundation's Gies Award and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education's George T. Thibault Award. A clinical social worker, Ms. Glicken's career has focused on healthcare transformation, partnering to create innovative education and care delivery models grounded in interprofessional collaboration and health equity. She was the Project Director of an American International Health Alliance multi-year PEPFAR contract to create new educational programs to build midlevel health workforce capacity in South Africa. Ms. Glicken is the author of over 100 publications in health care education, workforce, and research.



#### **Hawazin Elani, BDS, MSc, PhD, MMSc**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Hawazin Elani is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Elani is a prosthodontist and health services researcher. Her research focuses on investigating the impact of federal and state health policies on the oral health of vulnerable populations, with specific interests in social determinants of population health, health disparities, and improving access to oral healthcare services. She uses big data analytics, including causal inference, econometrics, and machine learning approaches, to inform data-driven policymaking to reduce health disparities. Dr. Elani was selected as the 2022 NIMHD-Health Disparities Research Scholar. She leads multiple

projects funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Elani received an MSc and a Ph.D. from McGill University. She completed a residency in Prosthodontics and received an MMSc from Harvard School of Dental Medicine.



**Michael Helgeson, DDS**  
Apple Tree Dental

Dr. Helgeson is one of the founders of Apple Tree Dental, an innovative non-profit organization that operates nine Centers for Dental Health and delivers on-site care in collaboration with about 200 urban and rural organizations including Head Start Centers, schools, group homes, hospitals, medical clinics and nursing facilities. In 2020, Apple Tree opened a Center for Dental Health within the Mayo Clinic Health System campus in Fairmont Minnesota and in 2023 it added the ADT Center for

Dental Health in Minneapolis. He serves as Apple Tree's Chief Executive Officer, managing a professional staff of more than 280 which delivered more than \$44 million worth of dental care during 2023. Apple Tree's community collaborative practice model has been replicated in North Carolina, Louisiana and California and has received recognition from the Surgeon General, the American Dental Association, the Robert Wood Johnson and Kellogg Foundations. In 2017, he was included in a list of the 32 most influential people in dentistry published by Incisal Edge, and in 2019, the American Association for Community Dental Programs selected Dr. Helgeson for the John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award in recognition of his leadership at the local, state and national levels.



**Jessica Y. Lee DDS, MPH, PhD**  
University of North Carolina

Dr. Lee is the Demeritt Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health at the University of North Carolina. She is also a Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. She is board certified Pediatric Dentist and an active member of the medical staff at UNC Hospitals and practices in the Dental Faculty Practice in the School of Dentistry. She has authored

over 150 peer reviewed manuscripts and is a renowned expert in health literacy and health disparities. She is dedicated to bridging the gap between medical knowledge and patient understanding and reducing health disparities. She has led projects funded by the NIH and HRSA. Dr Lee is involved in teaching, clinical practice and research. Dr. Lee is actively involved in leadership, community outreach and education initiatives. She collaborates with healthcare providers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. She served as the President for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) from 2020-2021. She is the recipient of numerous teaching and research awards including the 2008 AAPD Jerome Miller "For the Kids" Award. In 2010, she received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientist and Engineers from President Barack Obama. In 2011, Dr Lee was named the 'Pediatric Dentist of the Year' by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr Lee received her MPH and DDS degrees from Columbia University and her Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and PhD in Health Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was also a NIDCR National Research Service Award recipient.



**Elizabeth (Beth) Mertz, PhD**

University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Elizabeth Mertz is the associate director of research at Healthforce Center and a professor at the School of Dentistry in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Mertz's work covers a broad range of health professions workforce issues primarily focused on dental care, including supply and demand of providers, health care regulation, state and federal workforce policy, delivery system design and finance, access to care, and evolving professional practice models. Dr. Mertz has also served on numerous advisory and planning committees for federal and state agencies, as well as many other nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. She served in 2009 on a planning committee for the Institute of Medicine Workshop on the Oral Health Workforce, and in 2011 as a member of the Committee on Oral Health. Dr. Mertz holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California, a master's degree in Public Affairs MA from the University of Minnesota, and a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.



**Hugh Silk, MD, MPH, FAAFP**

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Hugh Silk, MD, MPH, FAAFP, is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Vice Chair for Community Health. He also teaches at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). Hugh has excelled in dental-medical integration and oral health promotion. He is co-founder of the award-winning national curriculum on oral health for health providers entitled "Smiles for Life". He is the past recipient of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's Public Service Award. Currently he is co-PI for the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH) and the 100 Million Mouths Campaign supporting oral health champions in 26 states with a goal over the next five years of having champions in all 50 states to integrate oral health into medical, nursing, and primary care schools and programs across the US. He has been an invited speaker at over fifty education symposiums, presented at over one hundred national and international conferences, published seventy-five journal articles, eighty chapters, and a dozen policy briefs. His clinical care is providing outreach care for individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use issues. He earned his MD from McMaster Medical School.



**Astha Singhal, PhD**  
Florida College of Dentistry

Dr. Singhal is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Florida College of Dentistry. She also serves as an assistant director of the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health at the University of Florida which spearheads multidisciplinary research to reduce disparities in oral health outcomes. As a public health dentist and a health services researcher, her research has focused on examining factors affecting access to dental care among vulnerable populations. She has received several awards from national and international organizations in recognition of her research contributions, most recent being the inaugural Oral Health Equity award from AADOCR and Delta Dental Institute. Dr. Singhal completed her dental school from Manipal University, India, followed by an MPH from University at Albany. She then completed a residency in dental public health from NIH and earned her PhD from the University of Iowa.



**Patrick Smith, DMD, MPH**  
UIC College of Dentistry

Dr. Smith is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health, with a range of professional experiences as a clinician, educator, and researcher. As an Assistant Professor at UIC College of Dentistry, he develops course content and partnerships with community-based organizations that advance the service-learning curriculum, with an emphasis on oral health promotion among underserved populations. His latest work involves collaborating with several organizations to establish a mobile dental program in south Chicago, and a dental clinic in the Pilsen neighborhood that provides free access to preventive and minimally-invasive dental care to individuals facing hardship. These endeavors also provide opportunities for dental students to hone their skills in oral health prevention and promotion, healthcare advocacy, and interprofessional collaborative practice. In addition, Dr. Smith is the PI of a funded research project with the American Cancer Society that is developing educational tools that promote oral cancer prevention among Black men. His scholarly publications and presentations center on advancing oral health equity in dental education, addressing the effects of racism on oral health policy and program development, and improving access and quality of dental care to underserved populations. Dr. Smith remains clinically active as a general dentist on the south side of Chicago, and serves in various capacities on campus committees, as well as within local, state, and national dental organizations.



**Robert (Bob) Weyant, DMD, DrPH**  
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

Robert J. Weyant, MS, DMD, DrPH, serves as Associate Dean of Dental Public Health and Community Outreach, and professor and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health at the School of Dental Medicine, as well as Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. He is also an associate professor of epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public

Health. He received a master's degree in public health in 1978 and a dental degree in 1982 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. In 1991 he earned a doctoral degree in epidemiology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Weyant is a former Navy Dental Officer and V.A. dentist. He has been a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health since 1987, and also is a past president of the American Association for Public Health Dentistry. He currently serves on numerous local, state and national committees aimed at reducing oral health disparities, increasing the dental workforce and improving access to oral care. Dr. Weyant's research involves basic and social epidemiological research related to oral health disparities. Presently he is PI or co-PI on several NIH-funded studies of oral disease etiology. Dr. Weyant also directs the Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia (COHRA), and oversees the joint degree program in public health.

Dr. Weyant was recently acknowledged as the inaugural recipient of the American Association for Dental Research/American Dental Association (AADR/ADA) Evidence-Based Dentistry Faculty Award. He is recognized with this award for his life-long contributions to evidence-based dentistry.

### Speakers



**Richard Berman, PhD, MBA, MPH, BBA**  
University of South Florida

Richard Berman is the Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives for Innovation and Research at the University of South Florida, visiting social entrepreneurship professor in the Muma College of Business, and a professor in the institute for Advanced Discovery & Innovation. He is currently an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (Formerly known as the Institute of Medicine) in Washington, DC, and is a board member for Emblem Health. He is a member of the Seeds of Peace Board of Directors, a board member for the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development in Abuja, Nigeria and CATAYS, Inc. Additionally, he is the vice-chair of the board of directors for OIC in Florida. Previous organizations in which he has served on the board of directors include the Lillian Vernon Corporation, the Westchester Jewish Chronicle (Chairman of the Advisory Board), the American Jewish Committee (Westchester Chapter), and the March of Dimes. Previously, Richard has worked as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company, the Executive Vice President of NYU Medical Center and Professor of Health Care Management at the NYU School of Medicine. He served as the Special Advisor to the leader of the African Union-United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Darfur. He has also held various roles at Korn Ferry International, Howe-Lewis International, served in 2 cabinet positions in New York State Government, and the US Department of Health Education and Welfare. In 1995, Mr. Berman was selected by Manhattanville College to serve as its tenth President. Mr. Berman is credited with the turnaround of the College, where he served until 2009.

Mr. Berman received his BBA, MBA, and MPH from the University of Michigan and holds honorary doctorates from Manhattanville College and New York Medical College.



**Alonso Carrasco-Labra, DDS, MSc, PhD**

University of Pennsylvania

A leading authority in evidence-based health care, Dr. Carrasco-Labra joined the School in October 2021 as an Associate Professor, tenure track, in the Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences.

Prior to coming to Penn Dental Medicine, he served as Senior Director of the Department of Evidence Synthesis and Translation Research within the American Dental Association (ADA) Science and Research Institute and as Director of the ADA's Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry.

He earned his DDS from the University of Chile and completed his PhD in health research methodology and a master's in clinical epidemiology from McMaster University in Canada. Dr. Carrasco-Labra has an extensive portfolio as a widely published author, invited lecturer, and national and international consultant. He has served as clinical practice guideline and policy methodologist for the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), as well as the governments and health care agencies in Saudi Arabia, Spain, Dominican Republic, UK, Canada, Colombia, Chile, and other ministries of health worldwide.

For many years, Dr. Carrasco-Labra has also been active in the Cochrane Collaboration, an independent global organization internationally recognized as the benchmark for high-quality information about the effectiveness of health care. Presently, he serves as the Director of the new Cochrane Oral Health Collaborating Center at Penn Dental Medicine.

In the realm of research, Dr. Carrasco-Labra is currently principal investigator of an FDA-funded grant titled "Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Acute Dental Pain: Development, Implementation, and Evaluation Using Data Analytics to Target an Implementation Strategy." Over his career, he has held faculty appointments and has been a visiting scholar at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Chile; the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto; the School of Dental Medicine, University of Buffalo; and the School of Dentistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Natalia I. Chalmers, DDS, MHSc, PhD**

Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services

Dr. Chalmers is a board-certified pediatric dentist, oral health policy expert, and public health advocate who brings more than 20 years of clinical, research, industry, and regulatory experience to CMS in her role as Chief Dental Officer in the Office of the Administrator. Previously, Dr. Chalmers served as a Dental Officer at the US Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Chalmers has devoted her career to transforming scientific and health care data and information into actionable insights to address equity, improve care, and better

inform policy and funding. Dr. Chalmers completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of the Medical University of Sofia, a residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and a Ph.D. in oral microbiology from the Graduate Partnerships Program of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health, Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Forsyth Institute, and Clinical Research Fellowship at the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Chalmers holds a Master's degree in Clinical Research from Duke Medical University and a Certificate in Drug Development and Regulatory Science from the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy. Her research has translated into action, improving oral care and advocating for the role health policy can play across the lifespan—particularly when it embraces dental well-being as a facet of care for the whole person.



**Elisa Chavez, DDS**

University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry

Elisa M. Chávez, DDS is a Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, San Francisco. She graduated from The University of California San Francisco, School of Dentistry and earned her certificate in Geriatric Dentistry from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has practiced in private, community health, long-term care and hospital settings including Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe in her hometown of El Paso Texas, The Veteran's

Administration in Ann Arbor, Michigan, The Jewish Home for the Aged in San Francisco and On Lok PACE in the Bay Area. She has served on the California Dental Association Medicare Task Force and as a member of The Santa Fe Group she is an advocate for the oral health needs of older adults nationwide. Dr. Chávez provides didactic and clinical education in the care of older and medically compromised adults and serves as the Director of the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care. (<https://dental.pacific.edu/dental/faculty-and-research/research-facilities/pc>)



**Annaliese Cothron, DHSc, MS, CPH**

American Institute of Dental Public Health

Annaliese Cothron is the co-founder and executive director of the American Institute of Dental Public Health. She received her Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc) from A.T. Still University in Leadership and Organizational Behavior and Master of Science from Mississippi State University, specializing in Experimental Psychology with a theme in Applied Statistics. Dr. Cothron is credentialed as Certified in Public Health and has a certificate in nonprofit management and fundraising from Our Lady of the Lake University.

After moving to San Antonio, she worked at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry for eight years as the Evaluation Coordinator for two school-based sealant programs, teaching as a core instructor in the Dental Public Residency Program and serving as Director of the Texas

Repository of Oral Health Data for Evaluation and Outcomes (ROHDEO). In her present position at AIDPH, Dr. Cothron manages the programming, fund development, and overall organizational strategy of AIDPH.

Dr. Cothron is an active member and leader within several national professional organizations, including the Dental Informatics Section of the American Dental Education Association and the American Public Health Association. She serves as a board member for Equality Texas, Texas Impact, and the Texas Oral Health Coalition while supporting the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network as a ROCHT Lead and facilitating the LGBTQIA+ workgroup. Prior to joining UT Health San Antonio, she was one of the initial members of the Mississippi Tobacco Data Workgroup in the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University, focusing on health policy initiatives, tobacco susceptibility and cessation research, and administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for the state of Mississippi



**Scott Darius, JD**  
Florida Voices for Health

Scott Darius has been the Executive Director of Florida Voices for Health since 2017. Scott graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in May of 2013. He also completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Florida with a major in political science in 2010. He began his career in health advocacy in 2012 when he joined Florida CHAIN (Consumer Health Action and Information Network) where he eventually helped to coordinate the statewide campaign for Medicaid expansion.



**Terri Dolan, DDS**  
Overjet

At Overjet, Dr. Dolan leads the clinical team which includes seven dentists. They work closely with multiple internal departments to provide clinical direction, insight, and feedback, including auditing the artificial intelligence models to ensure consistent, high quality performance. The team also provides clinical support for clearance submissions to the Food and Drug Administration and training for Overjet customers. Dr. Dolan and the clinical team are also very active in the dental community, frequently lecturing on artificial intelligence at dental conferences, study clubs, dental schools, and webinars.

Dr. Dolan is a champion of continuous learning. She is a professor and dean emeritus of the University of Florida College of Dentistry, where she served as dean and chief academic officer from 2003 to 2013. She is collaborating with dental schools across the country on the integration of artificial intelligence into their curricula, and co-authored a paper called "Preparing the next generation of clinicians for practice using Augmented and Artificial Intelligence" for The Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry, which delivers peer-reviewed scientific articles for AEGIS Communication.



Prior to joining Overjet, Dr. Dolan served as Dentsply Sirona's Chief Clinical Officer and has gained national recognition for her contributions to dental public health and geriatric dentistry, and as a champion for diversity and women in dentistry.



**Russell Dunkel, DDS, FPFA, FICD, FACD**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Dr. Russ Dunkel is a 1981 honors graduate of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry and completed his hospital-based residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI in 1982. He currently holds the position of WI State Dental Director and Chief Dental Officer in the WI Department of Health Services, where he works in both DPH and DMS. Dr. Dunkel has over 38 years of clinical and teaching experience, as well as having been credentialed to perform dental treatment in hospital operating rooms. His teaching experiences include Marquette

University School of Dentistry, the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, MATC School of Dental Hygiene.

He is currently involved in several state and national health care projects including the US Indian Health Service, national workgroup of the American Dental Association & the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, and is the current President of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors.

In addition, he has co-authored several state and national toolkits and manuals as well as the first dental chapter in a prestigious medical textbook on chronic disease and epidemiology.



**Peter Fuentes, DMD**

MetLife

Dr. Peter Fuentes is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. He spent 15 years in private practice owning and operating 5 multispecialty dental practices in New Jersey. He has nearly 10 years in the dental benefit industry and has created multiple programs and plan designs that have been recognized by the American Dental Association and the Dental Quality Alliance.

Dr. Fuentes has direct oversight of the Network Development team, the Quality Initiative programs, and clinical policy at MetLife. He created the SpotLite on Oral Health Program (SpotLite) at MetLife which allows members to access providers in their regions that have documented history of delivering value through preventive focus and healthy outcomes.

Dr. Fuentes is a member of various organizations in dentistry including American Academy of Dental Consultants and the National Association of Dental Plans.



**Mary E. Foley, MPH**

Medicaid Dental, CHIP Services Dental Association

Ms. Mary E. Foley is the Executive Director of the Medicaid|Medicare|CHIP Services Dental Association (MSDA). MSDA is *the* national non-profit organization that works with government agencies, health plans, providers and other industry supports to advance oral health equity for America's most vulnerable individuals.

She received her bachelor's degree in health science from Worcester State University, and a master's degree in public health, with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Massachusetts, School of Public Health, and Health Policy. In 1977, she received her license to practice dental hygiene in Massachusetts and worked for many years in dental offices across Worcester County while raising her family.

After twenty years in clinical practice, Ms. Foley moved into the *public health arena* serving as the Director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Office of Oral Health. In 2005 she moved to Washington DC to lead a national campaign focused on *Improving oral health for low-income pregnant women and infants*. During this time, she served as an advisor to the Office of Head Start, the CDC, and other federal agencies in Washington DC. In 2007, she became the Dean of the Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where she expanded enrollment by 25%, and launched a master's program in Dental Public Health for dental hygienists.

In 2009, she moved back to Washington DC to focus on *healthcare policy*, working with federal and state government agencies and their constituencies to advance dental coverage for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees. Among the many projects she has been involved in, Ms. Foley is most grateful for having had the opportunity to work with the *National Council on Disability* to advance oral healthcare for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her work with NCD in 2023 generated a report to Congress and President Biden with *key policy recommendations* that not only gave a voice to vulnerable individuals and their families; but also provided the impetus for sweeping changes in healthcare for people with disabilities.



**Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA**

College of Dental Medicine, California Northstate University

Dr. Paul Glassman is the Associate Dean for Research and Community Engagement at the College of Dental Medicine at California Northstate University in Elk Grove, CA and Professor Emeritus at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni, School of Dentistry in San Francisco, CA. He has served on many national panels including the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on Oral Health Access to Services which produced the IOM report on Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations.



**Scott Hinchee**  
Altair ACO, LLC

Scott has nearly twenty years of experience serving others in the social services sector. His expertise is centered on home and community-based services, provided through Medicaid waivers and supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Starting in roles providing direct services to people, his career path led to management and leadership opportunities. He oversaw the Residential, Apartment-based and Homeless services for a large and respected non-profit in Minnesota and then transitioned to Chief Operating Officer for a younger company serving many of the same populations. Scott is now the Senior Director for Altair, a Disability Services focused Accountable Care Organization whose mission is to integrate healthcare (including mental health, oral health and pharmacy) with disability and other social services on behalf of its 15 member organizations. Altair's programs involve advancing innovative, value-based designs of service delivery that are built on a solid foundation of data. Scott has a master's degree in Public Affairs from the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota where he focused on Leadership in the public and non-profit sectors. Altair is very pleased to welcome its newest member, the trailblazing Apple Tree Dental.



**Lisa Holderby-Fox**  
UofSC Arnold School of Public Health

Lisa Renee Holderby-Fox is a proud member of the CHW workforce with over 30 years of experience. As the Envision Executive Director at the Center for Community Health Alignment she provides technical assistance to individual CHWs, CHW programs and associations. Her passions include nurturing CHW leadership through mentorship and policy development to support the workforce. She believes CHW leadership is crucial to promote health equity, social justice, and the integration of CHWs in health care, public health, and social service teams. Ms. Holderby-Fox has co-founded several organizations, including the National Association of Community Health Workers where she served as a founding board member and currently on the Founders Circle. She also has co-authored publications including the foreword for the textbook, Promoting the Health of the Community: Community Health Workers Describing Their Roles, Competencies and Practice, Research Evaluation and Dissemination Chapter 22, in the 3rd Edition of Foundations for Community Health Workers and Smiles for Life Frontline Worker Oral Health Curriculum, Module 1. Her commitment and dedication to the CHW workforce has been recognized by the American Public Health Association, Massachusetts Public Health Association, Massachusetts Commissioners of Public Health, and the Obama Administration. In continued service to the CHW workforce, she serves as APHA CHW Section Chair.



**RDML Michael Johnson, DDS, MPH**  
US Public Health Service

RDML Michael Windsor Johnson was appointed by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service to serve as the 21st Chief Professional Officer for the Dental Category. As the Chief Professional Officer, RDML Johnson advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention, and career development of oral health professionals.

RDML Johnson started his professional career in the private sector. Eight years later he received his commission with the United States Public Health Service in January 2000. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Correctional Complex in Butner, North Carolina was his first assignment. During his four-year tour with the BOP, he completed the Health Policy and Management Executive Master of Public Health program from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2004. He was selected the same year to be the Indian Health Service (IHS) Chief Dental Officer for the Reno Sparks Indian Colony in Reno, Nevada. As CDO, he expedited an increase in oral health care services and improved oral health outcomes for the community. RDML Johnson returned to the BOP in February 2006 as the Staff Program Management Officer to the National Chief Dentist headquartered in Washington, DC. While stationed in Central Office, he completed a residency specialty training in Dental Public Health at the National Dental Institute of Dental Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. During RDML Johnson's training experience, he constructed two research projects and was the principal investigator. The research projects focused on the Development of a Clinical Case Definition for the Effect of Methamphetamine on Oral Health and A Comparative Feasibility Study to Assess the Prevalence and Severity of Dental Caries in Incarcerated People who Abuse Methamphetamine.

Upon completion of the NIDCR residency, RDML Johnson was selected in February 2009 for a multifaceted executive role as the BOP Regional Chief Dentist (RCD) overseeing the west coast. As RCD, he was responsible for the dental clinic operation of nineteen Bureau of Prisons facilities, a complement of more than seventy employees, and the custody and care of twenty-three thousand incarcerated individuals.

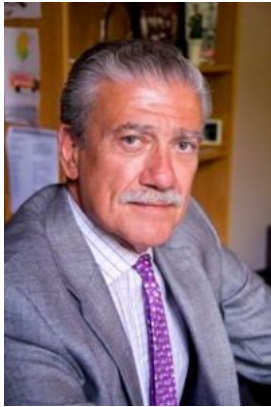


**Cristin Kearns, DDS, MBA, PhD**

San Francisco School of Dentistry and Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies

Dr. Cristin Kearns is an Associate Professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry and Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies. She is one of the first academics to rigorously study the influence of the sugar industry on health. Her research has been published in high-impact journals including PLOS Medicine, PLOS Biology, JAMA Internal Medicine, Science, and The Lancet. She first saw the devastating effects of sugar as a dental director for clinics serving low-income populations and as a manager of dental operations at the Kaiser Permanente Dental Care Program. She has

helped identify 600,000 pages of food industry-related documents now available online in the UCSF Library Food Industry Documents Archive (FIDA). The FIDA is modeled after the UCSF Truth Tobacco Industry Documents Library, which revolutionized the field of tobacco control by making internal documents accessible to scientists, policymakers, advocates, and the public. Dr. Kearns received a Ko8 Mentored Clinical Scientist Career Development Award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to explore 'Overcoming Barriers to Implementing Policies to Reduce Sugar Consumption for Dental Caries Prevention'. She was named one of the 32 Most Influential Dentists in the US by Incisal Edge Magazine in 2019 and is a current member of the Lancet Commission on Oral Health. In addition to her DDS degree from the University of North Carolina, and MBA degree from the University of Colorado, Denver, she is currently a PhD candidate in Sociology at UCSF.



**John Kemp, Esq**  
Lakeshore Foundation

The Lakeshore Foundation Board of Directors has announced the appointment of John D. Kemp, Esq., as president and chief executive officer (CEO) effective November 1, 2021. Kemp succeeds Jeff Underwood, who last year announced plans to retire this Fall. Kemp currently serves as president and CEO of the Viscardi Center and Henry Viscardi School in Long Island, NY.

An accomplished executive, Kemp is widely respected for his many achievements in the corporate and nonprofit worlds. He has decades of experience in the disability movement as a disabled leader and is a co-founder of the American Association of People with Disabilities. His previous leadership roles include serving as the National Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy Associations, President and CEO of VSA Arts and VSA Arts International, and as General Counsel and Vice President of Development for the National Easter Seal Society, among others. Kemp is a recipient of the Henry B. Betts Award, widely regarded as America's highest honor for disability leadership and service, and the Dole Leadership Prize from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, whose recipients include Nelson Mandela and former U.S. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

As board chair/member or partner, John has supported numerous leading disability and nonprofit organizations. In 2001, he became a partner in the Washington, DC law firm of Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, P.C., where he developed an active federal legislative and lobbying practice. A much sought-after global speaker, in 2019 John spoke at the inaugural Symposium on Disability rights, co-sponsored by Lakeshore and the UAB Institute for Human Rights.



**Marla Morse, MSW, MPA**

Oral Health Ohio

Marla Morse joined Oral Health Ohio in 2017 to oversee the implementation of the coalition's statewide strategic initiatives. Oral Health Ohio is a coalition dedicated to advocating for and promoting oral and overall health for Ohioans of all ages.

Marla's career includes extensive experience in developing, implementing, and managing community-based programs and shaping policy in areas including acute and long-term care, mental health, and the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to her primary role at Oral Health Ohio, Marla is a board member of the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) and serves on numerous national and state level advisory committees to integrate oral health across systems.

Oral Health Ohio is a valued partner and advisor to state policymakers and grassroots organizations. Marla's advisory role is crucial in ensuring that underserved communities have access to essential oral health care and education with a focus on improving patient outcomes and enhancing quality of care.

In recognition of her contributions to the field, Marla has been honored with the 2021 James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health from the Ohio Department of Health, and the 2022 Achievement Award from the Ohio Dental Association.

Marla received master's degrees in social work (MSW) and public administration (MPA) from Columbia University.



**Joel Oxman (Joe), Ph.D.**

American Chemical Society/ 3M Carlton Society

Joel Oxman received his Ph.D. in organic photochemistry from Northwestern University (1983). He recently retired from 3M after being employed by 3M for nearly 40 years and was a Corporate Scientist. A developer of many dental and non-dental technologies and is considered a global expert in photocurable systems, nanotechnology, structural composites, hard tissue adhesives, glass ionomer materials, orthogonal smart-materials, bioactives and technologies to minimize polymerization shrinkage stress. He has 130 issued US patents, more than 100 publications/abstracts in peer reviewed journals and has been an invited global lecturer for more than 350 keynotes, presentations, and dental school curricula. He has received many international recognitions including induction into the prestigious 3M Carlton Society (2003), two American Chemical Society (ACS) Cooperative Research Awards (2007 and 2020), the University of Colorado Engineering & Applied Science Corporate Advocate Award (2007), the IADR Peyton Skinner Award for Innovation in Dental Materials (2013), Co-recipient of the ADEA Gies Award (2013), ACS Industrial Polymer Science Award (2016), induction as an ACS Polymer Fellow (2017) and an ACS Heroes of Chemistry Award (2022). He was instrumental in co-establishing the NSF Cooperative Research Center on "Fundamentals & Applications of Photopolymerization" (Universities of Iowa and Colorado). He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the AADOCR, the MinnCResT External Review Board and previously served as the 3M Director of Research for University of Minnesota Dental Research Center for Biomaterials and

Biomechanics and as a coach and judge for the Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge.



**John Pournoor, PhD**  
Government Analytica

John is the CEO and founder of Government Analytica. He has 35 years of experience working at the nexus of governments and industry, most recently as VP of Government Affairs at 3M with operations in 29 states and in over 37 countries. Government Analytica provides its private and public sector clients research, analysis, and public-value thought leadership insights and content to better engage governments in health care, infrastructure, technology, trade, supply chains, safety, and security sectors.

With an impressive track record spanning over three decades, John has navigated advocacy programs through national and global crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and numerous other externalities in the U.S., European Union, Mercosur, ASEAN, GCC, and G20 countries. His expertise covers a wide range of areas of perpetual interest, including public policy analysis, population-driven shifts, supply chains, trade, economy, industry and service sectors, healthcare, infrastructure, urbanization, mobility, safety, and security. Working with heads-of-state, cabinet members, ministers, parliamentarians, and diplomats in over 40 countries, John has built an exceptional global network. His fluency in business, politics, and data at both national and international levels sets him apart. He has an unwavering commitment to excellence, as he continues to engage at senior levels.



**Maria Ryan, DDS, PhD**  
Colgate Palmolive Company

Maria Emanuel Ryan, DDS, PhD is Vice President and Chief Dental Officer at the Colgate-Palmolive Company where she provides oversight and leadership to dental and dermal clinical organizations, knowledge management, scientific communications and the biosolutions team. Dr. Ryan previously served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology at Stony Brook University where she was actively involved in teaching, clinical practice and research. She is the Past President of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR). Dr. Ryan has received numerous awards including NIH National Research Service Awards and a Physician Scientist Award. She was the recipient of the New Dentist Leadership Award from the Dental Society of the State of New York and received an achievement award from the American Dental Association. Dr. Ryan was the first recipient of the Victress Health Award which she received in Berlin, Germany in 2010 to recognize her educational and research efforts in the area of women's health. Dr. Ryan is a Distinguished Alumnus of Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine and was a Fellow of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Ryan is a nationally and internationally known speaker and author who has appeared on multiple media

outlets to discuss the role of the dental professional in the provision of optimal overall health care.



**Cherag Sarkari, BDS, MDS, DDS**  
Liberty Dental Plans

Dr. Sarkari joined LIBERTY Dental Plan in 2020 as the Dental Director of California, and was promoted to National Dental Director for Quality improvement and Clinical Innovation in 2023. Recently he assumed the role of Chief Dental Officer of LIBERTY Dental Plan. He is responsible for clinical oversight of all of LIBERTY Dental Plan's quality improvement activities and clinical innovations to improve member outcomes and experiences, in addition to providing clinical oversight, policy, and quality management leadership. He brings 27 years of experience in the dental industry as a provider, academic, administrator, and C-suite leadership.

**Accomplishments:**

- Recognized as a contributor and opinion leader on value based care, nationally having presented on the topic at the ADA, AADCCR, NOHC and DQA.
- Co-Chairs Codes Maintenance Committee at the NADP
- Teaches California Law and Ethics and the Dental Practice Act at the University De LaSalle in Mexico and served previously as Associate Professor of Prosthodontics
- Served as CCO of a multi-state DSO with 65 locations
- Headed DSO affiliated Professional Corporation overseeing 175+ providers
- Served on QM Committee as Dental Director of a Knox-Keene dental plan
- Member of the California Association of Dental Plans (CADP) QMC
- Received the Star Award from the NADP for contributions to the SNOMED/ICD
- Served as Chair of the Peer Review Committee at SDDS
- Served on the Oral Health task force for the Sacramento District Dental Society

Dr. Sarkari holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), a Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) in Prosthodontics and was conferred a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) by the Dental Board of California in 2003. He also received a Master's in Oral Laser Applications at the University of Vienna.

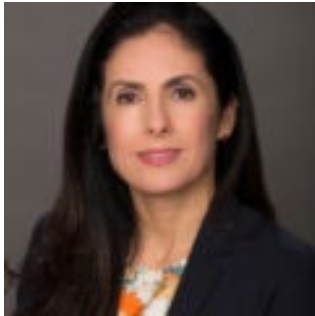


**Karlynn Sievers, MD**  
Intermountain Health

Dr. Sievers is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and Life Science, followed by her medical degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Following medical school, she returned to Kansas City to complete a residency at Truman Medical Center - Lakewood. She practiced in a rural community in Missouri for five years before moving to Wyoming Family Practice in Casper for five years. Finally, she discovered Grand Junction, Colorado, and moved to the mountain west in 2017.



As a family physician, Dr. Sievers enjoys getting to care for patients of all different ages - especially when she gets to care for their whole family as well! In addition to her private clinic, she is also involved in Centering group visits, which are a fun way to care for pregnant women and well children in a community setting. She's very happy to be in Colorado, and tries to avail herself of the many options for outdoor activities whenever she can.



**Flavia Teles, DDS, MS, DMSc**

University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Flavia Teles received her DDS from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, her Master's in Science (MS) in Periodontology from the State University of Rio de Janeiro and a Doctor of Medical Sciences (DMSc) Degree in Oral Biology from Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). She was a faculty member at the Forsyth Institute (Cambridge, MA) and HSDM (Boston, MA) (2009-2014) and at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Dentistry (2014-2017). She is currently an Associate Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine (PDM). She is also a member of the Center for Innovation and Precision Dentistry (CiPD) at PDM.

Dr. Teles' work focuses on clinical and translational research in Periodontology and Oral Microbiology. She has a record of funding by NIDCR and industry and has consistently published her results and given invited presentations in the US and abroad. Her commitment to research has earned her the 2017 IADR Women in Science Award for Distinguished Research, the 2023 Columbia University College of Dental Medicine Benjamin Tenenbaum Memorial Lectureship in Periodontics, and the 2024 CiPD-IBI Artificial Intelligence in Oral Health Innovation Award.

Dr. Teles is an editorial board member of the Journal of Dental Research, the Journal of Periodontology and the Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) Foundational Science as well as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Clinical Periodontology. She has a solid record of mentorship and support for her younger counterparts, having created the AADR Anne D. Haffajee Fellowship for Women in Oral Research, in honor of her friend and former mentor and is a mentor in the AADOCR MIND the Future Program. Dr. Teles also has been serving the IADR /AADOCR in different capacities, including as president of the North Carolina Chapter of the AADR (2015), as chair of the AADR Edward H. Hatton Awards Committee (2017-2018) and vice president of the IADR Women in Science Network (2018-2019). In recognition of her contributions to AADOCR, she was selected as one of the 2021 AADR Fellows. In addition, her dedication to clinical and translational research in has earned her appointments as member of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Task Force on Future Science Strategy (2020-2023) and of the Task Force on Design and Analysis in Oral Health Research Member (since 2021).



**Gina Thornton-Evans, DDS, MPH**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Thornton-Evans is the director of the Division of Oral Health (DOH) in CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, where she directs programmatic and scientific efforts, as well as policy, partnerships, and communication strategies, to promote oral health equity and fulfill the division's mission. Previously, Dr. Thornton-Evans led DOH's Surveillance,

Investigations, and Research Team and is the director of CDC's Dental Public Health Residency Program. She leads several key activities to monitor the oral health of the US population and directs a training program for dental public health professionals. She also oversees the division's Healthy People 2030 activities, CDC's oral health topic area, and all efforts related to highlighting oral health as a leading health indicator.

Dr. Thornton-Evans has represented DOH on committees and workgroups related to health disparities, health equity, social determinants of health, periodontitis, diabetes, and maternal and child health. In 2019, she received the US Public Health Service (USPHS) Herschel S. Horowitz Oral Health Research and Policy Award for her leadership in advancing the surveillance of periodontal disease and monitoring the progress toward national oral health objectives over several decades. In 2021, she was appointed as a Santa Fe Group Senior Scholar for her work in advancing oral health research. More recently, she was the recipient of the 2024 Surgeon General David Satcher Keynote Lecture Award during the USPHS Scientific Training and Symposium in recognition of outstanding contributions to public health and oral health practice.

Dr. Thornton-Evans received her DDS from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and MPH from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Dental public health is one of the 12 specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.



**Shenam Ticku, BDS, MPH**  
Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Shenam Ticku is the Instructor and the Pre-doctoral Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology Discipline Director at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She is also a Rabkin Fellow in Medical Education for AY 2024-2025. She has served as a co-investigator in the national center, the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health, a program federally funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on Academic Units for Primary Care Training and Enhancement. In this role, she assessed the integration of oral

health in primary care training. Moreover, within the Center, she was a sub-project co-Principal Investigator on a study examining behavioral health and social determinants of health within dental workforce training. Other research spearheaded by her also delved into understanding the feasibility of integrating mental health screenings in dental settings, funded by the Eleanor and Miles Shore Faculty Development Award. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator of the 100 Million Mouths Campaign, a national program aiming to enhance the primary care

workforce's oral health knowledge, skills, and competencies. Further solidifying her position in the field, she has also led several studies under the Harvard School of Dental Medicine Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine. These multifaceted roles and their corresponding responsibilities have reinforced her expertise in medical-dental integration, spanning from training and clinical practice to comprehensive policy reform. Dr. Ticku graduated with an MPH in health policy from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and also holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from J.S.S Dental College and Hospital, Mysore, India.



**Eric P. Tranby, PhD**  
CareQuest Institute

Currently, Tranby holds the position of Director of Analytics & Data Insights at the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. Eric leads a team of analytics and data warehousing professionals and oversees research, development, and implementation of data systems to improve organizational performance. Prior to their current role, Tranby worked as a Manager, Data and Impact at the same institute, where they supervised a team and was responsible for overseeing business intelligence activities and measurement projects. Eric also led cloud data migration and modernization efforts for increased efficiency and reduced costs. Throughout their career, Tranby has demonstrated expertise in data analytics, statistical analysis, research, and teaching.

Eric Tranby's education history includes a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Carleton College, which they obtained between 1999 and 2002. Eric then pursued a Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Minnesota from 2002 to 2005. Continuing their studies at the University of Minnesota, Eric completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sociology between 2005 and 2010.



**Marko Vujicic, PhD**  
American Dental Association

Dr. Marko Vujicic is Chief Economist and Vice President, Health Policy Institute at the American Dental Association where he is responsible for overseeing all of the Association's policy research activities. Prior to joining the American Dental Association, he was Senior Economist with The World Bank in Washington D.C. where he directed the global health workforce policy program. He was also a Health Economist with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Vujicic obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor's degree in Business from McGill University in Montreal.



**Brett Weber**  
Community Catalyst

Brett Weber is the Senior State Advocacy Manager for Community Catalyst, where he provides technical assistance to community based groups on oral health policy issues, including dental therapy. Prior to joining CC, Brett worked at the National Indian Health Board, where he led the Tribal Oral Health Initiative for eight years. During his time at NIHB, Brett also worked on environmental health, diabetes, tobacco addiction, opioids, and related issues. Brett has experience working on Capitol Hill, completing a fellowship with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs under then Vice Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT). Brett has an MPA and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) and lives in Washington, DC.



**Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, DDS, PhD**  
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health

Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque is the deputy director of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health. An accomplished clinician, researcher, and leader, Dr. Webster-Cyriaque had previously served as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina (UNC) schools of dentistry and medicine for more than two decades.

As a tenured full professor at UNC, Dr. Webster-Cyriaque also served as the attending on clinical service at the UNC Hospital's dental clinic. While there, she led research into a potential etiologic agent for salivary gland disease in patients living with HIV, assessed the oral microbiome and its implications for cancer-causing viruses, and studied the impact of the oral microbiome and oral health on HIV outcomes.

In addition to her research, Dr. Webster-Cyriaque has held leadership roles as the chair/vice chair of the Oral HIV/AIDS Research Alliance, as research director at the National Dental Association Foundation, as director of postdoctoral CTSA training, along with multiple roles within the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the International Association for Dental Research. Since 2004, she has led the UNC Malawi project and provided assistance in founding Malawi's first dental school in 2019.

Dr. Webster-Cyriaque earned her Ph.D. in microbiology/immunology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1998, her D.D.S. from SUNY Buffalo in 1992, and her B.A. in biology and interdisciplinary social science from SUNY Buffalo in 1988.