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Mar 20th, 8:00 AM

## Speaker Biographies: 2020 Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Community Engagement and Research Symposium

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**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Friday, March 20, 2020; 8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Albert Sherman Center  
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

## **Presenter Biographies**

### **Keynote**

#### **Community Research to Address the Opioid Crisis**

**Dr. Peter Friedmann MD, MPH, DFASAM, FACP**

*Lecture Hall/Albert Sherman Center Auditorium (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) AS2.2102*

**Peter D. Friedmann, MD, MPH, DFASAM, FACP**, Chief Research Officer and Endowed Chair for Clinical Research at Baystate Health, Associate Dean for Research, and Professor of Medicine & Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS, is an addiction medicine physician and researcher. Dr. Friedmann began a two-year term as President of the Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine (MASAM) on May 17, 2019. He is a primary care internist, addiction medicine clinician, & established substance abuse researcher who has published over 160 peer-reviewed articles on the organization of treatment services, treatment process & outcomes, implementation of evidence-based practices for substance use disorders (SUDs) in medical, specialty addiction and correctional settings and the role of the physicians in the care of patients with SUDs. He has had continuous funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and Department of Veterans Affairs since 1996, and was a Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar. He is past president of the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA), and former director on the American Board of Addiction Medicine.

### **Session 1A**

A criminal justice-engaged research collaborative: Findings and lessons learned from Western Massachusetts  
*(Medical School, Amphitheater II, S6-102)*

**Liz Evans, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor at UMass Amherst. Dr. Evans is a public health scientist, with training and expertise in leading research on how to better promote health and wellness among vulnerable and underserved populations, particularly for individuals at risk for opioid and other substance use disorders. Dr. Evans' research career began in 1999 at UCLA where she directed a portfolio of more than 30 federally funded addiction research studies and evaluation projects. Much of her research has originated from longitudinal study designs. Dr. Evans also creates knowledge via secondary analysis of nationally representative epidemiologic data and mining of linked administrative "big data." In Fall 2017, Dr. Evans joined the tenure track faculty at the UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences, where she developed several projects as PI or Co-I to address the opioid epidemic. These efforts resulted in grants awarded by federal, foundation, and state sources

totaling \$12.2 million. As one of the PIs of the NIDA-funded MassJCOIN Research Hub, over the next five years she will work with partners to assess the impact and effectiveness of efforts to expand capacity to address opioid use disorders among individuals involved with the criminal justice system.

**Ed Hayes** is the Assistant Superintendent at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), located in rural Western Massachusetts and has served for seven years as the Director of Treatment. During his tenure as Treatment Director, FCSO he has been recognized nationally as a demonstration site by SAMHSA for its work with co-occurring clients and by the National Reentry Resource Center for its work collaborating with community partners to case management shared clients. The FCSO treatment program was the first in Massachusetts and one of the first in the nation to offer a comprehensive treatment approach for incarcerated clients living with opioid use disorder by becoming a fully licensed Opioid Treatment Program.

**Melinda Cady, M.Ed.; LADC-1** is the ADS, director of treatment, programs and reentry as well as the director of the medically assisted treatment program with the Hampshire Sheriff's Office located in Northampton Massachusetts. Ms. Cady's 28 year career in corrections includes work in classification at the state level, actively participating in treatment and program development with a focus on substance use and criminal thinking at the county level; the opening of the Women In Transition pre-release center in Salisbury with the Essex Sheriff's office in 2000. Since 2004, with The Hampshire Sheriff's Office, developed a multidisciplinary interagency agency reentry roundtable in 2005 as well as a monthly client substance use, overdose education, naran training and distribution workshop for transitioning offenders in 2014. Ms. Cady is an executive board member of The Hampshire HOPE coalition as well as a project manager for the Hampshire Sheriff's Office with the DPH/HOC Cares Act group addressing opioid use and supporting medically assisted treatment. The Hampshire Sheriff's Office has been actively working with the Franklin Sheriff's Office since 2018 as part of the SAMHSA grant secured by the FCSO introducing and incorporating buprenorphine and methadone as medical treatment for opioid using offenders.

## **Session 1B**

*'Nuestras historias nos hacen más fuertes': Latinx Youth Experiences and Community-Based Learning in Worcester*

*(Medical School, Amphitheater I, S2-102)*

**Carmen Ocón** is an Associate Professor of Practice at Clark University's Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice. She holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Ocón's current clinical work is focused on teacher candidates working with Clark University and Worcester Public Schools Collaborative at the elementary school level. Her research interests include educational policy, critical literacy, and sociocultural representations inside urban classrooms.

**Francisco Vivoni** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Worcester State University. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and teaches a wide range of topics including courses focused on urban dynamics and Latinx experiences. His research interests center on struggles over public space and the social practice of skateboarding as an embodiment of the right to the city.

## Session 1C

Developing a Strategic Plan for Community Based Research in Springfield

*(Albert Sherman Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Lecture Hall/Auditorium, AS2-2102)*

**Paul Pirraglia, MD, MPH**, is the Chief of the Division of General Medicine and Community Health at Baystate Medical Center. He attended Johns Hopkins University as an undergraduate, graduated from Cornell University Medical College with Honors in research, did his residency training at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University, and earned an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. Prior to joining Baystate in September 2019, Dr. Pirraglia was at the Providence VA Medical Center/Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He received a VA research career development award in 2005, and his research focused on the overlap of medical conditions and mental health. He was the Chief of Primary Care at the Providence VA Medical Center for the 8 years prior to coming to Baystate. He was the New England Regional President of the Society of General Medicine in 2010. He is currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

**Andrew Balder, MD**, is Medical Director, Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center, a primary care and education center. He is a graduate of Amherst College (BA), the University North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine (MD) and did a dual residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester. He served 10 years as a Medical Director for the Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, at the time a Medicaid MCO operating in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Dr. Balder serves also as Chief Medical Officer for the City of Springfield Health Services for the Homeless, a federally qualified health center operating in the 3 counties of the Pioneer Valley. He chairs Project Baby Springfield a community health effort aimed at reducing inequities in pregnancy outcomes and infant mortality. He is the past recipient of the Springfield Public Health luminary award as well as the Massachusetts Public Health Association Physician in Public Health award. He serves on the board of directors of Holyoke, Chicopee Springfield Head Start and Home City Development. His academic appointment is Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts School of Medicine.

**Jessica Collins, MA**, has over twenty years of experience in domestic and international community health leading communities to create and sustain programmatic, policy and infrastructure change that supports quality of life. Ms. Collins is the Executive Director of the Public Health Institute of Western MA which does research assessment, evaluation and convening of initiatives that address public health issues that stem from unjust systems and policies. Ms. Collins also serves as the Co-Director of the BeHealthy Partnership, the ACO made up of Health New England, Baystate Health and Caring Health Center. Before moving to Western MA, Ms. Collins led the nationally recognized childhood obesity prevention efforts "Shape Up Somerville: Eat Smart. Play Hard." She currently serves as a Board of Director of the Massachusetts Public Health Association (Immediate Past President) and Human Service Forum. She was elected to the South Hadley Board of Health in 2018. Ms. Collins has a Master's Degree in Applied Nutrition and Food Policy from Tufts University and is a graduate of Wellesley College.

**Cristina Huebner Torres, PhD, MA**, *Caring Health Center, Vice President-Research and Population Health (RPH)*, is a community-based social epidemiologist and healthcare leader whose research and public health practice aims to inform sustainable interventions and policy to eliminate health disparities among low-income, ethnically diverse community health center patients. She has expertise in mixed-method community-responsive research focused on the social determinants of chronic disease prevention and management. She is currently leading a research project that links Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) screening data, including self-reported stress and community health worker assignment, with clinical and claims data from five community health centers to examine the relationship and etiology of SDoH, disease control, hospital utilization and cost. Dr. Huebner Torres holds several leadership roles in the Medicaid BeHealthy Partnership (BHP) Accountable Care Organization (ACO). She is an Adjunct Fellow with the Institute for Healthcare Delivery and Population Science (IHDP) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School-Baystate (UMMS-B) and an Affiliated Researcher with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS) Center for Community Health

Equity Research (CCHER). Dr. Huebner Torres is the incoming Board Chair of Public Health Institute of Western MA and policy council member of the Massachusetts Public Health Association.

**Thomas Lincoln, MD**, is a primary care physician at the Baystate Brightwood Community Health Center in Springfield, MA and the Medical Director of the Hampden County Correctional Center and the Corrections & Community Health Program, and Associate Professor in the UMMS Baystate Department of Medicine. His activities have focused on integrating community and correctional health care, substance use disorders, HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted diseases.

**Frank Robinson, PhD**, *Vice President, Public Health, Baystate Health*, has over 45 years of public and nonprofit experiences in building healthy communities. He led many “collective action” initiatives aimed at eliminating health disparities and restoring health equity. For the past five years, Dr. Robinson has served as Vice President of Public Health at Baystate Health. In this role, he architects social impact investment strategies and administers outcome-based programs which address social determinants of health. In his prior position, as the founding Executive Director of Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc. (PHC), he transitioned PHC into the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, a leader in local, regional, and state-wide public health efforts. Dr. Robinson is well-known for his work in breaking down siloed approaches to solving community problems, replacing them with multisector coalition-styled actions. His trademark comment – “People support what they help to create” – starts off community building. There are several exemplars of this community-led approach (1) “Safe Schools Healthy Students” program, a communitywide approach to creating safe and drug-free schools and promoting healthy childhood development; (2) “Strengthening Families Program,” a best practice approach for the Safe Schools Initiative that developed violence prevention interventions in-school children and adolescents; (3) “Building Exemplary Systems for Training Adult Youth Workers,” a community youth development initiative; and (4) “Community Health Advocate Program,” a forerunner of today’s practices that use community health workers as a bridge between health care organizations, community resources and vulnerable populations.

**Daniel Skiest, MD, FACP, FIDSA**, is Vice-Chair for Academic Affairs, Department of Medicine and Professor of Medicine at University of Massachusetts Medical School—Baystate. Prior to that he served as Chief of Infectious Diseases at Baystate from 2009-2017. He is the director of HIV programs for Baystate Health and the local Principal Investigator for the New England AIDS Education Center for western Massachusetts. He initiated and directs the Baystate Infectious Diseases clinical trials unit, which has enrolled over 300 patients into clinical research studies. He has > 25 years of experience with all aspects of HIV clinical care. He has over 100 publications and book chapters and is a reviewer for numerous medical journals and has served on the editorial board of HIV and AIDS Reviews, Contagion and Frontiers in Public Health. Prior to coming to Baystate in 2005, Dr. Skiest was Associate Chief for Clinical Infectious Diseases, ID fellowship Director, Chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and Investigator for the Dallas AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

**Kathleen Szegda, PhD, MPH, MS**, is the Director of Community Research and Evaluation at the Public Health Institute of Western MA. Dr. Szegda has over 20 years of public health/research experience working at the national, state and local level at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University, Baystate Children’s Hospital, and University of Massachusetts. Dr. Szegda holds a Ph.D. in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Massachusetts, an M.P.H. from Emory University, and an M.S. in Counseling from Georgia State University. She is co-PI for a community-based participatory research project funded through Robert Wood Johnson’s Policies to Action program focused on understanding the impact of Complete Streets policy on health through an equity lens. Dr. Szegda co-led the development of Project ACCCES (A Collaboration to Develop Capacity to Conduct Community Engaged Research in Springfield), a PCORI funded project aimed at building community-based research partnerships in Springfield that foster health equity. Her research interests are in maternal and child health, mental health, and health disparities. She is also interested in research aimed

at identifying effective community-level systems, policy and environmental changes to improve health equity, which is informed by her experience working to promote policy and systems change at the national level at the U.S. CDC's Office of Genomics and at a local level as the Director of the Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition. Dr. Szegda is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UMass Medical School-Baystate, a fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Delivery and Population Science at UMass Medical School-Baystate, and an adjunct faculty in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she has taught a health impact assessment class.

## Session 2A

Strategies for reducing adverse outcomes for criminal justice-involved populations  
(*Albert Sherman Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Lecture Hall/Auditorium, AS2-2102*)

**Dyana Nickl, JD** is the Executive Director of the Health and Criminal Justice Program at UMass Medical School. Ms. Nickl provides strategic and tactical leadership for all aspects of the Health & Criminal Justice service line, including planning, policy, operations, performance, and oversight of clinical, academic and research activities. Ms. Nickl is an attorney with over 20 years of experience in the criminal justice and health care risk management fields, the last 12 years of which are in leadership positions within UMass. Ms. Nickl launched her career in correctional health care in 2005 as the Director of Risk Management, responsible for the identification of patient safety, regulatory, and risk management issues, and working with correctional facility site management to develop strategic approaches to assess and mitigate operating risk. She oversaw the Massachusetts Department of Corrections comprehensive health care contract for eight years. She coordinated contractual relationships, managing day-to-day clinical operations and ensuring program compliance in 17 correctional facilities. Throughout her career, she has presented on multiple topics in the area of correctional health risk management, including patient/inmate rights, confidentiality, medical record documentation, and provider communication. Prior to her work with UMass, Ms. Nickl worked in legal and risk management roles with the District Attorney's Office, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and New Hope, Inc., a comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault service provider. Ms. Nickl is an Associate Professor at UMass's Graduate School of Nursing and Medical School.

**Warren J. Ferguson, MD** serves as Professor and Vice Chair for Community Health in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at University of Massachusetts Medical School. His academic career has centered on achieving health equity among vulnerable populations. A career community health center physician, Dr. Ferguson has 30 years of continuity in his current practice at Family Health Center of Worcester, where he served as chief medical officer for 10 years. In 2002, Dr. Ferguson took on a new challenge to assist UMass to develop a comprehensive medical care program for detainees in the state's prisons.

Struck by his steep learning curve to gain understanding of the vexing issues of mass incarceration in the United States, Dr. Ferguson sought to engage academic medicine in the field of criminal justice health. He founded the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, as well as the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health. With funding from NIH and AHRQ, Dr. Ferguson completed an implementation science project on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in four New England prisons and jails, the results of which were recently published in *Health and Justice*. He will be speaking on this project.

Currently, he serves as co-principal investigator for the Capacity Building Core of the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) for the JCOIN Coordinating and Translation Center based in George Mason University and serves as a Co-Investigator for the Baystate/UMass JCOIN hub studying implementation of MOUD in seven Massachusetts County Jail systems.

**Ekaterina Pivovarova, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Pivovarova is the recipient of the UMMS Career Award (KL2) to conduct research investigating drug treatment court participants. Dr. Pivovarova is also a mentee in the Lifespan/Brown Criminal Justice Research Program on Substance Use and Infectious Disease (R25DA037190) and co-Investigator on the MA Justice Community Opioid Initiative Network study examining implementation of medications for opioid use disorder in jails. Dr. Pivovarova's primary research interests are at the intersection of addiction and the criminal justice system, bioethics of research, and assessment of individuals involved with the criminal justice system

**Meaghan Flaherty Dupuis, LMHC**, is a mental health clinician with 12 years of clinical experience within the correctional health care field and she currently works with HCJ as the Senior Director of Operations. She oversees the day-to-day operations and administrative practices for the HCJ program's contracts and oversees operations for the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health (ACCJH) and its Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health. Ms. Dupuis previously worked at DOC in various clinical and administrative roles to ensure that staff were appropriately trained and working ethically with the inmates they served. She has extensive experience in policy development and compliance. A large part of her work with the DOC focused on response and management of traumatic events from a clinical perspective. In addition, she has presented and trained staff on suicide prevention and intervention as well as debriefing after traumatic events. She has been a guest lecturer at several conferences, colleges, and high schools in New England.

## Session 2B

The Effect of Social Connectedness and Isolation on the Health of Men of Color  
*(Medical School, Amphitheater I, S2-102)*

**Dean Robinson, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Robinson examines the effects of political and public policy trends on racial health disparities in the United States. His work focuses on patterns and policies that reinforce inequality of social welfare provision and socioeconomic status. In 2001, Dr. Robinson was awarded a two year fellowship as a W.K. Kellogg Scholar in Health Disparities at Harvard University's School of Public Health to pursue his research.

As a Family Research Scholar, Dr. Robinson sought funding to design a study to gauge the potential impact of state politics and policy on overall infant mortality, and black-white disparities. The working hypothesis is that features of the local political landscape, like state culture or ideology, party control of state government and various demographic characteristics affect state public policies which directly and indirectly affect infant mortality rates.

**Aline Gubrium, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor and Program Head, Community Health Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Gubrium brings extensive experience in innovative research methodologies such as narrative, participatory, visual, and community engagement. Gubrium's research lies at the intersection of ethnography and narrative analysis, combining them in innovative ways to deal with the problem of linking observational data with transcripts of stories, speech, and other narrative and multi-sensory materials. Her research is based in diverse communities, nationally and internationally, including an NIH-funded Photovoice project with Latino/a youth in Springfield, MA focused on parent-child communication about sexuality; a Ford Foundation-funded digital storytelling, sensory ethnography and strategic communications project focused on sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice with young parenting Latinas; and an

NICHD-funded project on using a culture-centered narrative approach for health promotion with nulliparous, pregnant, and/or parenting young Latinas. She currently serves as Co-PI on an R01 funded by the NIMHD, which uses a CBPR approach to evaluate the effectiveness of a narratively enhanced intervention in lowering stress and risk of chronic diseases among men of color.

**Luis Valdez, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor, Community Health Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Valdez's research uses a multilevel perspective and mixed methods approach to understand and address the impact of systemic processes that perpetuate racial/ethnic health disparities in historically marginalized populations. His work addresses inequities in Latinx, im/migrant, indigenous, and farmworker populations. Currently I am interested in understanding how individual level experiences interact with macro-level characteristics and social networks to influence the health-related behaviors of Latinx men. Specifically, his research examines a range of health behaviors related to substance abuse, healthy food choice, and physical activity, with an emphasis on developing and testing culturally-and gender-responsive interventions. An emerging area of my work also incorporates the improvement of health communication and community engagement strategies in research and public health practice with underserved minority communities.