

Exploring Health Care Disparities in Nevada An Interprofessional Symposium Panelists' Bios

Christopher R. Cochran, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Health Care Administration and Policy in the College of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles on access to care for underserved populations and safety net resources including management issues and quality improvement public and private health care organizations. He has examined health care disparities among the seriously mentally ill. He has worked on evaluating the cost efficiency in providing services to low income populations and with emphasis on primary care providers and public hospitals. Dr. Cochran teaches in the areas of the U.S. health care systems, health care policy, epidemiology, and strategic management. He was appointed by Governor Sandoval as a member of the Board of the Public Employees Benefits Program in 2013 and is a current member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Nevada Health Information Management Systems Society. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Cochran worked in the field of substance abuse and mental health services and was the executive director of a large public inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment program from 1987-1992. He witnessed, first hand, the problems faced by the mentally ill in gaining access to services and worked with local hospitals and criminal justice community to create diversion programs to avoid inappropriate incarceration or treatment.

Vani Dandolu, MD, MPH, MBA, is the Chair and Residency Program Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. She is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Female Pelvic medicine and Reconstruction Surgery. She obtained her MPH from Johns Hopkins University and her MBA from Fox School of Business. She received several teaching awards including the CREOG excellence in teaching for resident education three times and the APGO Excellence in Medical Student Teaching award and ACOG mentor of the year award. She has over 60 peer reviewed publications in scientific journals. Her research interests include comparative effectiveness of alternate management strategies in urogynecology, gender disparities in cardiovascular health and relation to sex hormones, biomechanics of pelvic organ prolapse. She has presented her research and clinical expertise at several national and international meetings including the International Continence Society, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Annual, American Urogynecologic Society, Society of Gynecologic Surgeons, Association of Professors in OB/GYN and the Society of Urodynamics Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction.

Christina A. Demopoulos, DDS, MPH, serves as the Nevada State Dental Director and Assistant Professor at UNLV's School of Dental Medicine (SDM). She is board-eligible for the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH). As the State Dental Director, Christina's roles include acting as liaison between the Oral Health Program and professional organizations and providing oral health expertise in the analysis and dissemination of data. As an SDM faculty member, she is a course director for behavioral science courses, supervises in the pre-doctoral pediatric dental clinic and oversees a school-based sealant program in addition to providing service learning experiences for dental students. She received her BS and MPH degrees from UNLV in 1995 and 2010, respectively. She graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) School of Dentistry in 2000 and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, San Antonio (UTHSCSA) School of Dentistry in 2013.

Max Gakh, JD, MPH, is a Scholar in Residence with the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences. His research focuses on the intersection of public health, law, and policy. Max has conducted research on legal authority to address public health issues, public health legal preparedness, and legal mechanisms that incorporate health analysis into non-health sectors. Most recently, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Visiting Attorney with the Partnership for Public Health Law in Washington, DC. Max has also worked as a non-partisan legislative attorney, assisting state legislators with legal research,

analysis, and drafting. He received his AB in Political Science, History, and Legal Studies from Washington University in St. Louis in 2004, his JD from The Ohio State University Mortiz College of Law in 2007, and his MPH from The Johns Hopkins University in 2012.

Deborah Kuhls, MD, FACS FCCM, is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer of the Las Vegas Campus of the University of Nevada School of Medicine. She is Professor of Surgery and Chief, Section of Critical Care, Associate Program Director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship and Medical Director of the Trauma ICU at University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. She received a BA degree from Villanova University, completed a post-baccalaureate, premedical program at the University of Pennsylvania, earned her medical degree from Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel University SOM), completed her surgical residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Fellowship in Trauma Surgery and Surgical Critical Care at the University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. She joined the University of Nevada School of Medicine in 2000 and has completed a surgical education research fellowship as well as the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) fellowship.

Dr. Kuhls has academic leadership experience including Surgery Clerkship Director, Assistant Dean for Medical Education, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer of the Las Vegas campus. Honors include the Nevada Regents Academic Advisory Award, Outstanding Clinical Faculty awards. She is currently the national chair of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Injury Prevention Committee. She is active in the AAMC and Chairs a GRMC Task force to determine regional medical campus impact on physician workforce. Her research interests include medical education, curricular development, medical schools with multiple campuses, injury prevention, disaster management training, clinical nutrition and injury.

Robert D. Langer, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FACPM, FAHA, is Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research and a Professor of Family Medicine – Las Vegas at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and a Research Professor of Allied Health Sciences at UNLV, where he is the Principal Investigator of the Mountain West Clinical Translational Research - Infrastructure Network. He is a physician with specialties in Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine, as well as a chronic disease epidemiologist. Dr. Langer graduated from the University of Illinois School of Medicine - Chicago and continued his education with a residency in Family Medicine at Overlook Hospital, an affiliate of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. After several years in practice during which he developed one of the first commercially successful electronic health records, Dr. Langer completed a residency in Preventive Medicine at the University of California at San Diego in 1988, including an MPH in epidemiology, and joined the faculty of the University of California, San Diego, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine where he served for nearly 20 years. At UCSD he built the Research in Diversity and Longevity (RDL) Group, focused on health in minority populations, ethnic/cultural influences on health, and predictors of successful aging. Dr. Langer is a Diplomate of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, and a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention. He has secured more than \$46 million in research funding over the past 25 years and served as the principal investigator on more than 30 national and international clinical trials and observational studies, leading to more than 170 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Langer is an internationally recognized researcher and lecturer in women's health and the prevention of chronic diseases of aging.

Fatma E. Marouf, JD, is an Associate Professor of Law at UNLV's Boyd School of Law and Co-Director of the Immigration Clinic. Professor Marouf has extensive experience representing individuals before the Immigration Courts, Board of Immigration Appeals, and U.S. Courts of Appeal. Her research focuses on asylum and refugee law, including empirical analyses of how the federal appellate courts adjudicate immigration cases. Her most recent article, "Incompetent But Deportable: The Case for a Right to Mental Competence in Removal Proceedings," is forthcoming in the *Hastings Law Journal*. She is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School.

Kate Martin, MD, MPH, FAAFP, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSOM) in Las Vegas. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology at UNLV and performed her medical studies and residency training at UNSOM. She has also completed a faculty development fellowship in Teaching and Learning at Keck School of Medicine of USC and has received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Dr. Martin currently serves as Chairperson of the Years 3 and 4 Curriculum Committee and is the Medical Student Clerkship Director for Family Medicine in Las Vegas at UNSOM. Dr. Martin's educational research interests include clinical reflection and health disparities.

Nancy Nivison Menzel, PhD, RN, is an associate professor of community health nursing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Nursing, where she conducts research on the prevention of work-related injuries. She has a PhD in occupational and environmental health from the University of South Florida, an MS in physiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, an MS in community health nursing from Boston University, an MA in nursing education from Columbia University's Teachers College, and a BSN from Cornell University. She has collaborated with faculty from the UNLV College of Engineering Construction Management Program on an Occupational Safety and Health grant to provide fall prevention training to Southern Nevada construction workers with a focus on reducing disparities in injury incidence and severity among Latinos. This grant built on her earlier qualitative study assessing the factors contributing to disparities.

Mildred Arroyo McClain, PhD, is a tenured Associate Professor in the Clinical Sciences Department at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine. She has authored and/or been the Principal Investigator on 11 research/teaching grants totaling approximately \$2 million and has conducted numerous research studies resulting in over 60 presentations/publications within the dental profession. Dr. McClain currently holds the office of Secretary on the national Hispanic Dental Association Board of Trustees and is the UNLV School of Dental Medicine Hispanic Student Dental Association Faculty Advisor, which she founded in 2007. Since 2002, Dr. McClain has been an active member of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and received the 2008 American Dental Education Association "Excellence in Teaching Award" for scholarship and innovation in dental education. She is the ADEA Women's Liaison Officer for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine and is a past ADEA Enid Neidle Fellow. Dr. McClain has held numerous leadership roles within the American Dental Education Association and is currently the ADEA Minority Affairs Section Councilor. Dr. McClain has devoted much of her professional career to equity and diversity issues and remains devoted to minority health issues and the development of minority professional health providers.

Melissa Piasecki, MD, is a Professor of Psychiatry and Senior Associate Dean of the Office of Academic Affairs at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Her specialty is forensic psychiatry. She earned her bachelor's degree and her M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She completed her psychiatry residency at the University of Vermont and her forensic psychiatry fellowship at the University of Hawaii. She teaches psychiatry, the neuroscience of addiction, and forensic psychiatry to medical students, medical residents, and legal professionals. Dr. Piasecki has instructed at the National Judicial College since 2005 and participated in an educational series on Best Practices in Capital Cases throughout the United States. She is also active as a forensic psychiatrist in civil and criminal litigation. She is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

Jennifer Pharr, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Community Health Sciences' Environmental and Occupational Health Department. Her research interests include: the intersection of sport, physical activity and health; barriers in the built environment that impede healthy behaviors such as participation in preventative care and physical activity; the use of social marketing to promote health and disparities in healthcare/health service utilization of vulnerable populations. She is active in Southern Nevada Strong, a project funded by a 3.5 million dollar HUD

grant to plan a sustainable community in Southern Nevada. She also serves as a board member on the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities.

Peter Reed, PhD, MPH, serves as Director of the University of Nevada, Reno Sanford Center for Aging and as Professor in the UNR School of Community Health Sciences. In this role, he leads the Center in fulfilling its mission of enhancing quality of life for older adults through translational research, education and community outreach. Previously, Peter served as CEO of the Pioneer Network, President and CEO of the Center for Health Improvement, Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of California at Davis, and Senior Director of Programs for the Alzheimer's Association National Office. Throughout his career, Peter has worked at the intersection of research, practice and policy to promote quality of life and well-being for elders, particularly those with Alzheimer's and dementia. Peter received his PhD and MPH from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his BS in Sociology from the University of Kentucky.

Marya Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES, is the Director of Health Programs at the Lincy Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She joined The Lincy Institute in September 2012 as its Director of Health Programs. During 2009–2010 she completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the Center of Health Disparities Research within the School of Community Health Sciences at UNLV. She completed her doctorate from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in 2008 in Public Health, Health Promotion, Education and Behavior and received her BA from Hampton University in biology with a molecular emphasis. Additionally she has attained a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of South Carolina. Prior to returning to graduate school Shegog was a research scientist for several federal and corporate entities and a community activist establishing a unique after-school program for children and young adults residing in urban environments. Her teaching and research interest focus on effectively identifying and addressing health disparities in order to eradicate them.

Stacey Tovino, JD, PhD, is the Lincy Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. Her areas of teaching and research include health law, bioethics, the medical humanities, and tort law. Educated as both a lawyer and a humanist, Professor Tovino publishes her interdisciplinary work in textbooks, casebooks, edited readers, law reviews, medical and science journals, and ethics and humanities journals. Recent publications include articles in the *Tulane Law Review*, *University of Richmond Law Review*, *Houston Law Review*, *Kentucky Law Journal*, *Florida State University Law Review*, *Penn State Law Review*, *Santa Clara Law Review*, *Harvard Journal on Legislation*, and *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*. Professor Tovino was named the Student Bar Association Faculty Member of the Year for the last three academic years. Prior to joining the faculty at Boyd School of Law, Professor Tovino served as Director of the Health Law and Policy Center and Associate Professor of Law at Drake University Law School (2008-10); Assistant Professor of Law at Hamline University School of Law (2006-08); Visiting Assistant Professor, Research Professor, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Law Center (2003-06); and attorney in the Health Industries Group of the Houston office of the international law firm Vinson & Elkins (1997-2003). During her practice, Professor Tovino represented physicians, scientists, allied health professionals, general and special hospitals, academic medical centers, organ procurement organizations, blood banks, AIDS clinics, and nonprofit health care organizations in civil and regulatory matters. Stacey received her BA in Economics from Newcomb College of Tulane University in 1994, her JD from the University of Houston Law Center in 1997, and her PhD in Medical Humanities from the University of Texas Medical Branch in 2006.