



Reproductive Health and the Environment in Los Angeles County Communities, Science, and Policy

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**The California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities
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Speaker Biographies

Teni Adewumi, M.S.

Teni Adewumi is an MS student in Industrial Hygiene at the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. Previously, she has worked on the development of environmental health and safety training programs for a fortune 500 company focusing on overall worker health and safety. Teni's research interests include indoor air quality assessment and monitoring, hazardous waste disposal methods, and applying industrial hygiene to under-served worker communities. She received both the Southern California American Industrial Hygiene Association outstanding student award and the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation scholarship award in 2014 to continue her graduate studies. Teni completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health Sciences at California State University, San Bernardino. Currently Teni works for a non-profit organization called Black Women for Wellness as their Environmental Justice Research Intern focusing on all occupational health and safety exposures of Black hair care professionals.

Efren Aguilar

Efren Aguilar, the GIS Unit Chief of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities, has over 25 years experience serving his community through national, statewide and local non-profit organizations. His professional experience runs a broad range of social service issues including, social justice, homelessness, supporting displaced political refugees, domestic violence, education, public health and child development. His recent professional experiences include working as a Senior Research Analyst for Healthy City and working as a Program Officer for First 5 LA in their planning and development department. In these positions, he has been pioneering changes in planning and evaluation practices that emphasize the critical impact that place/neighborhood conditions have on individual and community health utilizing cutting edge GIS and web-based technologies. Mr. Aguilar's previous work experience includes consulting for The LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investments, The California Endowment, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, and serving as staff with the Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women, The American Cancer Society and the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law.

Kathryn Alcantar, MPH, MPA

Kathryn serves as the California Policy Director for the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) and as the Director for Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy (CHANGE) -- a coalition of 35 diverse organizations working to create a better system for regulating toxic chemicals for the protection of workers, children, public health, the environment, and the economy. Kathryn has 15 years of experience working at the intersection of environment, health, and social justice in the private, government, and non-profit sectors. She joined CEH after two years of consulting for the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors while completing her joint Master's in Public Health and Public Administration in Environmental Health Science and Policy at Columbia University. Kathryn completed a two-year fellowship at the San Francisco Foundation where she managed the Environmental Health and Justice Initiative and supported their \$2 million annual environmental grant-making portfolio. As part of her work with Latino Issues Forum, the Greenlining Institute, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice, she has experience in policy and advocacy at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. The central goal of Kathryn's work is to build power in low-income communities of color to engage in policy development that transforms their health, environment and economic opportunities. She is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program and has a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from U.C. Berkeley.

Angela Alvares

Angela Alvares was born and raised in Guatemala. She is a teacher with a speciality in teaching kindergarten, and she is also a certified Community Health Promoter, a credential program provided by Esperanza Community Housing. She has been working with The Worker's Health Project and Household Workers as a Lead Organizer at Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA). Since 2006, she brings an extensive background in organizing day laborers and Household Workers in Los Angeles. As an immigrant, she knows of the daily struggles immigrants face and has dedicated herself to achieving social justice for immigrant families. She has been part of the coalition that fought for the passage of bill AB241 that provides overtime protection for domestic workers. She is currently involved in the developing of the Right to Know campaign to make changes to the existing laws that regulate how the information about chemicals is disclosed.

Martha Dina Arguello, Ph.D.

Martha has spent 35 years in working on social justice and health issues. From her early experience as a youth organizer, coordinating one of the first gang truces in Los Angeles, to her current work as Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA), she has remained committed to promoting healthy and engaged communities through organizing, media and policy advocacy. Martha is a major leader in California's environmental health movement – a movement. She works on a wide range of local state and national policy issues related to, air quality, climate change, and toxic chemicals. Martha organized the first Precautionary Principle Conference in Los Angeles in 2001 and helped craft the precautionary and cumulative impacts language for Cal EPA environmental Justice Guidelines. Under her leadership PSR-LA has been a leader in passing legislation to protect human health and the environment including a ban on BPA in baby products, changing the California flammability standard that is driving the use of toxic flame-retardants and numerous other environmental health bills over the last 15 years. She is one of the founders and current chair of the steering committee for Californians for a Green and Healthy Economy and Chair of the steering committee for Californians for Pesticide Reform.

Linda Delp

Linda Delp is Director of the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (UCLA-LOSH) which is dedicated to improving workplace health and safety conditions through outreach, education, research and policy initiatives. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field partnering with labor, community, environmental justice and employer groups to engage workers and build OSH capacity. She has an MPH and PhD in Community Health Sciences and is adjunct faculty in the School of Public Health. Her research and teaching is focused on the social determinants of worker health and health equity and the impact of precarious employment, especially among immigrant and women workers. She participates on numerous academic, government and community Advisory Committees, has served as Chair of the OSH section of APHA, the American Public Health Association, and is the recipient of an award from the APHA.

Ellen Eidem M.S.

A longtime proponent of women's health, Ms. Eidem serves as the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Women's Health (OWH). The OWH works at the individual, community, and systems level to decrease health disparities and improve the health status of women in LA County through education, advocacy, program planning and promotion, data analysis and reporting, facilitating and building collaborations, policy recommendations, and increasing access to services for low income and underserved women. She is responsible for the Women's Health Policy Council, the advisory body to the OWH. Previously, Ms. Eidem served as the Director of Programs and Administration for the Los Angeles Free Clinic (dba: The Saban Community Clinic) and as the Director of Quality Improvement for the California and Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Councils, (dba: California Family Health Council), and an administrator and instructor at Planned Parenthood Alameda/San Francisco and the Berkeley Women's Health Collective.

Nancy Ibrahim, MPH

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, MPH, has led Esperanza Community Housing Corporation as the Executive Director since November 2006. She joined Esperanza in 1995 as the founding Director of Health Programs and designed Esperanza's model Community Health Promoters Program, which has graduated 522 bilingual Community Health Promoters/Promotores de Salud over the past nineteen years. As Executive Director, she leads a staff of 30, addressing five major program areas: Affordable Housing, Health, Environmental Justice, Economic Development, and Art and Culture. Ms. Ibrahim's efforts have been central to pioneering environmental health strategies in the region, and to advancing the reputation of Mercado La Paloma, Esperanza's economic development venue, as a cultural and culinary hub. Esperanza's Community Health Promoters programs have engendered pioneering community health initiatives such as the South Los Angeles Healthy Homes Project, Better Neighborhood/Same Neighbors, the People Not Pozos campaign that struggles against oil and gas extraction activities in residential neighborhoods, and the South Los Angeles Health and Human Rights Coalition. In 2011, Ms. Ibrahim was awarded a Durfee Foundation Sabbatical. In May 2006, she received the "Helen Rodriguez-Trias Award for Excellence in Community-Based Women's Health Leadership" from the California State Office of Women's Health. Since 2005, Ibrahim has been a founding Board Member of T.R.U.S.T South LA. In 2003, Ms. Ibrahim was welcomed into the UCLA School of Public Health's Alumni Hall of Fame, recognizing "outstanding accomplishments in community-based health programs, including community health education and training." Ms. Ibrahim received her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA, and has worked as a social justice activist in the field of women's health and development for the past thirty years.

Veronica Padilla, MA

Veronica joined Pacoima Beautiful as Deputy Director in April 2010 and became the Executive Director in July 2013. Veronica graduated from UCLA with a BA in Geography/Environmental Studies in 2003 and in 2006 received a MA in Urban Planning from UCLA. Her experience includes private sector and non-profit work including environmental consulting, GIS mapping, and government sector work for the Los Angeles Housing Department. She is also a Los Angeles Commissioner for the North Valley Area Planning Commission. As an Urban Planner by trade, Veronica works to develop a community of leaders. Her goal is to improve the welfare of people by creating equitable, healthy, and safer communities now and for the future.

Thelmy Perez

Thelmy Perez coordinates the LA Human Right to Housing Collective, a City-wide coalition of housing rights organizations and tenant led neighborhood committees dedicated to preserving and improving tenants' rights and housing for low income Angelenos. She is responsible for sustaining and developing the Collective's infrastructure and implementing strategies decided upon by the Collective's leadership. Most recently, the Collective's City-wide Public Housing Committee secured a 3.3 million dollar settlement with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles through a class action lawsuit that both lowered rents for approximately 6,500 families and will refund money directly to those families as well. A community organizer in Los Angeles since 2006, Thelmy has helped hundreds of low income tenants understand their rights, preserve their housing and join the struggle for the human right to housing in Los Angeles. Thelmy holds a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles. She loves to travel, and has been an advocate for human rights in El Salvador previous to her community organizing work in Los Angeles. She is also fluent in Spanish and freelances as an interpreter/translator.

Kathryn Phillips, MA

Kathryn Phillips leads lobbying and regulatory advocacy and overall administration of Sierra Club California. She began this role in August 2011. She previously directed transportation and air pollution work in California for Environmental Defense Fund, where she worked on regional, state and federal policy, and also gained experience in agriculture policy and water policy. Before joining EDF, she was a senior policy advisor at the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies where she focused on air quality and transportation issues. Kathryn has been based in Sacramento since 2001. Kathryn holds a B.A in history from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a Master of Public Policy degree, with a dual focus on natural resources and transportation, from the University of California, Los Angeles. A former journalist, she is the author of two books about environmental issues.

Janet Pregler, M.D.

Janet P. Pregler, M.D. is Professor of Clinical Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is the director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center, which promotes comprehensive women's healthcare through model clinical care, research, professional education, and community partnerships. She is also director of the UCLA National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, established by a contract awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health in 1997. Dr. Pregler is co-editor of the textbook "Women's Health: Principles and Clinical Practice". She has developed educational programs on women's health for the American College of Physicians, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health.

Cyrus Rangan, MD, FAAP, FACMT

Cyrus Rangan MD, FAAP, ACMT, graduated from Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1995. Dr. Rangan is Director of the Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He investigates community reports of environmentally related illnesses or disease clusters and provides expert consultation and education to hospitals and other impacted professionals about medical issues in toxicology, HazMat, epidemiology and environmental health. Dr. Rangan serves as Director of the Los Angeles Area Medical Toxicology Education Program for the California Poison Control System. He provides lectures and media support for hospitals, healthcare groups, health agencies and schools. Dr. Rangan is also an attending physician and consulting Toxicologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, providing bedside consultations and clinical education.

Beate Ritz, MD, Ph.D.

Beate Ritz joined the faculty of the School of Public Health at UCLA in 1995 and is currently Professor and Chair of the Epidemiology Department and holds co-appointments in the Environmental Health department at the UCLA School of Public Health and in Neurology, UCLA School of Medicine. She is a member of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH), the Southern California Environmental Health Science Center (SCEHSC), and previously co-directed the NIEHS-funded UCLA Center for Gene-Environment Studies of Parkinson's disease. Dr. Ritz received her MD from the University of Hamburg Germany in 1983 and a PhD degree in Epidemiology in 1995 from UCLA. Her research addresses occupational and environmental toxins such as pesticides, ionizing radiation, and air pollution on chronic diseases with a focus on neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental disorders, cancers, adverse birth outcomes and autism. She has developed geographic information system (GIS) based exposure assessment tools to study health effects of air pollution and of long-term pesticide exposures. She is a Collegium Ramazzini Fellow, served on multiple IOM committees evaluating Gulf War Illness, the U.S. EPA CASAC panel (Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards) and the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants for the state of California.

Janette Robinson-Flint

Janette Robinson Flint is a founding member and currently serves as the executive director for Black Women for Wellness in Los Angeles. Jan is recognized for her commitment to Black women's and girls' health issues and for her skill at collaborating across cultures and communities to champion common issues. She builds consensus by engaging peoples' heads and hearts before moving forward to tackle the issue at hand. Janette participates in a number of local, statewide and national coalitions and partnerships including: California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, a coalition working to ensure access to reproductive health services for women & girls: Having Our Say, coalition of advocates and people of color organizations working to implement health care reform throughout California; and the Reproductive Justice Coalition of Los Angeles.

Margaret Lynn Yonekura, M.D.

Dr. Yonekura received her BA from Pomona College and her MD from USC School of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at LA County/USC Medical Center and a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at George Washington University Medical Center. She was on the Ob/Gyn faculty at LAC+USC medical Center from 1980-86 and Chief of the division of Obstetrics/Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center from 1986-1992. She is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical OB/GYN at UCLA School of Medicine and USC School of Medicine. Dr. Yonekura is also the Director of Community Benefits at California Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles and Executive Director of Los Angeles Best Babies Network and Options for Recovery: Harbor/South Bay. She is a member of the Women's Health Policy Council of L.A. County's Office of Women's Health, LA County Preconception Health Collaborative, LA County Prenatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium Advisory Committee, L.A. County Substance Abuse Access Project Steering Committee, LA County Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Project Steering Committee, YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program Community Advisory Board, and Preconception Health Council of CA. Dr. Yonekura also serves on the Board of Trustees of Pomona College and the Good Hope Medical Foundation.