

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Conference – Speaker Biographies
December 1, 2016

Amanda De La Cerda is a second year medical student from Sylmar, CA. After graduating from Mount Saint Mary's College in 2006, she began working as middle school science teacher at Olive Vista Middle School in Sylmar, CA. Amanda found that being a leader and role model to kids that were from where she was from, and going through things she could relate to was powerful. This transformative teaching experience further motivated her to continue working with underserved populations. She was dedicated to cultivating an engaging learning environment and worked with students and their families to set realistic goals to ensure student success. During her time as a post-baccalaureate student, she used her skills as an educator in her role as the Co-Director of the Summer Science Institute at San Francisco State University which worked to promote the entry of underrepresented minority students into the health professions by means of academic support, community building and mentorship. While in San Francisco, she worked as a health coach at the Haight-Ashbury medical clinics. Her dedication to adolescents and the underserved population that these clinics served was evidenced by the positive results she saw with patient-led action plans and the lowering of clinical values like A1C levels. Amanda is in the UCLA PRIME program, which is dual degree program focusing on the development of leaders in medicine who will improve the health care delivery, research, and policy in underserved communities. Her experiences have taught her the importance of patience, the value of dignity and necessity of compassion when serving others.

Email: Adlcerda@gmail.com

Angie Magaña, NP is a Board-Certified nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner practicing at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. She earned her master's degree from California State University Fullerton. At the Center, Angie's dual areas of focus are endocrinology and gynecology. In her almost two years at the Center, she has become expert in gender confirming hormone therapy for transgender patients. She has utilized her previous experience with women's health issues to successfully revive the Audre Lorde Health Program. This program addresses the specific needs of Lesbian and Bisexual Women, providing culturally competent care to this vulnerable population. She has followed her calling to be of service to the underserved and is making a positive impact in the community that she calls her own.

Email: Amagana@lalgbtcenter.org

Elizabeth Savage, MBA is Director of the Department of Human Services and Rent Stabilization for the City of West Hollywood. She has worked for the City for more than 18 years. With her background in rent stabilization, affordable housing development, risk management, finance, and administration of social service agency funding, Elizabeth brings strong leadership skills and an extensive knowledge of the community to her position. She leads four divisions: social services, housing and rent stabilization, recreation and events services. Ms. Savage's responsibilities include leading the development of the City's five-year strategic plan for Aging in Place/Aging in Community. Building on what the city already does to serve its community, the goal of this action-oriented plan is to identify needs that should be addressed, and address those needs through innovation, more community connectivity, or other government or non-profit agency help. The strategic plan has a West Hollywood "flavor" in how it includes serving the needs of long-term HIV/AIDS survivors, the Russian community, LGBT folks, and others, in culturally competent ways. Ms. Savage holds an Executive MBA from the Peter F. Drucker School at the Claremont Graduate University, with emphasis in strategy and leadership.

Email: esavage@weho.org



Ellen Eidem, MS is a longtime proponent of women's health who 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.

Email: eeidem@ph.lacounty.gov

Janet P. Pregler, MD 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.

Email: JaPregler@mednet.ucla.edu

Jennifer Chou, MSW is a Clinical Social Worker in the Pediatric Cardiology, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology outpatient clinics at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. She received her MSW from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs in 2015 and completed her 2nd year internship in the Medical ICU at Ronald Reagan UCLA. She plans to obtain her LCSW. She has worked with a variety of patient populations including incarcerated adults diagnosed with personality and mood disorders, and co-occurring substance abuse disorders, and children with autism and behavioral disorders. Her interests include gender-affirming and non-stigmatized health care, queer and trans* youth homelessness, violence against LGBTQ people, queer representation in the media, and religion and sexuality. She has performed various charity benefits and LGBT-organization related events such as the anniversary banquet for Asians and Pacific Islanders for LGBT Equality in LA.

On her free time, she is a singer/song-writer, currently working on a personal music project with the goal of capturing the unique experiences of encompassing many intersectional identities including, but not limited to, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality, religion, and health.

Email: JChou@mednet.ucla.edu



Jenny Jaque, MD is the medical director for LAC-USC Women's Medical Home and the division chief of general obstetrics and gynecology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Dr. Jaque joined the school's faculty after completing her residency training there. She has also co-authored several books, including "1-2-3 Puberty for girls: A guide for parents and their curious daughters" and "Ready-Set-Push!: Your Pregnancy Guide." Dr. Jaque has delivered over 1,800 babies over the course of her career.

Email: JennyJaq@usc.edu

Jewel Thais-Williams, L.Ac., Dipl. Ac, M.S.O.M., opened the famed LGBT disco, Catch One nightclub, in 1973 in South Los Angeles. "The Catch" hosted the likes of Madonna, Sharon Stone, and the "Queen of Disco" Sylvester. Jewel is the founder and executive director of the Village Health Foundation, a nonprofit providing natural healing through culturally competent, complementary alternative medicine in her community. Partly funded through profits from Catch One, this foundation serves patients regardless of their ability to pay. Anyone is welcome, though the clinic makes a point of being open to serving LGBT individuals that might feel less comfortable elsewhere, as well as the clinic's predominantly Asian and Latin American neighbors.

Jewel has also done her fair share of community service having co-founded the Minority AIDS Project and the Imani Unidos Food Pantry in South Los Angeles. She also served as a Board member of the AIDS Project of Los Angeles. In addition, she co-founded Rue's House, the first housing facility for women with AIDS and their children in the United States. In 2012, her contributions to her community earned her the Dream of Los Angeles Award, given by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. She earned a BA in History from UCLA, graduated from Samra University with a Master of Science degree in Oriental Medicine, and received her acupuncture license from the State of California in 1999.

Email: Catchjtw@aol.com

Patricia Robertson, MD is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. She is Co-founder of Lyon-Martin Health Services in 1980, which serves lesbians, bisexual and trans persons in San Francisco, and is Co-founder of Women in Medicine which sponsors an annual conference for lesbian physicians. She was past Co-director of the Lesbian Health and Research Center at UCSF. She is on the Board of the Lesbian Health Fund, which funds pilot projects in lesbian health research. She has published scientific articles, book chapters and a book on lesbian and bisexual women's health, most recently the first textbook in Lesbian Health: Lesbian Health 101 for Clinicians, as well as a chapter on lesbian and bisexual women's health in the internationally known textbook: Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment.

Patricia is on the editorial board of LGBT Health, and was co-editor of their special edition last year on Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health. She also provides obstetrical care for high-risk women at UCSF, and co-directs a pipeline program at UCSF in the summers for under-represented minority pre-med students at the University of California, Berkeley.

Email: Patricia.Robertson@ucsf.edu

Susan M. LaVaccare, MA is a founding member of the Los Angeles County Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Collaborative. She most recently created health care training curricula and trains health care providers and administrators. She is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's Lesbian Health Fund Advisory Committee and a past trustee of the board of Children's Hospital Los Angeles Division of Adolescent Medicine's Champion Fund. Sue developed and managed the Young Women's Health Center at the Division of Adolescent Medicine of Children's Hospital Los Angeles from 2010 to 2013. She conducted research on young women and trained professionals across the nation on best practices to working with young women.

Sue is a member of the Women's Health Data and Adolescent Health Subcommittees of the LA County Office of Women's Health Summit Leadership Task Force and also a past member of the California Health and Human Services Task Force for LGBT Health Services. She also served as the chair of the health care committee of the Lesbian Visibility Committee of the City of West Hollywood. From 2001 to 2007, during her tenure at UCLA Schools of Medicine & Public Health, Sue coordinated nutrition research and taught youth nutrition in LAUSD schools, as well as trained colleagues across the country on best practices for conducting nutrition research & training in public schools. During her tenure at the Division of Adolescent Medicine of the University of Minnesota & Hennepin County Community Health Department (1995 to 2001), Ms. LaVaccare was the Co-Chair of the Twin Cities Women of Color LGBT Health Initiative and helped develop an American Cancer Society Breast Self-Exam Brochure and Video for lesbians. She spent 6 years conducting & managing HIV research, HIV prevention & care services, and training professionals on best practices of working with LGBT clients & patients. From 1992 to 1995, Sue developed and managed primary care services and mental health services for lesbians and bisexual women at Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago.

Ms. LaVaccare is currently a health and wellness consultant based in Los Angeles. Ms. LaVaccare earned her B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Loyola University Chicago. She has specialized training in nutrition, mindfulness, Pilates & yoga.

Email: LaVaccare@gmail.com

Tari Hanneman, MPA is the Director of the Health Equality Project at the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. In that capacity she oversees the annual LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Index and other projects related to LGBTQ health, HIV, and aging. Tari has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector, primarily focused in the areas of health and women's issues. Prior to joining HRC, she served as the initial Director of The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem where she led all aspects of developing The Fund's programs and brand in the community.

Prior to her move to North Carolina, she served in a number of roles at The California Endowment, one of the nation's largest health foundations. She has also worked for elected officials and non-profits focused on the environment, reproductive rights and HIV. She has a Master's in Public Administration with an emphasis on Nonprofit Management from the University of Southern California, where she also did her undergraduate work.

Email: Tari.Hanneman@hrc.org



Valerie Richards, MSW has been a clinical social worker for twenty-six years. She is currently the Manager of Social Services and Housing for seniors at the LA LGBT Center. Originally from the East coast, she graduated from Smith College and received her M.S.W. from the Smith College School for Social Work. She worked for many years with children, adolescents and their families in three settings – schools, foster care and hospital social work. While at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, she worked in the Division of Hematology/Oncology. It was at CHLA that she became interested in helping families cope with the psychosocial aspects of acute and/or chronic illness. She completed a certificate in End-of-Life-Care in 2004. She taught at the USC School of Social Work for five years. There she taught human behavior in the social environment, theories and interventions with children and adolescents, and developed and taught the grief, loss and bereavement course. She has presented on grief and loss and cultural competence both nationally and locally. Since 2009, her clinical focus has been in hospice and providing services to adults. She volunteered at Peace over Violence on the hotline and provided support, accompaniment to survivors of sexual assault. She is committed to providing compassionate and affirming social services to LGBT seniors. Her areas of interest are grief and loss, culturally competent mental health services, mindfulness practice and social justice.

Email: vrichards@lalgbtcenter.org

Vallerie D. Wagner, MS joined AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) in 2006 as the Director of Health and Wellness Programs and became Director of Education in July 2007. She currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of APLA Health & Wellness where she is responsible for day-to-day operations and oversees enabling services, administration, prevention services, education and outreach programs.

Prior to joining APLA, Wagner served as the COO at the Black AIDS Institute, the first Black HIV/AIDS policy center dedicated to reducing HIV/AIDS health disparities by mobilizing Black institutions and individuals in efforts to confront the epidemic in their communities. Prior to joining the Institute, Wagner was the Director of Education and Social Services at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, where she provided management for the Community Outreach and Education Department, Legal Services Department, Youth Services Department, Health Education and Prevention Department and the California AIDS Clearinghouse.

Before entering the world of nonprofit management, Wagner worked as an engineer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory for 15 years on the Voyager and Galileo Projects. Wagner received her B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1981. She received her M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tuskegee Institute in 1983 becoming the first woman to receive a master's degree in engineering from that institution. A strong advocate for the human rights of the LGBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS, she has worked with culturally and linguistically diverse populations both locally, nationally and internationally for over 30 years.

Email: VWagner@apla.org

