

9:00 - 9:15 AM	<p>WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE</p> <p><i>Creating the Utah Workforce that will Tackle Health Inequities</i></p> <p>Ivette Lopez, PhD, MPH   Director, Utah AHEC</p> <p>Oreta Tupola, MSW, CHW</p>
9:15 - 9:45 AM	<p>UTAH AHEC CENTER UPDATES</p> <p>Frederick Henderson, MHA   Director, Northern Utah AHEC</p> <p>Mindy Bateman, BS   Director, Crossroads Utah AHEC</p> <p>Rita Osborn, MBA   Director, Southern Utah AHEC</p>
9:45 - 10:00 AM	
10:00 - 10:45 AM	<p>BREAK</p> <p>ADVANCEMENT IN DISPARITIES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED PRIMARY CARE EDUCATION</p> <p><i>TRUE and Promise2U</i></p> <p>David Sandweiss, MD; Julianna Simonetti, MD; Candace Chow, PhD; Ty Dickerson, MD, MPH</p> <p><i>The Physician Assistant Program at Utah Valley University</i></p> <p>Karen Mulitalo, PA   Program Director and Chair</p> <p><i>Rural and Underserved Utah Training Experience (RUUTE)</i></p> <p>Benjamin Chan, MD   Director</p> <p>DEVELOPING A RESPONSIVE WORKFORCE FOR ALL</p> <p><i>University of Utah School of Nursing and RNS in Primary Care</i></p> <p>Linda Edelman, PhD, MPhil; Larry Garrett, PhD, MPH; Brenda Luther, PhD</p>
10:45 - 11:40 AM	
11:40 - 11:45 AM	<p><i>Burnout Resiliency in the Era of TikTok</i></p> <p>Clifford Uckerman, LCSW</p>
11:45 - 11:55 AM	
11:55 AM - 1:00 PM	<p><i>Workforce Development Data Analysis</i></p> <p>Clark Ruttinger, MBA   Director, Workforce Research at Utah Medical Education Council</p> <p>BREAK</p> <p>PRECEPTOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS</p> <p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <p><i>Priorities for Health in the Post-Covid Era</i></p> <p>Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH   Boston University School of Public Health</p> <p>Introductions by Steven Lacey, PhD   Chief, Division of Public Health, University of Utah</p> <p>Mary Ann Villarreal, PhD   Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Utah</p>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Moderator: Jessie Mandle, MPH   Deputy Director, Voices for Utah Children</p> <p>Panelists: Ivette Lopez, PhD   Director, Utah AHEC</p> <p>José E. Rodríguez, MD   Associate Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Utah</p> <p>Valerie Flattes, PhD, APRN, MS, ANP-BC   School of Nursing, University of Utah</p> <p>Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH   Boston University School of Public Health</p>
2:00 - 2:15 PM	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Yas Simonian, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM, FASAHP   Dean, Dumke College of Health Professions, Weber State University</p>



# UTAH AHEC

**2021 UTAH PRIMARY CARE SUMMIT**

**OCTOBER 29, 2021**

**PROGRAM**



# UTAH AHEC PRIMARY CARE SUMMIT 2021

*October 29, 2021*

WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE <i>Creating the Utah Workforce that will Tackle Health Inequities</i> Ivette Lopez, PhD   Director, Utah AHEC Oreta Tupola, MSW, CHW	9:00 - 9:15 AM
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PRECEPTOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS	11:40 - 11:45 AM
BREAK	11:45 - 11:55 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

11:55 AM - 1:00 PM

*Priorities for Health in the Post-Covid Era*

Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH | Boston University School of Public Health

Introductions by Steven Lacey, PhD | Chief,  
Division of Public Health, University of Utah  
Mary Ann Villarreal, PhD | Vice President,  
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, University of Utah

PANEL DISCUSSION

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Moderator

Jessie Mandle, MPH  
Deputy Director, Voices for Utah Children

Panelists

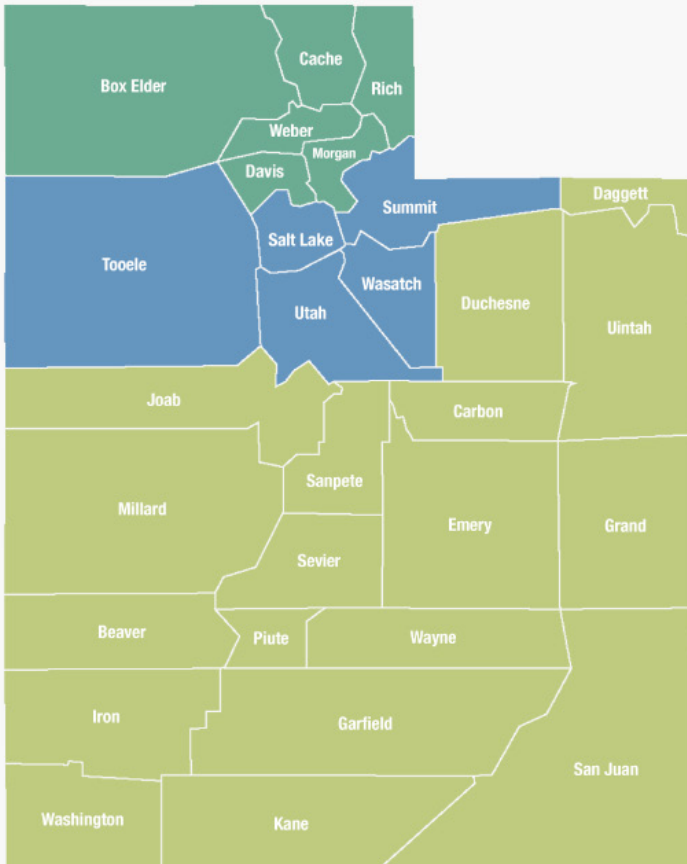
Ivette Lopez, PhD | Director, Utah AHEC  
José E. Rodríguez, MD | Associate Vice President,  
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Utah Health  
Valerie Flattes, PhD, APRN, MS, ANP-BC | School of Nursing,  
University of Utah  
Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH | Boston University  
School of Public Health

CLOSING REMARKS

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Yas Simonian, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM, FASAHP | Dean, Dumke  
of Health Professions, Weber State University





## NORTHERN UTAH AHEC (NUAHEC)

NUAHEC is housed at Weber State University in the Dr. Ezekial R. Dumke College of Health Professionals. NUAHEC serves the following counties: Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Weber, Davis, and Morgan.

[Visit the NUAHEC Website](#)

## CROSSROADS UTAH AHEC (CRAHEC)

CRAHEC is housed at Salt Lake Community College School of Health Sciences. CRAHEC serves the following counties: Tooele, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, and Wasatch.

[Visit the CRAHEC Website](#)

## SOUTHERN UTAH AHEC (SUAHEC)

SUAHEC is housed at Southern Utah University. SUAHEC serves the following counties: Juab, Duchesne, Daggett, Uintah, Carbon, Sanpete, Millard, Sevier, Emery, Grand, Beaver, Piute, Wayne, Iron, Garfield, Washington, Kane, and San Juan.

[Visit the SUAHEC Website](#)

## *Director's Message*

I cannot believe that it has already been a year since our last Summit. We were so nervous about doing it online. We also thought we would be face to face this year, and here we are, still online, but less nervous because now we have experience on our side. We have been through so much. We lost approximately 2,000 more Utahns to COVID-19, almost double the deaths since this time last year. Our primary care providers have, with great bravery and resolve, cared for all Utahns. Our state and local health departments have planned and funded directly or through community organizations prevention program efforts for all communities. Federal and state funding has supported the increased engagement of community health workers (CHWs), as they continue to facilitate and ensure the holes and gaps in services are covered, so rural and underserved communities can have better, healthier lives. The UT AHEC, at the State, Northern, Southern and Crossroads offices, seeks to envision, create, collaborate and partner to ensure that all of Utah counts with a reliable health professional workforce that is diverse in disciplines and populations. The presentations today focus on our recent past, present, and to a future that reflects our lessons learned. As we connect



with each other, let us strengthen our resolve to work together, because there is plenty of work to be done. Let us continue to work on the impact of racism in the public's health, as the necessary work to increase diversity and inclusion of backgrounds and points of view, genders, ability differences, available accurate history, ethnicity, race or culture is not nearly done. For this work, we look to you, we are woven into the fabric that we share, and we work toward restoring the strength and integrity of the cloth, with patches and extensions, with more colors and textures, unique and beautiful.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the detailed and passionate work of my dear colleague, Tatiana Allen Webb, without whom this would not be possible. I am in awe of you every day, mi hermanita. We look forward to a great year with the newest addition to our team, Maria Isabel Gomez. Our dedicated Center Directors, Rita, Mindy and Fred. We want to acknowledge our generous sponsors, and to Dr. Galea.

Next year, I hope to greet you in person, and share a warm beverage and some food. Same time, next year.

## *Presenter Bios*

9:00 - 9:15 AM

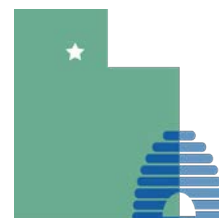
### WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Ivette Amelia López, PhD, MPH** is a Professor of Public Health at University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. She is also the PI/Director of the Utah Area Health Education Centers. Dr. López was born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and came to the United States mainland to pursue an advanced education. She is, and has been for decades, a dedicated professional in pursuit of health equity for Latinos and other disadvantaged populations in the United States. From AIDS (the epidemic that drew her to public health) to diabetes, obesity causal explanations among minority women, to health assessments of Latino populations, her research and service are dedicated to engage minority communities in finding solutions to their health burdens. Her research interests also include mitigating factors that align with health disparities: physical activity, food security, neighborhood, reproductive health, community-based mixed research and pedagogy, cultural humility, health literacy, and racial and ethnic disparities in higher education and health academic faculty/administration.



**Oreta Tupola, MSW, CHW.** I have 4 children 2 Boys and 2 Girls and 2 grandsons. Born and raised in Laie, Hawaii. Moved to Utah 6 years ago to be with my sons who wanted to play football here. My professional/personal background is in Social work/Community Health. I believe that my work is my calling. I believe, breathe and live Community Health! My goal in my life is to promote community voice through raising awareness, education, advocacy and building capacity so that every individual no matter what community they come from recognized their worth and strength in making a difference in the world and that equity and equality for all includes those who are underserved, underrepresented and marginalized. I start with my own home and family and have made it my everyday goal to positively impact the lives of others one action, one day, one individual at a time.



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**Frederick Henderson, MHA:** It is my honor to serve as director of the Northern Utah Area Health Education Center. Working with our fellow Utah AHEC's and Program office has been an amazing collaboration. I believe that my ten years of experience in federal and foundation grant writing and grant management combined with fourteen years of teaching in higher education health sciences courses, and a Master of Health Administration Degree afforded this amazing opportunity. My previous service as the Emergency Services Director for the American Red Cross of Northern Utah provided a deep understanding of our community and the needs of our population. The relationships and knowledge developed through collaborative efforts with multiple state and local governmental agencies, the United Way of Northern Utah, the Salvation Army, Utah Departments of Health, and other church and community safety net organizations should be of value in my current and continued service to our Utah AHEC Program.



**Mindy Bateman, BS** is the Center Director at Crossroads Utah AHEC in Salt Lake City. Mindy Bateman has worked with Utah AHEC for 22 years. She started in the Utah AHEC Program Office in 1998 and moved to Crossroads Utah AHEC in 2009. CRAHEC serves five counties in central Utah including Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, Summit and Wasatch. As the Center Director, she is responsible for providing leadership, program oversight and fiscal management for the center. CRHAEC works to encourage students, at all levels, as they progress on their health career pathway. Ms. Bateman has also worked with the National AHEC Organization (NAO) as she has served in multiple leadership capacities including committee member, committee co-chair, board member, treasurer and president (2018-2019). Mindy Bateman, BS is the Center Director at Crossroads Utah AHEC in Salt Lake City. Mindy Bateman has worked with Utah AHEC for 22 years. She started in the Utah AHEC Program Office in 1998 and moved to Crossroads Utah AHEC in 2009. CRAHEC serves five counties in central Utah including Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, Summit and Wasatch. As the Center Director, she is responsible for providing leadership, program oversight and fiscal management for the center. CRHAEC works to encourage students, at all levels, as they progress on their health career pathway. Ms. Bateman has also worked with the National AHEC Organization (NAO) as she has served in multiple leadership capacities including committee member, committee co-chair, board member, treasurer and president (2018-2019).



**Rita Osborn, MBA** is the Director for the Southern Utah AHEC and the Utah Center for Rural Health. Ms. Osborn founded the highly successful Rural Health Scholars program which has significantly increased acceptances to health profession programs for Southern Utah University, Dixie State University and Snow College. She has also multiple successful grants and contracts to support the Center's programs. Osborn founded the Cedar City Free Clinic that operated in Cedar City and Beaver, UT from 2004 until 2013 until it became a FQHC. Advising students headed for health care graduate programs is truly her passion. "When our rural or disadvantaged students, many first-generation matriculate to graduate school, I know we are helping to change our health care system in some small way." Ms. Osborn is known to be a champion for her students. Ms. Osborn has a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Cal State University, San Bernardino, and she received her M.B.A from SUU in 2002. Her thesis addressed the health care shortages in southern Utah. She also serves on numerous boards and organizations and has received awards such as the Utah Campus Compact's Engaged Scholar in 2007 and the SUU Advisor of the Year in 2007, 2009 and 2012. In 2014, she received the

Achievement in Experiential Learning Award from SUU. She lives in Cedar City, UT with her husband, Earl Mulderink, a university professor, has two adult daughters who live in Park City and she enjoys travel, hiking and cooking.

## ADVANCEMENT IN DISPARITIES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED PRIMARY CARE EDUCATION

10:00 - 10:45 AM



**David Sandweiss, MD** completed college and medical school at UCLA, and, in 1999, Pediatric Residency at University of Washington/Seattle Children's Hospital. He practiced general pediatrics for Navajo Area Indian Health Service for 5 years, and then settled in Salt Lake City, where he has been on faculty in the Dept of Pediatrics with the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Dr. Sandweiss is the Director of Rural and American Indian Outreach for the Dept of Pediatrics Global, Rural, and Underserved Child Health Program, and the Director of the UUSOM Tribal, Rural and Underserved Medical Education Graduate Certificate. Dr. Sandweiss also leads healthcare provider wellness and resiliency retreats, and in 2018 started the Mindfulness in Medicine Program at Intermountain Health Care and Utah Health Sciences.



**Juliana Simonetti, MD** serves as director of Obesity Medicine and co-director of PROMIS2U (Pre-matriculation Readiness for Ongoing Medical Student Success at the U) programs at the University of Utah. She received her medical degree from the University of Utah School of Medicine and completed a residency and fellowship in Boston. She is originally from Brazil and moved to the US at the age of 15 years old. As an immigrant, Dr. Simonetti encountered many obstacles in attaining her medical degree. She has also witnessed inequalities of our health care system as a member of a minoritized community and as a physician working in underserved areas. She feels passionate about diversifying our health care workforce and providing excellent care to all patients.



**Ty Dickerson, MD, MPH** is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Assistant Dean of Global Health Education and Adjunct Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Dr. Dickerson serves as a pediatric hospitalist at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he combines the clinical care of hospitalized children with the education of medical students and resident physicians. Dr. Dickerson's interests include community-based maternal & child health in resource-poor settings and physician workforce development to improve health equity among rural, remote and under-served communities. In addition to teaching clinical pediatrics, Dr. Dickerson directs the Graduate Certificate in Global Medicine and co-directs the UUSOM Ghana Global Public Health Learning Abroad Program. He also serves as the primary lead on a project aiming to increase the number of medical students who choose primary care careers and eventual clinical practice in tribal, rural and medically underserved communities that is jointly funded by the UUSOM and the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



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**Candace Chow, PhD** is Director of Education Research in the Office of Medical Education, Co-Director of the PROMIS2U program, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Candace has been an educator for over 15 years and has worked in both P-12 and higher education settings. Her experiences prior to moving to Utah include teaching high school English in the South Bronx, New York, and Ann Arbor, Michigan and serving as the Interim Assistant Director of and Instructor for Cornell's Intergroup Dialogue Project. Her research explores how practitioners understand their social identities and how these social identities inform their professional identities and practice.



**Karen Mulitalo, PA** is proud native of Utah. She graduated from the University of Utah with a BS and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies. Her clinical and research interests include health disparities in Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander populations and increasing access to healthcare for marginalized populations. She has over 23 years of experience in Physician Assistant Education and currently is the Program Director and Department Chair of the UVU Physician Assistant Studies. Her educational experience includes PA program development at the University of Utah, University of Texas Southwestern, University of Queensland and University of Florida. She currently works clinically providing family medicine services at Maliheh Free Clinic. She loves spending time with family, enjoys remodeling projects, and learning about other cultures.



**Benjamin Chan, MD, MBA, MED** currently serves as the Associate Dean of Admissions, Associate Dean of Idaho Affairs, and Director of our Rural & Underserved Utah Training Experience (RUUTE). He is enthusiastic and passionate about creating innovative experiences and activities for medical students in the states of Utah, Idaho and beyond. He feels fortunate to work with a wonderful team who shares the vision and goal to improve medical education opportunities, health care access, and long-term socio-economic benefit for rural and underserved communities throughout our region. Dr. Chan also teaches at the University of Utah medical school as a small group leader for Clinical Method Curriculum (CMC) and treats youth as an inpatient child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI).

## DEVELOPING A RESPONSIVE WORKFORCE FOR ALL

10:45 - 11:40 AM



**Linda Edelman PhD, MPhil** has experience in both basic science and clinical/nursing research. She received a Masters of Philosophy in Experimental Pathology at the University of Utah in 1993 where she specialized in molecular immunology. She then earned a BSN from the University of Utah College of Nursing in 1995. For the next 17 years she utilized her basic science and nursing backgrounds as the Research Coordinator for the University of Utah Burn Center. During that time she was involved with the design, conduct, and analysis of multidisciplinary clinical research studies pertaining to burn injuries. She is an active member of the Western Institute of Nursing, the Gerontological Society of America, and the American Geriatrics Society. Dr. Edelman joined the faculty at the University of Utah College of Nursing in 2008 and looks forward to fostering a new generation of nurse researchers through teaching and mentorship. She has taught in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program



(Advanced Pathophysiology I and II, Evidenced Based Practice I and II and Scholarly Project), the PhD program (Data Management and Quality) and the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program (Physiology and Psychology of Nursing). She actively advises DNP, Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program and PhD graduate students. Dr. Edelman is a 2010 John A. Hartford and Atlantic Philanthropies Claire M. Fagin Fellow. Her research focuses on injuries occurring to older adults living in rural areas and the triage of injured rural and urban older adults to trauma care. She is Program Director of two HRSA workforce development grants: the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program which integrates geriatrics and primary care training in Long-Term Care settings and the Nursing Education, Practice, Qualitymetric and Retention Program which seeks to improve the capacity and competencies of primary care nurses working in rural and underserved Utah.



**Larry Garrett, Ph.D., RN** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, College of Nursing. He earned his doctorate in Interdisciplinary Health Science from Western Michigan University. He was the first Health Informatics Fellow with the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a former Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior to working at the University of Utah he was a partner in a public health software and consulting company where he provided consulting services to state and local health departments across the country. Later, Dr Garrett was employed at Comagine Health, on a variety of health care quality improvement initiatives. He is currently working on a project to improve primary care by creating opportunities for registered nurses to work at the top of their licensure. He has twenty-seven years of experience in health care consulting and teaching.



**Brenda Luther, PhD, RN** is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Care Management Specialty track at the College of Nursing and within the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program. Dr. Luther teaches courses in primary care, care management, evidence-based practice and health promotion, coordinates student practicum and experiences for Care Management and leads the masters synthesis courses. Dr. Luther has specialized disability care and care management, working with children and their families at Shriners Hospital for Children, Intermountain Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah for over 20 years. She is active in professional organizations



including American Association of Ambulatory Care Nursing. Additionally, she has served on the Orthopedic Nursing editorial board since 1999. She earned her Master's of Science in Community and Family Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Utah and currently researches measuring, and referring for, social determinants of health in clinical areas.



**Clifton Uckerman, LCSW** is a long-standing local community member that has tirelessly advocated for exceptional clinical services for people overcoming mental health and addiction problems within the socio-political and cultural systems that influence or exasperate the symptoms of those affected. He is on a crusade and life-mission to empower others to #HealGrowThrive in ways he also has been able to in all of his personal and lived experiences. Now, ascending onto the competent leadership team at Altium Health, Cliff is striving to forward the promise; that all who are receiving services are treated without stigmas and stereotypes and individually with love, respect, and dignity. Cliff believes in the re-humanization of persons in recovery from the often destructive effects of trauma, shame, and loss & grief; a triangle-cycle and recipe for the pain-avoidance reward seeking behaviors we see as addiction.



**Clark Ruttinger, MPA, MBA** is the Director of Workforce Research as well as the Director of Utah's Nursing Workforce Information Center for the Utah Medical Education Council. In this capacity, Mr. Ruttinger tracks supply, demand and educational program data about Utah's healthcare workforce and works with stakeholders to develop usable information to better inform policy and strategic planning decisions. A major goal of this work is to facilitate communication and collaboration between public and private entities as they pursue common workforce planning efforts across the State of Utah. Clark is the Immediate Past President of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers and a co-author of the 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey published in the Journal of Nursing Regulation this past April. Clark currently serves on the expert work group for the HRSA funded Health Workforce Technology Assistance Center . He is also serving on the Academy Health, Health Workforce Interest Group Advisory Committee for 2021-2022. Mr. Ruttinger holds master's degrees in public administration and business administration both from the University of Utah.

## *Q & A Moderator*



**Senator Stephen H. Urquhart, JD**, is Global Ambassador for the University of Utah. Steve was a member of the Utah House of Representatives from 2001 to 2008, serving as Majority Whip and Rules Chair. In 2009, he joined the Utah Senate, serving as Senate chair of the Higher Education Sub-Appropriations Committee until 2016. Steve was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He received his education at Williams College (biology) and BYU Law School (law review, honors). Steve is a founder of the Partnering Institute of Africa and director for Red Butte Garden, Equality Utah, and the Salt Lake Area Restaurant Association. For successfully championing difficult causes, Steve has been honored by the ACLU (Torch of Freedom), Equality Utah (Abraham Lincoln Award), and the Utah Pride Festival (Pete Suazo Political Action Award). He is married to Sara Stanley, and together they have four children.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## "Priorities for Health in the Post-COVID Era"

### Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

11:55 AM - 1:00 PM

#### *Introductions*



**Steven Lacey, PhD** is Professor and Chief of the Division of Public Health at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Prior to Utah, he was Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Science at the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health in Indianapolis.





Earlier, he served as Director of the CDC/NIOSH-funded Industrial Hygiene and Hazardous Substances Academic Training programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, as well as the Occupational Safety program, which he established. Published work includes research in exposure assessment to inform occupational and environmental hazard control, and occupational epidemiology. Dr. Lacey earned an MS in Industrial Hygiene from Texas A&M University, a PhD in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. A Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professional, Dr. Lacey is a Past President and a Fellow of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.



**Mary Ann Villarreal, PhD** is fueled by an unwavering commitment to ensure the doors to receiving a degree remain open and the table is set for everyone to participate. As the inaugural vice president for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the University of Utah, she provides leadership and strategic oversight of diversity and inclusion initiatives across the University's academic and health sciences campuses. Since her arrival in Utah, Villarreal has been focused on growing the EDI division to meet the growing needs of University by launching One U Thriving as a platform to unite the EDI work across the campus and establishing the EDI Strategy Council to ensure alignment with the University's strategic plan. Villarreal works to strengthen equity through organizational transformation in practice, policy, and processes at the U and in higher education. In doing so, she also serves on the Association of American Colleges & Universities' Board of Directors, the executive committee of the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities' Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence, and TIAA Inclusion Council.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

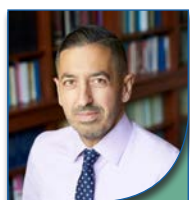
1:00 - 2:00 PM

### *Moderator*



**Jessie Mandle, MPH** is the Deputy Director and Senior Health Policy Analyst for Voices for Utah Children. She focuses on health coverage, access to care, prevention and health equity for children, families, and communities in Utah. Prior to joining Voices for Utah Children, Jessie was a Senior Program Planner with the City of San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families where she worked on after school and nutrition programs and policy. Jessie has also worked as a policy researcher in Johannesburg, South Africa, and managed a CDC-funded healthy communities grant in Portland, Oregon. Jessie studied government and environmental science at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and has a Master's degree from Portland State University and the Oregon Health and Science University School of Public Health.

### *Panelists*



**Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH**, a physician, epidemiologist, and author, is dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. He previously held academic and leadership positions at Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the New York Academy of Medicine. He has published extensively in the peer-reviewed literature, and is a regular contributor to a range of public media, about the social causes of health, mental health, and the consequences of trauma. He has



been listed as one of the most widely cited scholars in the social sciences. He is past chair of the board of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and past president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Galea has received several lifetime achievement awards. Galea holds a medical degree from the University of Toronto, graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow.



**Ivette Amelia López, PhD, MPH** is a Professor of Public Health at University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. She is also the PI/Director of the Utah Area Health Education Centers. Dr. López was born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and came to the United States mainland to pursue an advanced education. She is, and has been for decades, a dedicated professional in pursuit of health equity for Latinos and other disadvantaged populations in the United States. From AIDS (the epidemic that drew her to public health) to diabetes, obesity causal explanations among minority women, to health assessments of Latino populations, her research and service are dedicated to engage minority communities in finding solutions to their health burdens. She has focused on social disparities, which have resulted in adverse health outcomes disproportionately affecting Latino and other minority or disadvantaged populations: Type 2 diabetes, weight issues, heart disease, hypertension, sexually transmitted infections, breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and environmental contexts of health. Her research interests also include mitigating factors that align with those health disparities: physical activity, food security, neighborhood, reproductive health, community-based mixed research and pedagogy, cultural humility, health literacy, and racial and ethnic disparities in higher education and health academic faculty/administration. Further, Dr. Lopez advised and directed the masters and doctoral theses preparation of over 55 students; chaired and labored with committees resulting in 30 doctoral degrees in 14 years. Most recently, as the PI/Director of the Utah AHEC, she works on a COVID 19 CARES grant that focuses on the engagement of Community Health Workers of disadvantaged populations in UT (Pacific Islander, Latino, Black, Refugee, and Native American). Through Tele-Education, this innovative workforce will the teach UT AHEC Scholars the socio-cultural and cultural humility aspects of COVID 19.



**José E. Rodríguez, MD, FAAFP** currently serves as Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, and Associate Medical Director at the Redwood Health Center. Since his appointment as AVP, Dr. Rodríguez has worked with teams across health sciences to increase the relevance and actions taken in the areas of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion throughout University of Utah Health. Scholarship has taken a central role in his office, and multiple manuscripts have been published highlighting the excellent work in EDI that has been happening across the Health Sciences Campus. Before his appointment as AVP, Dr. Rodríguez has taken a strong role in advancing the institutional goals for health equity and inclusion. Within his department, he has served on the diversity committee, as well as various recruitment committees supporting focused recruitment of underrepresented ethnic and racial minority (URM) faculty and residents. He has represented the university presenting at national conferences on our work and his research on diversity initiatives.



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**Valerie Flattes, PhD, APRN, MS, ANP-BC** has been faculty at the University of Utah College of Nursing (CON). She is the inaugural Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the CON. For over 20 years Ms. Flattes has been involved in the work related to EDI efforts at the University of Utah and the local community. Valerie has a long history of working with older adults in various care settings. Valerie has been teaching at the College of Nursing for over 20 years. Her dissertation research focused on heart health in African Americans aged 40 and older who live in Utah. One area of focus has been in community-based research with community organizations and the Utah Department of Health Office of Health Disparities. Dr. Flattes' research additionally focuses on patient communication, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and wellness in underrepresented groups.

## CLOSING REMARKS

2:00 - 2:15 PM



**Yasmen Simonian, PhD, MLS (ASCP)CM, FASAHP** graduated from three different colleges at the University of Utah in health, pharmacy and medicine. She joined the Weber State University (WSU) faculty in 1981. After chairing the Medical Laboratory Sciences department for 12 years, she was appointed dean of the College of Health Professions in 2008. Her many professional achievements include serving as president of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science, commissioner on the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and representative for the Association of Schools of Advancing Health Professions. She has authored numerous articles in professional journals and regularly presents at state, regional, national and international conferences with her students. Her involvement in these arenas keeps her current in the field of healthcare and brings recognition to WSU.



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