



## **Presenter Biographies**

### **CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Workshop**

### **May 17-19, 2021**

*Note: Speakers bios are presented in alphabetical order by last name.*

#### **Micah Bass**

Mrs. Bass currently serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Scientific Integrity in CDC's Office of the Science. She began her professional career at CDC in 1999, spending much of her tenure providing leadership and guidance on scientific matters including human research, public health ethics, and privacy. Micah has spent the past 21 years working in both infectious and non-infectious disease programs to include vaccine-preventable diseases, birth defects and developmental disabilities, and tobacco control domestically and internationally. Her experience also involves several emergency activations to respond to Ebola outbreaks in West Africa, MERS CoV, Legionella, H1N1, Hurricane Katrina and now COVID-19. She served on CDC's Institutional Review Board (IRB) as a vice-chair for four years and was a Certified IRB Professional (CIP) from 2012 to 2018. Micah has conducted various trainings for CDC staff and grantees since 2003. She received her bachelor of science in psychology from the Florida State University and a masters of public health in behavioral sciences from Emory University

#### **Cody Carmichael**

Cody Carmichael, MPH, CPH is a behavioral epidemiologist with the Rapid Health Information Network at the Washington State Department of Health. He focuses on self-directed violence, overdoses, firearms injuries and the application of spatial epidemiological methods for general use within the team. In 2020, he served as the first Situation Unit Leader of the COVID-19 response, lead of the statewide intelligence section for the State Emergency Operations Center and served as the Impact and Capacity Assessment Task Force Leader which included the duties of collating and analyzing behavioral health data for rapid action alongside Lareina. Previously, he served as the Geospatial Intelligence Project Manager for the Division of Emergency Response and Preparedness in the Washington State Department of Health, and the Applied Technology Deputy for Team Rubicon USA in FEMA regions VIII and X where he actively worked in disaster zones to perform search and rescue, communications uplink, wildfire response, and geospatial or cybersurveillance duties. He holds an M.P.H. from the University of South Florida in Disaster Management, Humanitarian Aid and Homeland Security, and has 5 years previous experience as an EMT and a Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Counselor.

#### **Kristen Finne**

Kristen Finne is a Senior Program in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Ms. Finne has over 20 years of expertise in health care and public health policy, programs, service delivery, research and emergency management. She currently assesses disaster-induced stress on the health care system and develops interventions to minimize healthcare system surge and adverse health outcomes for at-risk community-based populations. As Director of the HHS emPOWER Program, an ASPR and CMS partnership, she delivers Medicare data, maps, and AI tools to inform and support federal-to-community level emergency

preparedness, response, and recovery activities for at-risk populations that may be adversely impacted in a public health emergency or disaster.

### **Ashley Hawes**

Ashley Hawes is an epidemiologist with Austin Public Health in Austin, Texas. She is part of the public health emergency preparedness program and works with her team to plan for, learn from, and respond to disasters. She has responded to a variety of incidents including Hurricane Harvey, flooding, winter storms, and of course COVID-19. She is passionate about taking data and making it usable to improve disaster response.

### **Adela Hoffman**

Adela Hoffman is an Epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has worked in public health emergencies both domestically and internationally over the last five years as a member of CDC's Global Rapid Response Team.

### **Nikki Honore'**

Dr. Nikki Christy Honore' is the Statewide Nurse Consultant for Emergency Preparedness at the Louisiana Department of Health - Office of Public Health Bureau of Community Preparedness. She is a Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner with over 12 years of experience as clinical practitioner, educator, consultant, and nurse leader. In her current role, Dr. Honore' provides programmatic supervision and training for healthcare professionals across the state of Louisiana who deliver medical support for multiple state run medical operations. In addition, she develops strategies and identifies training opportunities to build capacity and resiliency in Louisiana communities during disasters. Dr. Honore' also works as a pediatric clinical adjunct instructor at the Southern University School of Nursing. In this role, Dr. Honore' is able to give back to future nurses through providing innovative clinical experiences that integrate didactic instruction and clinical practice.

Dr. Honore' is a proud two-time alumna of Southern University earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing. Dr. Honore' holds a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree with a focus in Executive Nurse Leadership from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Honore' has been recognized as a 2019 New Leaders Council Fellow, 2019 Barton Leadership Fellow, and 2019 Great 100 Nurse Honoree. Additionally, Dr. Honore' was selected as one of fifteen LDH employees to join the state's Quality Improvement Team and complete her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification.

Dr. Honore' is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter, Junior League of Baton Rouge, and the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Nonpareil Chapter. She is a native of Lafayette, LA. Dr. Honore' currently resides in Baton Rouge, LA with her husband Ian Honore' and daughter Addison Honore'.

### **Jennifer A. Horney**

Jennifer Horney is Professor and Founding Director of the Epidemiology Program and Core Faculty at the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. Her research focuses on the health impacts of



disasters. She received her Ph.D. and MPH from the University of North Carolina. She is currently a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Center for Preparedness and Response, a member of the NORC/CDC Technical Workgroup on Improving Processes for Identifying and Reporting Disaster-Related Deaths, and a member of the Publications Board of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Horney has led interdisciplinary research projects funded by many federal agencies and was part of the public health response to Hurricanes Isabel, Charley, Katrina, Wilma, Irene, and Harvey where she conducted rapid assessments of disaster impacts on individual and community health. She has also provided technical assistance to public health agencies globally around disasters, emerging infectious disease outbreaks, and pandemic influenza planning and response.

### **Meredith Jagger**

Meredith Jagger is data scientist and epidemiologist with over 10 years of experience in the public sector. She has worked in public health practice, focusing on syndromic surveillance, climate and health, and disaster preparedness. She is presenting today in her capacity as a consultant for CSTE. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Master of Public Health from The University of South Florida.

### **Megan Jehn**

Megan Jehn is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. Her scholarship and community engagement broadly focuses on the resilience of social-ecological systems to disasters. Her current research brings together large and diverse teams addressing public health challenges such as vaccine hesitancy, food insecurity, and modeling infectious disease dynamics. Dr. Jehn also works with state and local public health departments to assist with disaster research and response programs, design of training exercises, and community engagement activities. She currently serves on Arizona's statewide COVID-19 Modeling Team and directs ASU's Student Outbreak Response Team, a virtual COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing team composed of over 250 students and community volunteers who have completed over 40,000 COVID-19 case investigation since the start of the pandemic.

### **Melissa Jordan**

Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, has worked in the field of applied epidemiology at the Florida Department of Health since 2003 and spent the first seven years of her career in chronic disease epidemiology before moving to environmental epidemiology, serving as a Senior Environmental Epidemiologist with the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. In 2017, she became the Director of Public Health Research, overseeing the department's research initiatives and noninfectious disease surveillance and epidemiology programs. is the Division Director of Community Health Promotion at the Florida Department of Health, a position she has held since 2019 where she managed a team of more than 300 public health professionals and a budget of approximately \$1 billion. In this role, she is responsible for a wide range of activities including noninfectious disease surveillance, and epidemiology programs, tobacco and chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health, violence and injury prevention, WIC and the Department's research initiatives. Currently, Melissa is leading efforts to expand Florida's public health response to injury and substance abuse-related issues by establishing new CDC collaborative projects including the Overdose Data to Action Program. Melissa has been involved with CSTE for more than 16



years, including currently serving as the co-chair of the Environmental Health Subcommittee, and participates in a variety of other subcommittees and workgroups, including Environmental Health in Schools. Melissa has served on the CSTE Executive Board.

### **Madison Kircher**

Madison Kircher is a CSTE Applied Epidemiology fellow with the Minnesota Department of Health where she works closely with the MN Tracking and Climate & Health Programs. Her current research involves studying the knowledge and attitudes of healthcare providers on climate change and health and assessing the burden of cold-related illness in Minnesota. She received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison in May 2020.

### **Joni Koenig**

Joni Koenig, MSPH, CIP has over 20 years of experience, and there are few aspects of human subjects research that Joni has not been involved in. Early in her career, Joni worked at Children's Hospital Colorado as a clinical research coordinator and clinical research associate with pediatric cystic fibrosis patients and their families. During that time, she worked on nearly 20 clinical research studies and served as the lead monitor for a national multi-site study. While working at Children's Hospital, Joni completed her graduate degree, a Master of Science in Public Health, at the University of Colorado in Denver. Joni went on to work in research administration at the University of Texas Medical Branch and Seton Healthcare Family in Austin, TX. Joni has managed IRBs and IRB and clinical research staff and has worked extensively with research grants and contracts. Currently, Joni is the IRB Administrator for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Institutional Review Board (CDPHE IRB). The CDPHE IRB primarily reviews and has oversight of public health research, and routinely determines whether projects are "human subjects research" or "public health surveillance activities" as defined by the Revised Common Rule.

Selected publications available upon request.

### **Tess Konen**

Tess Konen graduated from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health with a master's degree in Occupational Environmental Epidemiology. She completed a CSTE/CDC Epidemiology Fellowship at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in the Minnesota Tracking program. Currently, she is an environmental epidemiologist in the Minnesota Tracking program focusing on heat-illness, acute poisonings, radon, birth defects, climate change indicators, and disaster epidemiology. She is the chair of the CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee and works on post-disaster, long-term surveillance planning at MDH.

### **Lareina La Flair**

Lareina La Flair, MPH, PhD is an injury epidemiologist with the Rapid Health Information Network at the Washington State Department of Health, where she focuses on syndromic surveillance of self-directed violence, overdoses, as well as firearm, traffic, and other injuries. In 2020, she served as surveillance advisor to the state's Behavioral Health Impact and Capacity Assessment Task Force, identifying, analyzing, and interpreting epidemiological data to assess the pandemic's impact on the capacity of the state's health care system to respond to behavioral health service needs. Previously, she served as a



behavioral health epidemiologist with Washington state and as a behavioral health policy researcher in the private sector where she used clinical and administrative data to measure serious mental illness and functional impairment among the Medicaid population, promote behavioral health literacy, and provide decision support to federal health and human services partners. She has long-standing research interests in traumatic stress and military mental health. She holds a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an M.P.H. from the Boston University School of Public Health.

### **Raymond Lopez**

Ray Lopez is an Environmental Health Scientist in the National Center for Environmental Health. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and served in the U.S. Air Force as a medic from 2008–2012. Ray graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Environmental Health Science in 2016. Before coming to CDC, he worked for the Indian Health Service and DeKalb County Board of Health as an Environmental Health Specialist. Ray deployed to Louisiana last August in response to Hurricane Laura as a Subject Matter Expert and for the last 2 years he has been assisting the Puerto Rico Department of Health with their Hurricane Recovery efforts.

### **Nancy Ortiz**

Dr. Nancy Ortiz is an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has worked on infectious diseases domestically as well as internationally.

### **Joan Pakenham**

Dr. Joan Pakenham is the Director of the Office of Human Research Compliance in the Clinical Research Program, Division of Intramural Research (DIR) at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/NIH. She is responsible for the NIEHS Human Research Protection Program at NIEHS. She served as Vice-Chair for the NIEHS Institutional Review Board for over 15 years. In addition, she has been intimately involved in NIH policy development for the NIH Human Research Protection Program and has served on several Trans-NIH Committees as NIH successfully acquired AAHRPP accreditation. Dr. Pakenham joined the NIH/NIEHS Disaster Research Response program (DR2) and since 2014 has been responsible for leading the DR2 Human Studies and Ethics part of the program. She is PI for the NIEHS Women's Environmental Health Across the Lifespan program, a community-based participatory research program focused on environmental health disparities in U3 populations of women. Dr. Pakenham has led an extensive career in both the Intramural and the Extramural Research Divisions of NIEHS. During her career, she has received many awards of merit for her work. Two she is extremely proud of are the National Women of Color in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) award for Career Achievement in Government and the NIH Director's Award for her work with the Disaster Research Response Initiative. She has a B.S. degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in Experimental Pathology with a concentration in molecular and cellular biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Medicine.

### **Lori Peek**

Lori Peek is Professor in the Department of Sociology and Director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. She studies marginalized populations in disaster and is author of *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11*, co-editor of *Displaced: Life in the Katrina Diaspora*, and co-



author of *Children of Katrina*. Peek is the Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation-funded CONVERGE facility, which is dedicated to improving research coordination and advancing the ethical conduct and scientific rigor of disaster research. She also leads the NSF-supported Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) and Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Extreme Events Research (ISEEER) networks.

### **Joan Pettit**

Since 2008, Joan Pettit, J.D., M.A., has served as the Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Institutional Review Board (IRB) Office. She previously served for over five years as a Human Subjects Research Regulatory Affairs Specialist with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine IRB. At Hopkins, she is an affiliated faculty with the Berman Institute of Bioethics and helps train Fogarty Scholars on IRB operations. She also teaches the Informed Consent portion of the Practical Skills in Conducting Research in Clinical Epidemiology Course at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Joan received her B.A. in History and American Studies from Princeton University, her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law. She also has an M.A. in Applied and Professional Ethics. She has provided Fulbright Specialist services in the area of IRBs and Human Subjects Research Ethics to Universities in Trinidad and New Zealand, and has visited universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Myanmar, Zambia and China to address development of IRB operations and research ethics training. Joan has provided individual and small group training on how the JHSPH IRB runs, and challenges in running an efficient IRB office. She has deep personal commitments to high quality IRB and ethical review and great interests in global health research.

Selected publications available upon request.

### **CAPT Margaret Riggs**

Dr. Margaret “Margo” Riggs, PhD, MPH, MS, serves as a Captain in the US Public Health Service and is the Healthy Communities Director and Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Liaison with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) where she leads coordination for health improvement in Appalachia KY by preventing diabetes, obesity and substance use. Dr. Riggs has been working in domestic and international public health for 16 years. Prior to SOAR she was an Associate Director at CDC Zambia working with the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) focused on establishment of the Zambia National Public Health Institute. She has helped with public health capacity building nationally as a CDC Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) supervisor for 30 senior epidemiologists assigned around the country. She also served as acting Territorial Epidemiologist for the U.S. Virgin Islands and has participated in several large public health response efforts to include: COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, Superstorm Sandy in NJ and the Haiti Earthquake. She also served CDC Epidemiologist with the CEFO Program assigned to the Kentucky Department for Public Health in Frankfort, KY. In this a role she worked across Kentucky responding to natural disasters and outbreaks, building environmental health capacity and helping to improve overall health by getting Kentucky kids outdoors thru relationships between local health staff and environmental educators. Dr. Riggs began her career with CDC in 2005 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, OH. She graduated with all degrees from the University of Florida, served five years in the US Army and grew up in Northern Kentucky.

**Amy Schnall**

Amy Helene Schnall has been an epidemiologist on the Disaster Epidemiology and Response Team with CDC's National Center for Environmental Health since 2008. She focuses on surveillance and assessments throughout the disaster cycle. Ms Schnall leads the Disaster Epidemiology Training, Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), and the National Chemical and Radiological Surveillance programs and has been involved in numerous responses both domestically and internationally. She received her Master's degree in Public Health in Behavioral Science and Health Education at Emory and Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in Sociology and African American Studies from Princeton University. Ms Schnall also earned a Certificate in Field Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Public Health from Georgia State University.

**Aimee Voth Siebert**

Aimee Voth Siebert is the Disaster Behavioral Health and Inclusion Worklead for CDPHE's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR). Aimee holds a Masters in International Disaster Psychology from the University of Denver (DU) and has grown multi-disciplinary emergency knowledge and experience in both domestic and international settings. Aimee has worked with OEPR since May 2012, supporting disaster behavioral health responses for the 2012, 2013, 2018, and 2020 Colorado Wildfire Seasons, the Aurora Theater Shooting, the September 2013 floods, multiple Colorado shootings, including the Table Mesa Shooting, and the COVID-19 as the disaster behavioral health unit lead and JIC representative in the COVID-19 response. In 2015, she deployed with CDC's Ebola Response in Sierra Leone as a Health Promotion Specialist. In this role, she conducted rapid behavioral assessments in community settings to iteratively evaluate and improve the effectiveness of emergency communication and systems in changing community health-seeking behaviors. In October 2017, she led a Colorado disaster mental health team to support Puerto Rico's response to Hurricane Maria. Aimee promotes a people-centered and adaptive functioning lens for emergency planning and response. She contributes leadership to the development of Colorado's Access & Functional Needs Program. She offers training in disaster behavioral health, access & functional needs, community inclusion, and crisis communications. She is certified as a State Crisis Counseling Program trainer and grant writer, a CDC Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Trainer, a Strategies for Trauma Awareness & Resilience Practitioner and an Advanced Public Information Officer. Aimee's community inclusion work in emergency preparedness and response was awarded CDPHE's Health Equity and Environmental Justice Award in 2017. She has been recognized with the Service and Leadership pin by the DU's Graduate School of Professional Psychology.

**Svetlana Smorodinsky**

Svetlana Smorodinsky, MPH is a Disaster Epidemiologist with the Environmental & Occupational Emergency Preparedness Team, California Department of Public Health. She provides training and expertise in disaster epidemiology and participates in preparedness and response activities related to environmental and occupational incidents. She's a co-chair of CSTE Disaster Epidemiology subcommittee and represents "Health" on California Region II Local Emergency Planning Committee. Svetlana is always excited to bridge the gap between Disaster Epi and Emergency Management.

**Kahler Stone**

Kahler Stone is an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University. His current activities involve teaching undergraduate and graduate students in a new and growing public health program, conducting research, and serving on County and State Public Health Association Boards. He previously served as a local epidemiologist in Texas before entering academia, where his research interests include disaster epidemiology, epidemiologic capacity in health departments, and community health assessment methods. Before that, Kahler worked internationally in Zambia with HIV/AIDS vaccine and prevention trials. In his spare time, he enjoys all the home renovation projects he is allowed to do and to explore Tennessee's state parks with his wife and three kids.

**Haylea Stuteville**

Haylea Stuteville, MPH, is currently a senior epidemiologist at the DSHS Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch (ESTB) of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and serves as the poison epidemiologist for the state. In this position she serves as one of the point of contacts between the Texas Poison Center Network (TPCN) and DSHS as well as provides epidemiologic support to TPCN. Haylea has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Texas Tech University and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center. After graduating with her MPH she began her career with DSHS and currently has four years of epidemiology and public health experience with DSHS.

**L. Vance Taylor (Bio)**

Luis "Vance" Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Vance is responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional needs are identified before, during and after disasters and integrated into the State's emergency management systems. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association and been a principal at a top-ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities. Vance has a Master's degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications. He is married to his sweetheart, Casey, and they have two wonderful daughters. Vance and his family live in Rancho Cordova, California.

**Lindsay Tompkins**

Lindsay Tompkins, PhD, MS is an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer assigned to CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice. She holds a PhD in epidemiology, with a concentration in environmental epidemiology. Prior to joining the EIS program in 2019, her work focused on the impacts of industrial pollution and environmental contamination on the health of communities.

**Ambarish Vaidyanathan**

Dr. Ambarish “Rish” Vaidyanathan is a senior health scientist with the Climate and Health Program at National Center for Environmental Health, CDC. Dr. Vaidyanathan’s training and work experience cover a wide range of substantive areas, including environmental engineering, exposure assessment, epidemiology, and data science. Specifically, he has been able to establish mutually-beneficial collaborations with various academic institutions, state and local health departments, and federal agencies on efforts to identify and characterize populations most at-risk to smoke from wildland fires.

**Maureen Wimsatt**

Maureen Wimsatt, PhD, MSW, is the President and Principal of the Center for Healthy Children and Communities, Inc., located in Sacramento. Dr. Wimsatt has 20 years of experience conducting community-based assessment, evaluation, and research, with a focus on projects that aid vulnerable children and communities. Her work primarily supports community-based organizations and public health jurisdictions in gathering feedback from stakeholders to affect public health practice and systems-level change. Dr. Wimsatt also has extensive experience implementing community-based initiatives with tribal communities, urban Indian health organizations, and Alaska Native villages. Dr. Wimsatt has a PhD from the University of Maryland, a Master of Social Work with focus on rural populations from Eastern Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Applied Statistics from the University of Michigan.

**Stephanie Yendell**

Stephanie Yendell is the supervisor of the Health Risk Intervention Unit in the Environmental Health Division at the Minnesota Department of Health. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she received a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and a Master’s degree in Public Health. Dr. Yendell completed the Epidemic Intelligence Service program at CDC working on arboviruses before returning to Minnesota to work on lead and healthy homes. She serves as the Team Lead for COVID-19 syndromic surveillance and serology projects in Minnesota.