

COVID, Climate Change, & Preparedness: Lessons Learned

Expert Bios

Agnes Attakai



Agnes Attakai (she/her), MPA, a member of the Dine (Navajo) Nation, was raised on both the Dine homelands in Arizona and the urban California suburbs. She currently works as the Director of Health Disparities Outreach and Prevention Education for the Center for Health Equality at The University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Attakai has a bachelors degree in political science and American Indian studies and a Master of Public Administration degree from the UA with a focus on health policy. Attakai is a member of the American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Caucus of the American Public Health Association, the Native Research Network and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native

Americans in Science. She is on the Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition State Plan committee and a member of the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Women's Health Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts.

Aparna Bole



Aparna Bole, MD, FAAP, is Medical Director of Community Integration at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, OH. She leads efforts to build close partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders to enhance the well-being of patients and families at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's and MacDonald Women's Hospitals, and supports innovation in women's and pediatric primary care delivery. She is particularly interested in the intersection between environmental

sustainability and pediatric public health. She serves as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health, as co-chair of the Healthcare Without Harm board of directors, and is a founding advisory council member of the Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action. She is also a faculty affiliate of the Swetland Center for Environmental Health at CWRU, a member of the Trust for Public Land's Ohio advisory committee, and a member of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition's steering committee and the State of Ohio's Lead Advisory Council.

Richard Carmona



Richard Carmona MD, MPH, FACS (he/him) was the 17th Surgeon General of the United States and is the Distinguished Professor of Public Health at MEZCOPH. He also holds faculty appointments as a Professor of Surgery and Pharmacy. Trained in general and vascular surgery, Dr. Carmona also completed a National Institutes of Health-sponsored fellowship in trauma, burns, and critical care. Dr. Carmona was then recruited jointly by the Tucson Medical Center and the University of Arizona to start and direct Arizona's first regional trauma care system.

In 2002 Dr. Carmona was nominated by the president and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate to become the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Carmona was selected because of his extensive experience in public health, clinical sciences, health care management, preparedness, and his commitment to prevention as an effective means to improve public health and reduce health care costs while improving the quality and quantity of life. As Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona focused on prevention, preparedness, health disparities, health literacy, and global health to include health diplomacy.

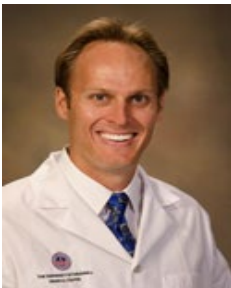
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Jacqueline Day



Jackie has a Bachelor of Arts degree from ASU and served with the Peace Corps for two years teaching in Turkey. She married soon after returning and they adopted five children of mixed heritage. Among the earliest members of Milagro, a co-housing community, she and her husband helped in the planning and development of this unique community. For several years she conducted community presentations for TEP on energy conservation. She now works with Physicians for Social Responsibility presenting workshops on Building Resilient Neighborhoods. When it became apparent that Covid-19 was going to be around a lot longer than originally thought, a number of PSR members developed a program so the workshops could continue safely on Zoom.

Brian Drummond



Brian Drummond, M.D. (he/him), is certified by the Arizona Medical Board and the American Board of Emergency Medicine. He has past work experience in the Naval Hospital Agana Heights, Guam Memorial Hospital, El Centro Regional Medical Center, the University of Arizona College of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine, and Banner University Medical Center. He has received many awards over the course of his career, including; the Clinical Teaching Award, Emergency Medicine Academic Teaching Award, Clinical Instructor of the Year in 2017, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Meritorious Service Medal for role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kacey Ernst

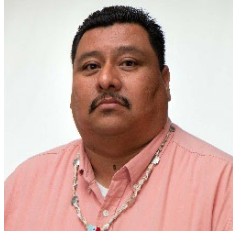


Kacey C. Ernst, PhD MPH (she/her) joined the faculty in 2008 as an infectious disease epidemiologist. Her primary projects examine the environmental determinants of vector-borne disease transmission and control; primarily dengue and malaria. Current research projects include an examination of insecticide treated bednet use in western Kenya. Comparisons between determinants of use and effectiveness in highland and lowland areas are underway. She is also working with investigators in entomology to examine the role of *Ae. aegypti* population dynamics in the potential expansion of dengue from northern Mexico to southern Arizona under climate change scenarios. Locally, Dr. Ernst takes an active role in working with the local health departments to examine questions related to vaccine preventable diseases. Her work seeks to understand the reasons behind increasing vaccination exemption rates in Arizona and the development of programs to increase vaccination uptake.

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Miguel Flores



Miguel Flores, Jr., LISAC (he/him), is a patient and community advocate. He works with Native American youth, is a traditional healer and counselor, and, in addition to Spanish, speaks traditional Native languages. Miguel is a licensed independent substance abuse counselor in Arizona. He is a proud member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation, a husband, a father, an artist, a healer, a counselor, and a teacher. He is a community leader, a member of the Community Advisory Board of the University of Arizona's Native American Research and Training Center, and a member of the All of Us Research Program's Participant Engagement Board. For the past 26 years, Miguel has provided spiritual leadership and traditional medicine for the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Francisco Garcia



Dr. Garcia is the Distinguished Outreach Professor of Public Health, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Mexican American Studies and Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Arizona. Dr. Garcia also has a long established interest in the cancer prevention among US-Mexico Border, Southwest American Indian, and Latin American populations. Dr. Garcia is a member of a variety of national committees including the NIH Advisory Committee for Research on Womens Health, the American Cancer Society Gynecologic Cancer Advisory Committee, and he is Chair of the ACS HPV Vaccine Clinical Guidelines Committee and the International Affairs Committee. He also leads the HPV Comprehensive Services Task Force of the Association for Reproductive Health Professionals and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Dr. Garcia is the President of the Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools, a national organization concerned with Hispanic health care workforce and public health issues.

Elizabeth Hall-Lipsey



Elizabeth Hall-Lipsey (she/her), JD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy, Practice and Science, serves as director of the PharmD Forward program. Co-director of the Regulatory Science Program, a collaboration between the University of Arizona Health Sciences and the James E. Rogers College of Law, and she serves as director of the Health Disparities Initiative and Community Outreach.

Her research intersects law and health disparities as related to underserved and rural communities. Topics include airport public health preparedness, social justice and empathy, academic-community partnership, infant mortality and economic effects of pharmacists. She received the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists Original Research Award and Pharmacy Practice Research Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

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Stephanie Innes



Stephanie Innes (she/her) covers health with a focus on patient safety, hospital quality, consumer experiences and health policy. She was named the Arizona Press Club's Virg Hill Journalist of the Year in 2018, the Arizona Newspaper Association's Journalist of the Year in 2016, and won a national Sigma Delta Chi award in 2016 for a series of articles about a Tucson family with familial Alzheimer's disease. Along with Republic colleague Alison Steinbach, she won the 2022 Best of the West journalism contest's news writing division for a story about a deadly outbreak of COVID-19 involving 24 people at a country-western dance in the White Mountains. She previously covered health for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson and is a native of Toronto, Canada. When she's not reporting, Stephanie is usually reading, riding her bike or hiking in the mountains. She lives in Phoenix and is a proud member of the Association of Health Care Journalists.

Katharine Jacobs



Katharine Jacobs is a faculty member at the University of Arizona in the Department of Soils, Water and Environmental Science and is the Director of the Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions (CCASS) within the Institute of the Environment. Jacobs has a broad array of applied research projects related to climate adaptation at local, regional and federal scales.

From 2010 – 2013, Jacobs served as an Assistant Director in the Executive Office of the President. Jacobs was the director of the National Climate Assessment, leading a team of 300 authors and more than a thousand contributors who wrote the Third NCA report. She also was the lead advisor on water science and policy, and climate adaptation, within the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Commander Mathew Johns



Commander (CDR) Matthew Johns, MPH is the Regional Health Administrator (RHA) for Region 9 and a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS). CDR Johns is the senior federal public health official and scientist for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) in Region 9. In addition to his duties as Regional Health Administrator, CDR Johns serves as the Deputy for the Division of Preventive Medicine and the Chief Epidemiologist for the PHS-2 Rapid Deployment Force. Prior to joining Region 9, CDR Johns served in the HHS Office of Global Affairs (OGA) where he was the Senior Global Health Security Advisor for the Asia and Pacific Region and a Senior Advisor and Liaison to the Command Surgeon, US Indo-Pacific Command. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, CDR Johns led efforts in Region 9 on public health analytics and epidemiology, alternate care strategies, vaccine coordination, and health equity. Through these efforts, CDR Johns developed a new strategic partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on advanced analytics, equity, community resilience, and the impacts of climate change on jurisdictions across the Region.

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Lisa Lewis



Lisa Lewis (she/her), President of the Arizona Library Association, has been working in libraries for 21 years and is currently the Library Services Manager for Show Low Public Library. She has had many adventures since starting her career including being invited by the U.S. Embassy in Croatia to present a series of workshops to the librarians there. This was an experience of a lifetime and one she will never forget. Lisa has served on the ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) board and is currently the AzLA President (Arizona Library Association). She has always been a strong advocate for rural and small libraries and continues to be a strong voice for all public libraries.

Hsini Lin



Hsini Lin is the Deputy Office Chief for Environmental Epidemiology at the Arizona Department of Health Services. She leads efforts in communicating adaptation interventions with internal and external agency leadership, provides policy recommendations and decisions involving environmental health issues, and assists with the development of implementation and monitoring strategies in Arizona. Hsini holds a Master of Science in Public Health and a Doctoral of Science degree from Tulane

University.

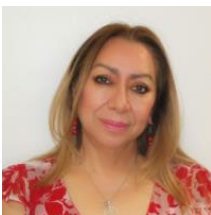
Janko Nikolich



Dr. Nikolich-Žugich (he/him) is internationally recognized as a leading immunologist and gerontologist. He is the Director of the Aegis Consortium for Pandemic-Free Future. He received his M.D., MSc and Ph.D. in Immunology from Belgrade University School of Medicine. In 2008, Dr. Nikolich-Žugich moved to the University of Arizona to lead the Department of Immunobiology and the Arizona Center on Aging. His long-term interests include basic mechanisms of T-cell function, immunity to infection in older adults, vaccines and biomarkers of declining immunity in the elderly, immune rejuvenation, immune monitoring in chronic conditions of aging and the impact of inflammation and nutritional intervention in aging, immunity and metabolic disorders. He has published

over 130 scientific papers and reviews describing his work.

Floribella Redondo



Floribella Redondo-Martinez, CHW, B.S., is Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Arizona Community Health Workers Association (AzCHOW). Ms. Redondo-Martinez is state appointed Advisory Board member for the Arizona CHW Voluntary Certification, Co-chair of the Arizona CHW Coalition, Senior Advisor to the CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project, founding member of the National CHW Common Indicators project, founding board member of the National Association of Community Health Worker, Chair-elect of the American Public Health Association CHW Section, and is lead Faculty for the CHW Certificate Program for Arizona Western College. Ms. Redondo-Martinez is recognized for developing and implementing the first national and international response to the mental health needs of the CHW workforce/communities for

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COVID-19 pandemic. She is nationally recognized as a leader in the CHW movement and most recently for her efforts in advocating for and leading a voluntary certification path for the CHW workforce in Arizona.

Brianna Rooney



Brianna Rooney (she/her), DrPH Public Health Policy and Management, worked as the Hospital Preparedness Program Manager for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, before joining the MEZCOPH team. She chose Public Health after viewing the health disparities in rural local public health departments, noting that witnessing these disparities was impactful and allowed her to fully view the extent of the social determinants of health and how they relate to a health profession. Her areas of interest include; Border Health, Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Hispanic Health, Infectious Disease, Planning and Evaluation, Public Health and Emergency Preparedness, Public Health Policy, Rural Health.

Julie Trtanj



Juli Trtanj (she/her) is the One Health and Integrated Climate and Weather Extremes Research Lead for NOAA. She is responsible for developing and implementing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Health Strategy across NOAA and with other federal, state, local and international Agencies, academic and private sector partners. She is leading efforts to build the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, FEMA, OSHA, NIOSH, ASPR, EPA and other agencies. She started the first multidisciplinary and multi-partner research program on Climate Variability and Human Health. Ms. Trtanj co-chairs the US Global Change Research Program, Climate Change and Human Health Group (CCHHG) and represents NOAA on the Pandemic Prediction and Forecasting Science and Technology Working Group. She is an author on the Fourth National Climate Assessment, served on the Steering Committee of the USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment and was a Convening Lead Author for the Water-Related Illness chapter.

Erica White



Erica N. White, J.D. (she/her) is Research Scholar with the Center for Public Health Law and Policy at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and Staff Attorney with the Network for Public Health Law Western Region Office. She earned her J.D. at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in May 2021 and a B.A. in psychology from the University of North Texas in May 2016. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas. As a law student, Erica worked with ASU's Center for Public Health Law and Policy and completed externships with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. Erica currently focuses her research on public health policy, emergency legal preparedness, constitutional law, administrative law, reproductive rights, and vaccine law. Erica is also an avid court monitor, regularly evaluating public health implications arising from federal and state court decisions.