

WHAT IS AILING U.S. HEALTH CARE AND IMMIGRATION – ACCESS AND BARRIERS

Princeton University
Center for Migration and Development
May 14 – 16, 2009

Biographical Information



Elizabeth Armstrong, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology. She obtained her doctoral degree in Sociology and Demography at the University of Pennsylvania. Her interests include sociology of medicine, history of medicine and public health, biomedical ethics, population health, sociology of pregnancy. She has served on the Governing Body of the Lamaze International Certification Council, as an Expert Committee Member for the Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, Committee on the Status of the Fetus, and as Health Policy Chair of the Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. She is the author of *Conceiving Risk, Bearing Responsibility: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the Diagnosis of Moral Disorder* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).



Margarita Cervantes Rodríguez, Ph.D. is a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Migration and Development, Princeton University. She has been a research associate for the Health and Immigration Study at the same institution. She has extensive teaching and research experience on the topic of international migration. She is the author of *International Migration in Cuba: Accumulation, Imperial Designs and Transnational Social Fields* (Penn State University Press, Forthcoming), and co-editor of two books, one of them on Caribbean Migration, *Caribbean Migration to Western Europe and the United States : Essays on Incorporation, Identities and Citizenship* (Temple University Press). She has studied the Nicaraguan community in the United States and Spanish migration in earlier periods, publishing articles and book chapters on these and other topics.

Jennifer Crutchfield serves as executive assistant to the President and Event Planner at the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center and Foundation. She is also a member of the planning committee for the Conference on Immigration and Health, held at Princeton University in May, 2009.

Laura de la Cruz is the Director of Clinical Operations at North County Health Services. For more than 35 years North County Health Services has provided primary health care services to needy populations in north San Diego County. NCHS has nine centers, ten WIC offices, 2 mobile clinics, 2 HIV/AIDS Community Case Management offices, and 3 Dental offices. A Federally Qualified Health Center, NCHS receives 120,000 patient visits per year.



Wilda Diaz serves as Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey. She is the first woman and the first Latina to hold that office. Mayor Diaz spent 20 years in the banking industry where she started as a teller at a local bank after graduating from Perth Amboy High School in 1983. She was an assistant vice president with Banco Popular when she won the seat in May 2008. A dedicated community activist, Mayor Diaz chaired the Board of Trustees for the Jewish Renaissance Foundation Medical Center, a nonprofit group that provides health care to underserved communities. She was a driving force behind the Puerto Rican Patriotic Cultural Committee (Comité Cultural Patriótico Puertorriqueño de Perth Amboy). She also served as a member of the Perth Amboy Merchants Association (PAMA), and was honored as “Businesswoman of the Year” by local organizations.



Nancy Doolan is the associate director of the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration from Villanova University. Since she joined the CMD in 2003, Ms. Doolan has co-organized twelve conferences on subjects as diverse as Immigration Reform, Latin American Institutions, Exceptional Outcomes in Education and Employment among the Children of Immigrants, and Religion, Migration and Globalization. She has also been instrumental in organizing the regular Colloquium Series for the CMD, and producing the Center’s two Research Briefs: *Points of Development* and *Points of Migration*.



Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Ph.D. is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Research Associate at the Office of Population Research, Princeton University. She has an interest in international development and has written extensively on immigration, economic restructuring, women in the labor force, and race and ethnicity. With Jon Shefner (University of Tennessee), she edited *Out of the Shadows: Political Action and Informal Economy in Latin America* (2006) and *NAFTA and Beyond: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Global Trade and Development* (2007). With Alejandro Portes, she is the editor of *Exceptional Outcomes: Achievement in Education and Employment among Children of Immigrants* (*Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 2008) With Paul DiMaggio (Princeton University), she is editing a volume on art and immigration in the U.S. Her latest projects include ethnographic research on immigration and health, and views of power, subordination and morality among inmates in a maximum-security prison.



Alan Goldsmith is President and Founder of the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center and Foundation in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, a non-profit, non-secretarian humanitarian organization created in response to the need for healthcare for thousands of households in Middlesex County. By designing an innovative healthcare program called Operation Lifeline USA, JRF medical programs provide access to health and dental care with special emphasis on households with income just above the poverty level but too high to qualify for federal and state assisted programs. A local advocate for improving access to healthcare for the poor and underserved, Goldsmith has been named a goodwill ambassador by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



David Hayes-Bautista, Ph.D. is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine, UCLA. He graduated from UC Berkeley and completed his MA and PhD in Medical Sociology at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Dr. Hayes-Bautista's research focuses on the dynamics and processes of the health of the Latino population using both quantitative data sets and qualitative observations. The Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture combines these research interests with teaching of medical students, residents and practicing providers to manage the care of a Latino patient base effectively, efficiently and economically. His publications appear in *Family Medicine*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Family Practice*, *Medical Care* and *Salud Pública de México*. He is the author of *La Nueva California: Latinos in the Golden State* (University of California Press, 2004).



Lisa Konczal, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of sociology and criminology at Barry University. She earned her BA, MA, and Ph.D. from Florida International University. She teaches courses on criminology, juvenile delinquency, and introductory sociology. Her professional interests include immigration, ethnicity studies and the sociology of education. Her most recent position was Post-Doctorate Researcher with the Center for Migration and Development, Princeton University. Konczal has presented her work at regional and national conferences. Her recent work on the academic attitudes of immigrant adolescents will be published in *The International Journal of Educational Policy, Research, and Practice*.



Benjamín León, Jr. is the founder and president of Leon Medical Centers. The son of Cuban exiles, Mr. Leon grew up to create a large network of community clinics in South Florida that provide customized medical services to elderly populations. By consolidating technology, digitalizing patients' records, integrating the dispensation of medications, and providing free transportation, Leon Medical Services has become a cost effective means to extend health care to vulnerable populations. Since 2007, Mr. León has served as one of the HealthSpring, Inc. Filled with entrepreneurial vigor; he has over 40 years of experience in the managed healthcare business. Leon Medical Centers, Inc., which currently operates five Medicare-only medical centers in Miami-Dade County, Florida and is the exclusive medical center provider for LMC Health Plans



Donald Light, Ph.D. Donald W. Light is a visiting researcher at the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University and a professor of sociology and comparative health care at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. As an internationally recognized authority, he has written extensively on a variety of subjects ranging from economic sociology to the social costs of for-profit health care systems. He has published a dozen articles on the social dynamics and problems of health care and insurance markets. Trained at the University of Chicago, he transferred to Brandeis to do a dissertation under Everett Hughes and to work with Elliott Mishler, Morris Schwartz, Lewis Coser, and Irving Zola. As a public sociologist, he advises national and international projects concerning the organization of health care services, and he is working with Alejandro Portes (Princeton University) on barriers to access for immigrants to health care. Dr. Light recently held a position as a Fellow with the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study.



Robert Linder is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Borinquen Health Care Center, Inc. For over 30 years, Mr. Linder has been involved in the Community Health Center movement. He has held administrative and financial positions and was national consultant for the Bureau of Primary Care. Borinquen Health Care Center provides services to a multi cultural population. Borinquen Health Care Center, Inc. was founded in 1972 as a grass-roots effort from a group of organizers in the Puerto Rican community with a small grant from the Public Health Service. Over the years it has grown to the Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Dental and Behavioral Health Center serving multiple points in South Florida. It provides extensive services to a multi-cultural population. BHCC operates a Mobile Medical Unit, a Behavioral Health Resources Center, a New Access Point in West Dade/Sweetwater, and a satellite clinic in the Village South.



Marisel Losa is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health Council of South Florida, a non-profit organization whose mission is to engage in community-based planning that improves health and promotes wellness in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. For over 36 years, the Council has set the standard for excellence in health planning by serving as an objective source of healthcare information, fostering community dialogue on contemporary health issues and developing solutions for emerging health needs. Before she assumed her current position, Ms. Losa directed program development at the San Juan Bosco Clinic, which offers free Elath services to low-income populations in Miami's Little Havana neighborhoods. Ms. Losa is a graduate of Florida International University and holds a Masters Degree in Health Services Administration. She is well known for her work on behalf of the establishment of an association to represent free health care centers.



Ed Martínez is Chief Executive Officer of the San Ysidro Health Center, which he helped turn from a declining neighborhood clinic into a model institution for the delivery of services to vulnerable populations. He has 30 years of healthcare management experience including the administration of two acute care hospitals, two urban Community Health Centers and one multi-specialty medical group. He earned his Master of Public Health – Hospital Administration Degree from Yale University. He also received his Master's and Bachelor's of Public Administration from San Diego State University. Mr. Martinez is nationally recognized as a health care visionary and advocate whose philosophy includes attention to cultural sensibilities as part of health care provision.. He recently presided over the construction of a new state-of-the art, 28,000 square-foot, integrated health care facility that caters exclusively to women and their children.

Mariela Pérez, MD is a clinician at the Open Door Health Center in Homestead, Florida, an organization that provides free medical services to poor and uninsured people in one of Florida's neediest areas. Homestead is known for its concentration of agricultural workers, most of them foreign born, and many without legal status in the United States. The Open Door Health Clinic is the recipient of multiple awards and public recognition. It was chosen as a project to support by the Greater Miami Pediatric Society, and the Puerto Rican Professional Association (PROFESA).



Jon Persichino, MD serves as expert clinician at the Clínicas de Salud Del Pueblo located in Brawley, California. CSDP is a private, non-profit corporation providing an array of comprehensive primary care services to residents throughout Imperial and Riverside Counties. Established in 1970, Clínicas de Salud del Pueblo has expanded from two original clinics to nine clinics, three dental centers, and three Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Education Center and eight WIC voucher distribution sites. All clinics have bilingual and bicultural staff to assist patients. Clínicas de Salud del Pueblo seeks to provide direct access to comprehensive quality primary and preventive health care for high risk and other underserved valley residents. Dr. Persichino has a special interest in educational and medical approaches related to the propagation of AIDS/HIV along the U.S.-Mexico Border..



Alejandro Portes, Ph.D. is the *Howard Harrison and Gabrielle Snyder Beck Professor of Sociology* at Princeton University and the director of the Center for Migration and Development at the same institution. A leading figure in the fields of urbanization, international migration, Latin American urbanization and development, and economic sociology, he has written extensively on a wide variety of subjects. He is one of only 15 sociologists appointed to the National Academy of Science and recently was appointed to the National Philosophical Society. His works have been translated to a dozen languages. His book with Ruben Rumbaut (University of California, Irvine), *Immigrant America – A Portrait* (University of California Press, 2005) is required reading in interdisciplinary circles.



Aruna Rao, MA is the Director of Educational Programs at NAMI NEW JERSEY (National alliance for the Mentally Ill in New Jersey), a statewide organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons affected by serious mental illness. She initiated and developed multicultural outreach programs to reach immigrant families affected by mental illness in New Jersey, including two programs for Asian immigrants. SAMHAJ (South Asian mental Health Awareness in Jersey) and CAMHOP NJ (Chinese American Mental Health Outreach Program) provide support and education for families of people affected by mental illness from the South Asian and Chinese communities in the state. Ms. Rao received the 2003 Leadership Award from the New Jersey Asian American Association for Human Services, and the 2002 Multicultural Outreach Award from NAMMI. She has made presentations on mental health issues to community and professional audiences, coordinated support groups for Asian families affected by mental illness, and hosted a talk show on mental health on a New Jersey South Asian radio station.

Monica Russo is president of the new SEIU Florida Healthcare Union, the largest union of health care workers in the state of Florida, representing more than 10,000 nurses, other hospital employees, and nursing home workers at 89 facilities across the state. Over the last six years, Russo has led one of the most successful union organizing campaigns in state history-uniting more than 7,000 nursing home and hospital employees despite strong and often vicious employer opposition. Ms. Russo grew up in rural Pennsylvania, the daughter of Lincoln University professors. She graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University, and has studied in Brazil, Belgium, and France. She began her career in the labor movement in 1986. As part of her efforts to highlight the changing face of the labor movement and the need to protect labor and immigrant rights, Russo frequently lectures around the country and around the world. She has spoken before the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators, and testified before the Florida State Senate and House of Representatives regarding issues of quality healthcare and access.



Christopher Searles, MD is the Co-director of the UCSD Combined Family Medicine and Psychiatry Residency Program at the University of California, San Diego Medical Center. He assumed that position after completing a fellowship at the National Institute for Program Director Development (NIPDD). A San Diego native, Dr. Searles earned his undergraduate degree in Writing at UCSD and his medical degree from the University of California, Davis. The bulk of his clinical practice is spent in the primary care of the underserved and teaching residents from several residency training programs. His work week finds him on the Mobile Medical Unit, at St. Vincent de Paul, at Southwest High School, and at the Scripps Family Medicine Residency program in Chula Vista. He directs the behavioral medicine curricula for both the UCSD and Scripps Family Medicine residency programs and is the current behavioral medicine editor of the upcoming new edition of Swanson's Family Medicine Board Review. He is the recipient of the 2008 American Medical Association YPS Community Service Award and was highlighted in the September 2008 issue of San Diego Metropolitan Magazine as one of "40 Under 40" to watch in the county.

Anu Singh is the Program Coordinator of South Asian Mental Health Awareness in Jersey



Paul Starr, Ph.D. Paul Starr is professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University. At Princeton he holds the Stuart Chair in Communications and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School. He received the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction and Bancroft Prize in American History for *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* and the 2005 Goldsmith Book Prize for *The Creation of the Media*. His most recent book *Freedom's Power*, on the history and promise of liberalism, is now out in paperback. Professor Starr has written extensively on American society, politics, and both domestic and foreign policy. In 1990, with Robert Kuttner and Robert Reich, he co-founded *The American Prospect*, a liberal magazine about politics, policy, and ideas. Published quarterly in its early years, the magazine now appears monthly in print as well as online. A short book by Professor Starr, *The Logic of Health-Care Reform* (1992, reissued in a revised and expanded edition in 1994) laid out the case for a system of universal health insurance and managed competition. During 1993 he served as a senior advisor at the White House in the formulation of the Clinton health plan.



Leah M. Varga is a Doctoral Candidate in Medical Sociology at the University of Miami. She holds a Master's Degree in Sociology and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the same institution. Ms. Varga has conducted extensive research on infectious diseases and was an invaluable collaborator in the collection of qualitative data pertaining to a two-year long study on immigration and health funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and directed by Alejandro Portes (Princeton University). Ms. Varga is the Coordinator of Enabling Haitians Access Needed Care (ENHANCE), a targeted Peer Support Model Development and Evaluation Program for members of the Haitian Community living with HIV/AIDS.



Mario S. Vargas, MPAP is the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Action Board, a nonprofit organization providing social services to low-income disadvantaged families living in the greater New Brunswick area. Vargas is the former director of Operations and Communications for New Brunswick Tomorrow, a private, nonprofit organization focusing on social revitalization in the city. The Puerto Rican Action Board, established in 1971, provides preschool and day-care services, youth services, housing counseling and case management to primarily Hispanics. Mr. Vargas has extensive social service management experience and vast knowledge of the culture and needs of the Hispanic community in New Jersey.



Jill Ward White, R.N., CPHQ is Director, Performance Improvement / Case Management Medical Staff Services, Homestead Hospital. Ms. White grew up in Ithaca and received a nursing degree from the State University of New York, at Albany. She is certified for health care quality and has been a nurse since 1985. In New York, she worked in two teaching hospitals. In 1992, the year that Hurricane Andrew hit Miami, she was in that city as a traveling nurse. As a result of that event, she decided to stay. She is currently studying to get a Masters Degree and feels that nursing provides an excellent foundation for administrative positions. She has been with Homestead Hospital for 16 years where her role is to ensure that top services are delivered at a reasonable cost and through the prudent utilization of resources. Ms. White supervises 25 employees, including social workers and nurses.



David C. Warner, Ph.D. is Professor of Public Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin. His major teaching and research interests are in economics, health policy, and health finance. A graduate of Princeton University and Syracuse University (Ph.D. in economics), he formerly taught at Wayne State University and Yale University and was Deputy Director of the Office of Program Analysis of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Professor Warner has served as a consultant to a number of organizations in the health sector, and for six years was a member of the Board of Directors of Austin's Brackenridge Municipal Hospital. In addition, he was Chairman of the Texas Diabetes Council from January 1985 to December 1989. He has also served on several editorial and advisory boards and been appointed to other state level advisory committees. At the LBJ School, Professor Warner has directed policy research projects on a variety of health and mental health topics. Among his publications are *Toward New Human Rights*, more than forty articles and book chapters, and sixteen books, monographs, and policy research project reports. He is currently working on projects related to improving health insurance coverage, the integration of the U.S. and Mexican health care systems, diabetes policy, public health funding, and U.S.-Mexico border health.