

8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Navigating the Future: 20 Years of Sustaining Excellence in APP Postgraduate Training



Meaghan Angers

Meaghan Angers is the Senior Program Manager of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAP) on Clinical Workforce Development at Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI). In this role, she supports the activities providing free technical assistance (T/TA) nationally to health centers in the key areas of training the next generation, transforming teams, HIV prevention, improving health outcomes, and preparedness for emergencies. These activities include outreaching to health centers across the nation to enroll them in the learning collaborative activities and supporting expert faculty in the development of curriculum, materials, and presentations. Meaghan is also responsible for coordinating the NTTAP efforts around evaluation, data analysis, and publications. Meaghan received her Bachelors of Arts and Sciences in Communications from Bryant University.



Deb Bakerjian, PhD, APRN, FAANP, FGSA, FAAN

Deb Bakerjian is associate dean for practice and a clinical professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. She leads the school's clinical enterprise, including clinical faculty practice, partnerships with UC Davis Health and the community, and strategies tied to the Healthy Aging Clinic. Her research focuses on improving care for older adults, emphasizing patient safety, quality improvement in long-term care, and interprofessional collaboration in primary care. A founding faculty member, she helped transition and establish the school's nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs as master's degrees.

Dr. Bakerjian has led several HRSA-funded grants, including initiatives to enhance the primary care workforce and a \$4 million project to launch a nurse-led mobile clinic. She directs the NP residency and PA training enhancement programs.

She holds a PhD in Health Policy and Gerontology and an MSN from UCSF, and FNP/PA certificates from UC Davis. She also serves in leadership roles across state and national organizations focused on nursing, elder care, and healthcare quality.

Dr. Bakerjian is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Western Academy of Nurses, and Gerontological Society of America.



Kerry Bamrick, MBA

Kerry Bamrick is the Executive Director of The Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers ("the Consortium"). In this role, she serves as the key management leader of the Consortium. Bamrick is responsible for overseeing the administrative, fiscal, and technical, programs, and services of the Consortium while carrying out the strategic plan of the organization. As the Executive Director, key responsibilities include oversight of the development, implementation, and operation of the Accreditation Commission of the organization in accord with the rules governing that Commission, supporting the business growth and development of accreditation business for the Consortium, and maintaining its Federal Recognition as an accreditor by the U.S. Department of Education. Over the last seventeen years, she has been directly involved in the growth and development of the organization including moving it from an informal group of six organizations to becoming its own 501c3.

Bamrick is a recognized leader in the area of postgraduate Nurse Practitioner/Physician Associate training. She has extensive experience in both managing postgraduate nurse practitioner residency training programs and serving as a content expert to organizations interested in implementing postgraduate APP residency and fellowship programs. Her passion and interest in this field is reflected in her work nationally. Bamrick has an undergraduate degree from Merrimack College and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Western New England College.



Amy Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF

Dr. Amy Barton, Professor and Daniel and Janet Mordecai Endowed Chair in Rural Health Nursing, serves as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Students at the University of Colorado, College of Nursing. She is known nationally for her work in implementing and evaluating interprofessional nurse-led models of care, faculty practice, quality and safety, and community partnerships.

Dr. Barton is a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice, and holds fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing, the Western Academy of Nursing, and the Academy of Nurse Educators. She received the 2024 Colorado Nurses Foundation Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing Eminence.



Ramona Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC

Ramona Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP, is the Dean and Professor at Wayne State University, College of Nursing. Dr. Benkert conducts research focused on explicating the role of medical mistrust, racial identity and cultural competence on adherence to primary care recommendations and quality of care. Her research has focused on the role of nurse practitioners and other primary care providers in nurse managed and traditional primary care settings. Dr. Benkert has received numerous Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants. She is currently the principal investigator (PI) for the statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in Michigan with 12 continuous years of funding.



Sue Birch, MBA, BSN, RN

Sue Birch was appointed the President & CEO of The Simmons Foundation dedicated to assisting vulnerable populations in NW Colorado and Houston, Texas. Previously, she served as director of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), one of the country's largest state-based health care purchaser. Appointed by Governor Jay Inslee in January 2018, Birch oversaw efforts to transform the health care system, helping ensure Washington residents had access to high-quality, affordable health care.

HCA purchased care for nearly 3 million residents through Washington Apple Health (Medicaid), the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program, the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program, and the COFA Islander Health Care Program. Birch has led efforts to integrate in the state community-based behavioral health system into the transforming service delivery systems. The state has led the nation in advancing value-based contracting in its public and private health care contracting. Shared savings, bundled payments, centers of excellence and alternative payment models are actively used throughout the state.

A nurse by training, Birch is passionate about improving value in health care, expanding population health and reducing overmedicalization. She has led efforts to increase innovations in health care coverage, eliminate hepatitis C through innovative value-based drug purchasing, and implement a Medicaid benefit for supportive housing and supported employment.

Under Birch's leadership, Washington implemented Cascade Care, the first-in-nation public option aimed at improving access to high-quality, affordable health care. Birch was instrumental in Washington's successful inter-governmental team efforts to be the first state responders to the COVID-19 pandemic avoiding 17,000 deaths.

Before joining Governor Inslee's Cabinet, Birch served as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. She led the state's successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which expanded coverage to more low-income Coloradans while focusing on cost containment and improved service delivery. She also has served as chief executive officer of the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association.

Birch has completed appointments to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, Congressional Budget Office Panel of Health Advisors and Purchasers Business Group on Health. She currently is a commissioner on The Commission on Investment Imperatives for a Healthy Nation, National Academy of Medicine. She was awarded a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellowship and the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship.



Cate Brady, MPAS, PA-C

Cate Brady is an Assistant Professor and Physician Assistant in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and serves as the Program Director for the Gastroenterology Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program. She has been an APP for ten years with experience in pediatrics, urgent care and now adult gastroenterology. A leader in APP education and training, Cate has been instrumental in shaping structured learning opportunities for advanced practice providers in her current role.

In recent years, she has significantly expanded her academic and professional contributions. Her manuscript detailing the development of the APP Fellowship Program is set to be published in *JAAPA (Journal of the American Academy of PAs)* fall 2025, providing a framework for postgraduate APP education in GI and other specialties. Additionally, she was the expert content creator for two modules for the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) APP Learning Series, on small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) and patient education and charting efficiency.

Cate is a sought-after speaker and mentor in the APP education space. She is a co-director for the ACG Mentorship Pathway Program and a vocal advocate within the APP Education Subcommittee. She has also played a key role in advancing the Colorado University GI APP Fellowship Program, which has seen record interest this year, with over 30 applicants in the last two years. Looking ahead, she has designed a comprehensive inpatient APP curriculum, set to launch in July 2025, which will enhance structured training for both fellows and current APPs.

Cate is a member of American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), GI and Hepatology Advanced Practice Provider (GHAPP), American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), APP Task Force for American Gastroenterology Association (AGA), Academy of Medical Educators and Consortium of Postgraduate Education.

With a passion for mentorship, leadership, and program development, Cate continues to drive innovation in APP education, ensuring the next generation of GI APPs are well equipped to meet the increasing demand for specialized care.



Lisa Budka, FNP-BC

Lisa Budka is a Family Nurse Practitioner with over 19 years of healthcare experience. Since 2020, she has been the FNP Residency Program Director at HealthLinc, where she also practices as a PCP and previously served as Site Medical Director. Her dedication to serving the underserved is rooted in her agricultural upbringing and overcoming teenage motherhood. Her philosophy centers on teaching, nurturing, and developing a servant heart in healthcare. During the pandemic, she provided essential OB care, showcasing her commitment to the community. She earned her ASN/BSN from Purdue University North Central in 2006/2008 and her MSN from Purdue University Calumet in 2012.

She has been part of the FNP residency program since its start in 2016, demonstrating her passion for teaching and professional development. She has served on various internal committees, including Quality Improvement, Site Medical Director, and education committees. Currently, Lisa is on the CME and grassroots committees at the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses of Indiana (CAPNI). Her current project focuses on enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration among HealthLinc residencies to improve patient outcomes.



Kay Burke, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC

Kay Burke has served as UCSF Health's Vice President and Chief Nursing Informatics Officer since 2017 and holds a Clinical Associate faculty position in UCSF's School of Nursing. She has been a nurse for 25 years, 15 of which have been spent in Health Information Technology and Nursing Informatics. She holds both a Bachelor's in Nursing and a Master's in Business Administration and is currently pursuing her doctorate at UCSF. Kay has worked for three Magnet-designated organizations in her career, and is committed to the specialty of Nursing Informatics and the enablement of high quality care delivery through the use of healthcare technology.



Carlin Chi, MD

Dr. Carlin Chi is the medical director of primary care at Petaluma Health Center (PHC) and a member of the core faculty of the PHC Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Residency Program. After graduating from Harvard Medical School, she completed a three-year family medicine residency focusing on care of underserved populations at UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital in the Family and Community Medicine department. After residency, she worked with community health centers affiliated with San Mateo County as lead physician at both the South San Francisco and Daly City Youth Health Centers. She also provided first trimester abortion training for family physicians through UCSF's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) program Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare (TEACH). She holds volunteer clinical faculty appointments with Touro University and UCSF School of Medicine.

Dr. Chi joined the team at Petaluma Health Center in 2012, with primary responsibility for coordinating and planning student programs in addition to continuing her clinical practice. She became an associate medical director with leadership of a clinical team in 2015.

She completed the UCSF Family and Community Medicine Faculty Development Fellowship in 2016–17, and during the same year, she led the health center team developing the NP/PA Residency Program while participating in the Weitzman Institute National Collaborative Agreement supporting new programs. The residency program launched in February 2018 with its first class of four residents. She has continued as core faculty of the program, since then, participating in all aspects of the program including curriculum development, precepting, evaluation, accreditation, and expansion. She has also helped lead the creation of the second year fellow program, which allows resident graduates to continue their trajectory of supported career development within the health center.

In 2021, Dr. Chi became the medical director of primary care at Petaluma Health Center, with responsibility for supervising medical providers across teams and collaborating with operational, administrative, and nursing leadership to support the mission of delivering excellent care to underserved communities. This position has allowed her to combine her passion for teaching and mentoring new community health center providers with her lifelong goals of advocacy and care for underserved patients, hopefully with the result of helping to increase the numbers of family medicine providers choosing careers in community health centers across the state.

She is an avid reader, singer, and hiker and is also fortunate to be the happy parent of two incredible teenagers.



Kathryn Cronin, MSN, ACNP, ACHPN

Kathryn Cronin is the Director of Nurse Practitioner Practice and APP Liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, where she recently directed the inaugural cohort of the DHS Primary Care APP Residency program. She has been a Lecturer for the UCLA School of Nursing for 7 years in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care APRN program and has over 24 years of experience in the nursing field. Kathryn's career as an NP began in 2004 at Olive View UCLA Medical Center. Since then, she has worked in various areas, including Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, and Primary Care, and for the past 14 years, she has specialized in Palliative Care.



Radha Denmark, DNP, FNP-C, FHM

Dr. Radha Denmark is a nurse practitioner hospitalist and Director of APP Education and Professional Development at the University of New Mexico Hospital, where she has worked for 18 years. She co-founded the UNM APP Fellowship Program in 2019, which has graduated 13 fellows across 4 tracks. Last year, she developed and launched UNM Hospital's Transition to Practice Program, providing structured onboarding, training, and mentorship for over 40 new graduate APPs in its first year. Nationally, Radha speaks and consults on APP preceptor development. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, the gym, and celebrating life with her growing family.



Patricia Dennehy, DNP, NP-C, FAAN

Dr. Patricia Dennehy is the owner and Principal of Dennehy & Associates LLC, a NP owned consulting firm.

Dr. Dennehy just completed a 9-year contract with the LA County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) on projects examining the roles of advanced practice providers throughout the system. She led the planning and is currently working with the leadership to complete the first NP Post-Graduate Residency cohort. Also included in this contract is a Professional Advancement Model, and evaluation of organizational standards for employment and practice.

Prior to her work in LA, she was a Principal Consultant for Health Management Associates. She led many projects including a 3-year grant with the State of Idaho taking 55 primary care practices through Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) recognition/certification a year (total 165 practices over project period).

Dr. Dennehy had a long rich history at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She had clinical practices in Women's Health and Adult Internal Medicine. She was a Professor of Nursing and Director of Glide Health Services in San Francisco. Glide was a collaboration between the School of Nursing, Glide Foundation, Catholic Healthcare West–Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and the SF Department of Health Services. Her work included leading projects funded by a variety of sources including multiple grants from HRSA Division of Nursing and Public Health and many private foundations. She was the author and Project Director of the first HRSA grants for NP Residencies granted to UCSF/Glide and included UCLA as a sub-recipient.

Dr. Dennehy is a healthcare leader and strong spokesperson for nursing's and advanced practice providers' contribution to healthcare access and quality. She served on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: National Nurse Practitioner Residency & Fellowship Training Consortium (NNPRFTC), National Nursing Centers Consortium and the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium. In her work with the NNPRFTC she was a founding member, is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and Chair of the Membership Committee.

Dr. Dennehy received her BSN and FNP from Sonoma State University, MSN from the University of California San Francisco and DNP from Rush University. In 2012, she was the recipient of the James Irvine Leadership Award for her "creative and inspirational leadership benefiting the people of California" for increasing the access to primary care through the use of nurse practitioner providers in expanded roles. In 2014, she received the Dr. Francis Curry Award for promoting the role of nurses in primary care.



Stephania Dottin, NP

Stephania Dottin is an Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner devoted to serving under-resourced communities and advancing the reach and impact of primary care. In her role as Program Director of a multi-state new graduate Nurse Practitioner Fellowship in Adult primary Care, Stephania is instrumental in shaping the next generation of NPs. Her leadership in nursing education has enhanced the clinical skills and confidence of new practitioners, preparing them to excel in diverse and challenging environments. With her combined experience in clinical practice, program leadership and advocacy, Stephania is a vital leader for nursing and health equity. She continues to pursue initiatives that support the development of a sustainable and diverse nursing workforce, recognizing the essential roles that NPs play in advancing healthcare and improving patient outcomes.



Mitchel Erickson, DNP, MS, BSN, BSc, ACNP-C

Dr. Mitchel Erickson is a board-certified acute care nurse practitioner who practiced for 27 years working primarily in emergency medicine but began as a hospitalist and primary care provider. His leadership roles include the first UCSF Health's Chief of Advanced Practice overseeing more than 600 APPs and the Chair the California Board of Registered Nursing's Advanced Practice RN Advisory Committee. His role as Chief helped mobilize advanced practice leadership across all University of California health systems to address common practice and administrative optimization. During his tenure in the role, he focused on APP new hire onboarding to address provider attrition and engagement and published the data in 2023. He is currently building and optimizing a 4-year collaboration between the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Division of Geriatrics, creating an age-friendly model of care in the emergency department, publishing on ED dementia care. This new NP clinical service was approved by UCSF Health in 2024/2025 and is one of four GED billing models of care in the U.S. He maintains his role as a Clinical Professor at UCSF School of Nursing just completing a consultant contract to the Los Angeles County Dept of Health Services APP workforce. He completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at UCSF in 2022 focusing on medication self-management and medication reconciliation for older adults in the emergency department during the implementation of SB1254 and received the 2022/2023 American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice award in recognition of his doctoral work.



Shay Etheridge, MBA

Shay Etheridge is the Program Manager for the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers (Consortium). In this role, she manages the end-to-end accreditation and re-accreditation process for postgraduate nurse practitioner and physician associate/assistant training programs, while also providing operational and logistical support across the Consortium's broader initiatives. Her work ensures consistent communication, organization, and follow-through at every stage of program engagement.

Shay also supports the Consortium's governance structure by coordinating meetings, materials, and deliverables for the Board of Directors, Accreditation Commission, and Membership Committee. In addition, she provides direct technical and administrative support to the Executive Director.

Before joining the Consortium, Shay served as the Administrative Manager in the Departments of Pathology and Neurology at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her experience in health care operations, project management, and cross-functional collaboration supports her work at the Consortium and its continued mission to advance postgraduate training.

Shay holds a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management from Appalachian State University and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management from Doane University.



Shannon Fitzgerald, MSN, ARNP

Shannon Fitzgerald is a leader in nurse practitioner practice and regulatory issues, and has a passion for advancing the NP profession with a focus on the development and promotion of postgraduate training programs. She served as the first Chief for Advanced Practice at Seattle Children's Hospital, where she and her team created a large, robust Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship, and quadrupled the NP and PA workforce. A past chair of the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, she currently serves as a pro tem Commissioner and on the State of Washington Advanced Practice Committee. She serves on the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers Board, as a site visitor, is on the Finance Committee, and was active in the revision of the Accreditation Standards. Shannon also serves as the co-chair of the legislative committee for ARNPs United and volunteers with the medical response team on Bainbridge Island. Shannon has been in continuous clinical practice for all four decades of her career and loves her current primary care pediatric work on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Shannon is an alum of the University of Portland and Yale University.



Margaret Flinter, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, FAAN, FAANP

Margaret Flinter is Senior Vice President and Clinical Director of the Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) and is a family nurse practitioner by profession. She earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, her master's degree from Yale University, and her doctoral degree at the University of Connecticut. She was the recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship from 2002–2005.

Following her graduate training at Yale University, Margaret joined CHCI in 1980 as a National Health Service Corps Scholar and CHCI's first nurse practitioner. Since 1987, she has held both clinical and administrative leadership roles in the organization and established the Weitzman Center for Innovation in Community Health and Primary Care as the "research and development" arm of CHCI, and now serves as the Director Emeritus of the Weitzman Institute. Margaret is also the founder of America's first nurse practitioner residency program that operates out of CHCI, a national model for nurse practitioner preparation for service in primary care environments.

Margaret was honored with a Yale-Jefferson Award in 2021 for her steadfast dedication to providing healthcare services for those in need. In addition, she is the Chair of the Board for the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers. She also serves as a Trustee of the ABIM Foundation, created by the American Board of Internal Medicine to advance the core values of medical professionalism to improve the quality of health care.



Sarah Freiberg, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Sarah Freiberg MSN, PMHNP-BC was born in Queens, New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, with a Double Major in Psychology and Dance. She obtained her Master of Science in Nursing from the Yale School of Nursing, and is certified as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She has worked at the Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) since 2015 when she was CHCI's first PMHNP Resident. After completing the residency and joining CHCI's behavioral healthcare team in Meriden, she remained involved with the residency as a preceptor. In 2021, Sarah became the Lead Faculty for the PMHNP track of the program, and now serves as its Clinical Program Director. Sarah is passionate about community psychiatry and teaching, and finds great fulfillment in supporting the professional development of new psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in the FQHC setting.



Ann Marie Hart, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP

Dr. Ann Marie Hart is a professor and the DNP program director at the University of Wyoming's Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, where she has been teaching NP students since 2003. Her scholarship focuses on improving health through better pre-graduate NP education and postgraduate NP training, and she has conducted several studies looking new NPs' preparedness for practice and interest in postgraduate education, as well as their experiences in postgraduate NP residency programs. Ann Marie has been a member of Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers since 2014 and is currently the chair of the Accreditation Commission. In addition, Ann Marie has 25 years of adult primary care practice experience and currently practices at the Downtown Clinic, a progressive, free clinic for uninsured, low-income adults in Laramie, WY.



Surani Hayre-Kwan, DNP, MBA, FNP-BC, FACHE, FAANP

Dr. Surani Hayre-Kwan is an experienced healthcare executive skilled in operations, interprofessional practice, clinical education, and quality improvements. She is an expert in nurse and Advanced Practice Clinician professional practice and has 32 years of experience in ambulatory, acute, and academic settings.

Dr. Hayre-Kwan has practiced as a Family Nurse Practitioner for 23 years at an FQHC in Northern California and is an adjunct associate professor at Samuel Merritt University. She has a 25-year history with the California Association for Nurse Practitioners, serving in board positions for over 18 years at the state and local levels, and is currently the state president-elect. Her focus is legislation and NP scope.

Dr. Hayre-Kwan has been recognized as a Fellow in the American Association for Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Health Care Executives.

She is an active board member for several community-based non-profit organizations focused on community health and wellness.



Danielle Hebert, DNP, MBA, MSN, ANP-BC

Danielle Hebert has been in the nursing field for almost 30 years, completing her nursing degree at Fitchburg State College, her MSN from UMass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing, and her DNP degree from UMass Boston. She has almost 20 years of experience in primary care, including the development of a primary care residency program. She is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Track at UMass Chan Medical School Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing as well as the Program Manager for the Advanced Nursing Education–Nurse Practitioner Residency Fellowship Program. Her areas of research include game-based learning, educational escape rooms, fixed versus growth mindset, and interprofessional education. She has an innovative approach to teaching and has been recognized with the 2025 Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing Innovative Teaching Award and the 2024 Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing Faculty Daisy Award.



Amy Hite, EdD(c), DNP, EdS, APRN, FNP

Dr. Amy Hite has extensive education and clinical practice in rural healthcare. This is evident through her history of service, leadership, mentoring, and organizational skills. She is Director and Professor at the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. Amy enjoys serving on regional, national and international boards, committees, and task forces. Amy has taught in undergraduate and graduate nursing courses at PSU, since 2004. She has successfully secured five federal HRSA Grants: two for rural Nurse Practitioner Residency and three for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Projects. Amy has been a member of the Education Committee of the KS Board of Nursing, since 2020, and the KS Attorney General's Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Board. She was appointed by the Governor to the Board of Directors for the Kansas State Board of Nursing, June 2024.

Amy maintains part-time clinical practice, as an Emergency Department Nurse Practitioner at a Rural Level III Trauma Center. She has been married to Stu for 28 years, they have two amazing children—Grace is a PSU Graduate and will start law school at Washburn University fall 2025, and Grant, a senior in high school, coming to PSU for college. In her free time, Amy enjoys running, yoga, vegetable and flower gardening, reading, cooking, and vacations.



DoQuyen Huynh, DNP, FNP, ARNP, FAAN

Dr. DoQuyen (Quyen) Huynh is an innovative leader and equity practitioner with more than a decade of primary care experience, programmatic development, business strategies and public speaking. She transforms healthcare through shaping policies, caring for underserved populations, and building the next generation of clinicians to serve those most vulnerable.

She spent over a decade providing primary care to immigrant and disenfranchised communities at Seattle's International Community Health Services. At this clinic, she created and directed one of the most successful NP residencies in the country, setting the benchmark for others. In 2013, Dr. Huynh was one of the pioneers who developed accreditation standards and formed the official National Nurse Practitioner Residency & Fellowship Training Consortium, known now as the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers (Consortium), to advance rigor and quality of NP training in the United States. She was appointed to the Consortium's Board, and to chair their Accreditation Commission. As the owner of several successful businesses outside of healthcare, Dr. Huynh's pragmatic approach allows for innovative solutions that are sustainable. She has counseled dozens of healthcare institutions throughout the US and Canada on NP education, workforce development and business strategies.

After receiving various awards and recognitions from local and national organizations like AANP and ANA, she was appointed to Seattle University College of Nursing as the director of the DNP/FNP Program. In 2021, she was recruited to fill the inaugural role of Health Equity Director at the Washington State Health Care Authority, to ensure that the state's health policies are created with the diverse and underserved in mind. Her work resulted in the Governor's Outstanding Leadership Award in 2023, recognizing the impact Dr. Huynh's leadership has on health equity in Washington State. Through her work, Dr. Huynh hopes to build a just and equitable society for her four children.

Dr. Huynh received a BA from the University of Washington before earning her BSN, MSN and DNP in Systems Leadership from Seattle University.



Clair Kuriakose, MBA, PA-C, FACHE

Clair Kuriakose is the inaugural Chief Advanced Practice Officer at Stanford Health Care. She is a Physician Assistant who graduated from New York's Saint John's University PA Program. Clair has an MBA from the University of Houston, Bauer College of Business, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She specializes in performance improvement and has a Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma.

As the Chief Advanced Practice Officer at Stanford Health Care, one of her many strategic initiatives is to lead the workforce strategy for over 900 APPs that provide patient care for all specialties, focusing on retention, advocacy, and professional fulfillment.

Clair is passionate about advanced practice providers and their contributions to increasing patient access in the complex and ever-changing healthcare landscape. She was one of the founders of the first-ever National APP Week held in 2021, now an annual celebration bringing together the various professions within advanced practice.

One of Clair's goals is to nurture leadership pathways for APPs, with some examples including a groundbreaking Administrative Fellowship program at Stanford explicitly tailored for aspiring APP leaders. Additionally, she is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Stanford University School of Medicine PA program, leading the healthcare administration track.

At Stanford Health Care, Clair has assumed key leadership roles, starting as the inaugural Manager of Advanced Practice, becoming the first executive director, and now serving as the first Chief Advanced Practice Officer. Clair has gained recognition for her pioneering work in elevating the APP role, making a notable impact locally and nationally. Most recently, Clair was named Top 25 Emerging Leader by Modern Healthcare and received the Regent's 2024 Early Career Award for Northern and Central California.



Garrett Matlick, DNP, MPH, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

Dr. Matlick is a family and psychiatric nurse practitioner as well as the On-Site Medical Director at Community Health Center, Inc.'s (CHCI's) Stamford location. In addition, he serves as the Clinical Program Director for CHCI's NP Residency Program, from which he is also a graduate. His work in postgraduate training extends into accreditation site visits for the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers. Dr. Matlick's original degree is in photography and music at the University of Arizona after which he joined the Peace Corps as a Community Health Educator in Cambodia from 2010 to 2013. Upon return to the U.S., he obtained his accelerated BSN from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, his MSN-FNP and MPH from Johns Hopkins University, and his DNP-PMHNP from Rush University. He is currently published in the *American Journal of Nursing*, the *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, and *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*.



Stephanie Ngsee, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Stephanie Ngsee is a nurse practitioner with a focus on improving access to care for underserved and vulnerable communities. With a strong foundation in nursing and a passion for mentorship, she currently serves as the Associate Program Director of the Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program at AltaMed.

Stephanie earned both her Master of Science in Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, where her training emphasized clinical excellence and culturally responsive care.

Her professional path led her to AltaMed, a leading Federally Qualified Health Center that provides comprehensive, culturally competent care to communities across Southern California. There, she found a mission-driven organization aligned with her values and dedication to health equity.

Before stepping into her current leadership role, Stephanie served as a primary care provider and preceptor, mentoring nurse practitioner students and supporting their clinical development. In her current role, she continues to provide care while guiding new nurse practitioners through their transition to practice. Her commitment to mentorship ensures that early-career clinicians receive the structure, encouragement, and tools they need to thrive. Recognizing the demands of today's healthcare landscape, Stephanie is passionate about empowering the next generation of providers to grow with confidence and purpose.



Monica O'Reilly-Jacob, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAAN

Dr. Monica O'Reilly-Jacob is an assistant professor at the Columbia University School of Nursing. She is a family nurse practitioner and nationally recognized nursing health services researcher, with a focus on the primary care nurse practitioner workforce, value-based payment models and (re)emerging delivery system innovations such as NP-owned practices and NP home-based primary care. A nursing health services researcher, O'Reilly-Jacob provides evidence to support policy changes that maximize the capacity of the nurse practitioner (NP) workforce to meet the demand for primary care in underserved areas. Through Medicare claims analysis and survey research, Dr. O'Reilly-Jacob examines NP scope of practice and the cost and quality of NP care. With funding from the American Nurses Foundation, O'Reilly-Jacob is leading a multidisciplinary team to examine the readiness of NP-owned practices to engage in value-based payment. She holds a PhD in Social Policy from Brandeis University, an MSN from Boston College and BSN from the University of Portland.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was the first to examine the effects of temporary full practice authority on NPs, indicating that organizations had a greater impact on NP autonomy than did state policy. Her earlier work demonstrates that NPs effectively utilize healthcare resources and are ideally suited for inclusion in value-based payment models. O'Reilly-Jacob's work has been published in nursing and interdisciplinary journals, and she serves on national and state advisory councils. The overarching goal of her research is to capitalize on the cost-effective practice style of nurse practitioners to improve the appropriate utilization of primary care.

For ten years prior to her doctorate in health policy, Dr. O'Reilly-Jacob provided primary and urgent care to vulnerable populations in federally qualified community health centers and rural clinics of Central America. And, notably, she was in the inaugural cohort of Margaret Flinter's Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at the Community Health Center, Inc. in Meriden, CT.



Kameron Owens, MSN, FNP-C

Kameron Owens, FNP, has worked as a Nurse Practitioner for 20 years in community health, tribal health and FQHCs. She currently serves as a Medical Director for Alliance Medical Center in Windsor, CA. Kameron is a volunteer faculty member for UCSF, precepting NP students. She was the NP Residency Director for Santa Rosa Community Health from 2021–2025. She works as a full scope primary care clinician and has additional training in Addiction Medicine and primary care psychiatry.



Natalie Raghu, DNP, FNP-C, BC-ADM, APRN-FPA

Dr. Natalie Raghu is a Family Nurse Practitioner committed to the primary care of underserved populations for the entirety of her career as a nurse and Family Nurse Practitioner. Currently, Natalie is the Medical Director of Advanced Practice Providers at Erie Family Health Center in Chicago, IL, where her role is organizational leadership of all APPs including CNMs, NPs and PAs. She is a fierce advocate for social justice in healthcare and believes in the importance of high quality evidenced-based primary care and training the next generation of advanced practice registered nurses to meet the needs of the underserved. Dr. Raghu was the former program director for Advancing Practice and lead the building, implementing, and sustaining of the curriculum for multidisciplinary primary care fellowship program in community health center.

Natalie continues to develop innovative approaches to primary care including forming academic practice partnerships to build the pipeline of primary care providers. Dr. Raghu has performed many roles—grant reviewer, advisory board for Chicago Department of public health, lecturing and training masters and doctoral programs at Rush University and University of Illinois Chicago. Her doctoral work focused on the effects of food insecurity on diabetes and the success of diabetes prevention in Chicago's Westside. She recently published, in collaboration with former fellowship faculty, an exemplar for increasing diversity in APRN postgraduate training programs. Natalie's dedication and commitment to high quality primary care is evident in the many QI initiatives, mentoring and passion she brings to her work.



John Ringhisen, PMHNP-BC, NPP

John J. Ringhisen is the Chief Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at SUNY Upstate Department of Psychiatry in Syracuse, NY. He provides private concierge psychiatric services to Central New York and the greater New York City metro area. He provides small business development and financial consultation services throughout the state of New York. He holds a BS in Physics with a minor study in Electrical Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a BSN with Distinction from the Lienhard School of Nursing at Pace University, and an MSN, Summa Cum Laude, from SUNY Upstate College of Nursing where he was elected into the Sigma Theta Tau honor society and served as the student marshal and speaker for his graduating class. He was elected as vice president and later president of the SUNY Upstate College of Nursing Alumni Board, serving as president until 2024. He continues to serve the Alumni Board as the Chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee. He is board certified as an advanced practice provider in psychiatry by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and holds a Distinctive Certificate from the Neuroscience Education Institute's Master Psychopharmacology Program.

Mr. Ringhisen has been conducting clinical research since his 2012 selection as a Fulbright Research Scholar in Dhaka, Bangladesh where he examined the health seeking behaviors of the capital and their impact on NGO and WHO public health policy efficacy and participation. Mr. Ringhisen was SUNY Upstate Medical University's first advanced practice provider Addiction and Pain Fellow in 2019. Upon completion of his fellowship, he was appointed as director of the psychiatric nurse practitioner fellowship program and established a general psychiatric outpatient clinic that now employs over twenty psychiatric advanced practice providers serving adults and children in Onondaga and surrounding counties of Central New York. In summer 2024, he founded an adult ADHD clinic, utilizing a non-stimulant forward prescribing methodology and decentralized interviewing techniques.

Mr. Ringhisen is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), the Consortium of Advanced Practice Providers, and the American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders (APSARD). He is honored to serve as the Chair of the Medication Subcommittee for the development of US Based Guidelines for Adults with ADHD. He has received many professional honors and awards, including the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Award, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future Leaders in Nursing, and military honors as a Finance Officer in the United States Army.



Sandra Sanchez, M.A.Ed.

Sandra Sanchez is the Manager of AltaMed's Nurse Practitioner (NP) Fellowship Program. With ten years of experience in academic advisement and program development, she has made significant contributions to workforce development in the health sector, particularly through her work on several HRSA grants. Sandra's expertise lies in developing and managing programs that prepare healthcare professionals to serve medically underserved communities.

As a first-generation college student, Sandra earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees from California State University, Northridge. Her academic background and professional experience have fueled her passion for uplifting underrepresented communities and mentoring culturally competent healthcare professionals. Sandra is committed to creating opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to thrive in health careers, ensuring that the healthcare system is reflective of the communities it serves.



Amanda Schiessl, MPP

As Chief of Staff at the Moses/Weitzman Health System, Amanda Schiessl, MPP, supports the CEO, Senior VP and senior leadership to drive the organization's goals and strategic initiatives forward, while maintaining day-to-day functionality across departments.

Since 2018, Amanda has served as the Project Director of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP) on Clinical Workforce Development. Amanda leads work in creating, implementing, and executing free innovative training and technical assistance (T/TA) nationally to health centers and look-alikes. Amanda project-managed Community Health Center, Inc.'s (CHCI) statewide COVID-19 testing efforts in collaboration with the State of Connecticut, and served as the site lead for Connecticut's first mass vaccination drive-through clinic, supporting efforts to design, launch and innovate workflows and processes for mass vaccinations. Prior to becoming Chief of Staff, Amanda served as Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Amanda started at CHCI as the first Interprofessional Student Coordinator. Her diverse background in higher education provided her with the skills to develop systems needed to support efforts to train the next generation of health care professionals including two HRSA grant partnerships with affiliated academic institutions with the objectives of providing comprehensive didactic and clinical experiences that prepare students to deliver effective integrated care services upon graduation within complex health settings for medically underserved communities.

Amanda completed her Bachelor's Degree in Allied Health at the University of Connecticut and received a Masters of Public Policy degree with a Health Policy concentration from Trinity College.



Nicole Seagriff, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Nicole Seagriff, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, is a nurse practitioner, healthcare leader, and breast cancer advocate. She currently serves as Vice President of the Western Region at Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI), overseeing multiple sites at CHCI including Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury, Meriden, Bristol, and Waterbury.

Dr. Seagriff earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Boston College in 2007. She began her career as a Registered Nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Yale New Haven Hospital while pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing at Yale University, graduating in 2011 as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In 2012, she completed the nation's first nurse practitioner residency program at CHCI. She later obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University in 2016, focusing her research on genetic testing for breast cancer mutations in underserved populations.

Beyond her clinical roles, Dr. Seagriff is the President of The Pink Agenda, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for breast cancer research and care among young professionals. A two-time breast cancer survivor herself, diagnosed first at age 26, she uses her personal experience to inspire and educate others, emphasizing the importance of research in providing treatment options.



Danise Seaters, MS, ACNP-BC

Danise Seaters is a master's prepared board-certified acute care nurse practitioner with more than 20 years of experience in emergency medicine and critical care with 10 years' experience in advanced practice leadership. She is currently the Director of Advanced Practice Education and Fellowships at UC Davis Health and supports the advanced practice nurse specialist team. She has been a nurse practitioner for 13 years with a wide range of experience including advance practice program development, pulmonary critical care and emergency medicine. Danise supports education and professional development opportunities for the advanced practice community at UC Davis including simulation training, grand rounds lecture series, journal club and mentorship programs. She is the current president elect for the California Association of Nurse Practitioners Golden Empire Chapter. She has continued her education and professional development in poverty awareness to support advocacy for the lower socioeconomic populations in health care settings. Danise has spearheaded the accreditation of UC Davis's specialty care post graduate fellowship program in ten specialties, including a partnership with the U.S. Air Force developing advanced practice service members for deployment readiness.



Kiersten Solis, APN, MSN, FNP-BC, CEN

Kiersten Solis, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, is a dedicated and visionary nurse practitioner with over 15 years of experience in the nursing profession and ten years as a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She began her career in emergency medicine, providing acute care in fast-paced, high-stakes environments. In 2017, Kiersten made a purposeful shift to primary care at Erie Family Health Centers, driven by her deep commitment to health equity and addressing systemic disparities across diverse and underserved populations.

Kiersten has a long-standing passion for education, leadership development, and clinical mentorship. She has served as a trusted and sought-after preceptor for numerous nurse practitioner students, offering guidance, support, and real-world insight to shape the next generation of nursing leaders. In 2019, she took on the role of Preceptor Development Lead within Erie's HRSA-funded APRN fellowship program, *Advancing Practice*, where she helped formalize and enhance precepting standards and clinical teaching strategies.

In 2022, Kiersten was named Program Director of *Advancing Practice*, where she continues to lead with a focus on health justice, workforce development, and expanding the pathway for culturally competent, mission-driven primary care providers. Under her leadership, the fellowship has continued to thrive as a national model for nurse practitioner postgraduate training.

A passionate community organizer and advocate, Kiersten extends her leadership beyond clinical practice. She currently serves as Chairperson of a Local School Council, President of a Chicago Park District Advisory Council, and is the founder of the North Albany Park Community Organization, a grassroots initiative focused on community empowerment, education, and public space revitalization. Through her advocacy, she has successfully mobilized resources and raised over \$1 million to fund critical infrastructure improvements for her neighborhood public school.

Kiersten's work embodies the intersection of healthcare, education, and community justice, and she remains committed to advancing equity and opportunity in all aspects of her professional and civic life.



Grace Sun, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Grace Sun is a nationally recognized clinician, educator, and thought leader at the forefront of nurse practitioner (NP) education and healthcare innovation. As Assistant Dean of APRN Programs at the University of Texas at Tyler, she leads strategic initiatives to strengthen graduate nursing education, with a focus on competency-based education, curriculum transformation, and integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI).

With over a decade of experience in curriculum design, Dr. Sun has developed and taught MSN and BSN-to-DNP informatics courses and is widely regarded for her pioneering contributions to AI and generative AI in healthcare education. A sought-after speaker and author, she has presented at major national forums including the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and the Consortium of Advanced Practice Providers. Her insights have been featured in podcasts, webinars, and a growing body of publications that have established her as a leading voice in AI-enabled transformation in healthcare.

Dr. Sun currently serves as Secretary on the Executive Board of NONPF, where she helps shape national strategies and leads initiatives such as the transition toward competency-based education and the adoption of the DNP as the entry-level degree for NP practice. She is also the founding Chair of NONPF's AI Special Interest Group, underscoring her commitment to preparing the NP workforce for a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.

Her professional memberships include NONPF, AACN, AANP, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), Integrative Medicine for the United States (IMUS), and Advanced Practice Provider Executives (APPEX). Across all her roles, Dr. Sun's leadership philosophy emphasizes interprofessional collaboration, innovation, and dynamic teamwork to improve outcomes, strengthen education, and shape the future of nursing with equity, excellence, and foresight.



Jill Terrien, PhD, ANP-BC

Dr. Terrien is the Associate Dean for Interprofessional and Community Partnerships at the UMass Chan Medical School. She is an Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and manages a faculty run Student Health Services clinic. She is the project director for an Advanced Nursing Practice NP Residency grant. Her work in the DNP program includes core courses on the social determinants of health, population health and interprofessional education initiatives.



Ginger Vaughn-Pullin, DNP, FNP-BC

Ginger Vaughn-Pullin, DNP, NE, FNP-BC has more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare field in a variety of areas including emergency medicine, primary care, functional medicine, research, and academia. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Kansas. She then earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Graceland University in 2018 with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership where her research focus was stress reduction in caregivers.

Dr. Vaughn-Pullin is a Family Nurse Practitioner who has been with Samuel Rodgers Health Center since 2017. She is appointed as Director Quality and is the Program Director for their innovative Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Residency Program. She also practices in clinic as a primary care provider in the pediatric department.

Additionally, Dr. Vaughn-Pullin is an Associate Professor at a local university and has been teaching in graduate and doctoral nursing programs for almost a decade. She has extensive experience with curriculum design and evaluation, as well as graduate education accreditation and has completed training to be an accreditation site visitor for the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers. Her work in clinical, administrative, and academic roles provides a unique combination of skills that benefit the programs she leads.



Margaret Walsh, MS, FNP-BC

Margaret Walsh is the director of the Institute's Family Nurse Practitioner Residency. Since 1994, she has provided primary care at the Institute's Walton Family Health Center in the Bronx, where she still maintains an active patient panel. She has been responsible for the development of interdisciplinary models of care at the Institute, including several curricula for group medical visits that have been expanded throughout the Institute, such as diabetes shared medical visits in both English and Spanish. FNP Walsh has also been a champion of the [CenteringPregnancy®](#) and [CenteringParenting®](#) programs at the Institute and works very closely with both programs.

FNP Walsh attended the State University of New York at Buffalo for her Master of Science. She then attended Columbia University for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. In the spring of 2018, FNP Walsh received the 'Distinguished Alumni Award' from the Columbia University School of Nursing. She has presented at various professional conferences across the nation, including STFM (Society of Teachers in Family Medicine) and at NONPF (National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculty).



Alan Wengrofsky, CPA

Alan Wengrofsky is the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President for Community Healthcare Network. He is a certified public accountant (CPA) licensed in the state of New York since 1993 and began his career with Loeb & Troper, LLC, where he specialized in not-for-profit and healthcare accounting.

Prior to coming to Community Healthcare Network, Mr. Wengrofsky was the CFO of a nursing home chain with annual revenue of \$500 million dollars. He currently serves as a member of the finance committee of a private school and has previously served on the board of a not-for-profit agency.



Kristy Wiese, MPP

Kristy Wiese, a partner with Capitol Advocacy, brings over twenty-five years of experience in both public and private interests to her diverse array of clients. She co-leads the firm's significant Healthcare Practice which spans the healthcare delivery system including facilities, payors, providers and vendors who provide healthcare within California.

Much of her work is focused on California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal, which covers more than one third of the state's population. Within the firm's other practice areas, Kristy also works on issues relating to Technology, Privacy and Artificial Intelligence. Given the complexity of California's landscape for all businesses, Kristy also works on General Business and Employer Representation issues. Her experience and relationships within the Legislature and State government enable her to combine access with strategic advice that enables organizations to advance their policy objectives.

Kristy's deep-rooted knowledge of clients' issues and keen understanding of what drives California's political structure has proven successful, as she has navigated some of the state's most challenging issues. She is recognized for her unique and intuitive approach provides clients with strategic advice that gets results. Her analytical, problem-solving and communication skills, counsel on coalition building, grassroots and grass tops outreach, and strategy for facilitating bipartisan relationship building with policy makers is a winning combination for the firm's clients.

Kristy's experience as a key official and decision-maker within former Governor Gray Davis' administration provides unique insights to clients seeking experienced advocates to lobby on behalf of regulatory issues at every level of government. Prior to her experience in state government, Kristy was the in-house lobbyist for one of the state's largest non-profit, grassroots organizations, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC).

Kristy completed her undergraduate work at San Diego State University and holds a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from California State University, Sacramento. Beyond the time that she invests in work, Kristy focuses her energy on supporting organizations that build community. Kristy serves on the Board of Directors for Fairytale Town, one of Sacramento's most beloved institutions, a commitment that reflects her passion for the organization's mission of promoting the imagination, creativity, and education of children. She also serves on the Board of the Friends of the Crisis Nurseries, an auxiliary of the Sacramento Children's Home. The auxiliary works to enable the work of the crisis nurseries to support and strengthen families. Kristy lives in East Sacramento with her husband, Kasey, and two young children, Emily and Jack.