

9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Building What's Next:

Leadership, Workforce, and Innovation in APP Postgraduate Training



Luzann Ampadu, DNP, MS, FNP-BC

Luzann earned both her BS and MS-FNP degrees from the University of Rochester School of Nursing and was a member of the inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) cohort at SUNY Brockport. Over the past decade, she has practiced as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) while also serving for four years as an adjunct professor in the FNP program at SUNY Brockport.

She currently works full-time at Highland Family Medicine, a safety-net practice, where she divides her time between direct patient care and her role as Academic Director of the UR Highland Family Medicine FNP Residency Program. Luzann is deeply committed to primary care, interprofessional education, and the preparation of future family nurse practitioners. She has precepted nurse practitioner students and residents for more than seven years.

Throughout her career, Luzann has held several leadership roles, including Co-Coordinator of the Centering Pregnancy program at Highland Family Medicine, where she also helped lead initiatives focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Prior to joining Highland Family Medicine, she served as Lead Nurse Practitioner at the Starlight Pediatrics Foster Care Clinic for the Monroe County Department of Public Health.

She remains actively involved in organizational and professional leadership, including participation in the Highland Family Medicine Change Committee with a focus on DEI initiatives. Luzann is also a member of the New York State Nurse Practitioner Association, American Nurses Credentialing Center, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and the Rochester Black Nurses Association.

Outside of her professional work, Luzann enjoys spending time with her two children and two beloved cats.



Leah Baecht, DNP, CRNA, APRN

Leah Baecht, DNP, CRNA, APRN is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, educator, and academic leader who currently serves as Program Director and Assistant Professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Nurse Anesthesia Program. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Washington University in St. Louis, her Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia from SIUE, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from SIUE. An active member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) since 2008, Dr. Baecht has dedicated her career to advancing nurse anesthesia education through teaching, curriculum development, accreditation activities, student mentorship, faculty development, and scholarly dissemination. She maintains active clinical practice as a CRNA, ensuring integration of contemporary anesthesia practice into educational programming.

Dr. Baecht devotes more than 50% of her professional effort to educational activities, including didactic instruction, clinical education oversight, program administration, and competency-based curriculum development. Her service to the profession includes leadership roles within nurse anesthesia education programs, state and regional educational initiatives, national presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and funded projects focused on clinical education, preceptor development, student wellness, diversity and inclusion, and educational innovation. As an educator, clinician, and administrator, she is committed to fostering excellence in nurse anesthesia education, supporting future CRNAs, and advancing the profession through collaborative leadership and service.



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

Deb Bakerjian is the associate dean for practice and a clinical professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. As the associate dean for practice, she leads the school's clinical enterprise, including oversight of clinical faculty practice development and implementation, UC Davis Health and community strategic partnerships and advocacy, interprofessional practice and clinical partnerships and strategies for the school's contribution to the Healthy Aging Initiative.

Bakerjian's research aims to improve the quality of care for aging populations. Her research focuses on patient safety and quality improvement practices in long-term care, particularly nursing homes, as well as interprofessional education and collaborative practice in primary care. She is specifically interested in the roles of nurse practitioners and physician assistants as members of the interprofessional team. As a founding faculty member, she was instrumental in transitioning the family nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs from the School of Medicine to School of Nursing and establishing both as master's degree programs.

Bakerjian led several workforce enhancement grants funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) over the last decade. Currently, she is the director for the HRSA funded primary care advanced practice provider fellowship program and the school's nurse led mobile clinic. She also received a \$6mil grant to educate and train nurse faculty and clinical instructors from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Bakerjian was a Pat Archbold Predoctoral Scholar and a Claire M. Fagin Postdoctoral Fellow at UC San Francisco where she was also an assistant adjunct professor. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Policy and Gerontology in 2006 and a Master in Science of Nursing in 1992, both from the UCSF School of Nursing. Bakerjian earned both a family nurse practitioner and physician assistant certificate from the UC Davis School of Medicine in 1991 and a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration from the University of Phoenix in 1983.

Bakerjian participates in a variety of areas of service in the health system. She is the co-chair of the UC Davis Healthy Aging Initiative and a member of the resource utilization committee. Bakerjian is active in both state and national organizations associated with nursing, patient safety and quality, and the care of older adults. She is chair of the board of directors for HealthImpact, the California Nursing Workforce Center. She serves on the National Quality Forum's Skilled Nursing Facility Technical Expert Panel for Serious Reportable Events and Common Formats. She is on the Leadership Development committees for PALTMed—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care and is a past president of the California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine and the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the Gerontological Society of America. She was also inducted into the Western Academy of Nurses and is a Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing.



Kerry Bamrick, MBA

Kerry Bamrick is the Executive Director of The Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers (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. For nearly two decades, she has been directly involved in the growth and development of the organization including moving it from an informal group of five 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.

Dana Belles, FNP

Dana Belles, MSN, FNP-BC, is a Nurse Practitioner Resident in the Nurse Practitioner Family Medicine Residency Program at Highland Family Medicine and a graduate of the State University of New York at Brockport Family Nurse Practitioner Program.



Mary Blankson, DNP, APRN, FNP-c, FAAN

Mary Blankson DNP, APRN, FNP-C, FAAN is the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI), overseeing diverse nursing services across the CHCI network. As CNO, she ensures the quality and expansion of nursing and medical assistant services, the development of policy, and continuing education. Mary also works collaboratively to ensure Joint Commission and Patient Centered Medical Home compliance. She is senior faculty at the Moses Weitzman Health System's Weitzman Institute, and also the Executive Director for the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA), a national, non-profit MA Training organization operating in 29 states and accredited by ABHES. Dr. Blankson earned her MSN at Yale University in 2005 and her DNP education at Johns Hopkins University in 2015. In 2017, Dr. Blankson was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Quinnipiac University School of Nursing for her contribution to nursing and for helping meet the health care needs of the underserved. In 2020, she was honored to be inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing for her contributions to nursing focused on the role of the primary care nurse. She is certified and holds professional membership in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



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 Medical Director for the Gastroenterology Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Fellowship Program. She has been an APP for over ten years with clinical experience spanning pediatrics, urgent care, and adult gastroenterology. A leader in APP education and workforce development, Cate has been instrumental in creating structured training pathways and innovative educational programs for advanced practice providers.

In recent years, she has significantly expanded her academic and professional contributions. Her work on postgraduate APP education has resulted in multiple publications, including a manuscript in the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Associates* (JAAPA) outlining the development of a gastroenterology APP fellowship program. She is also the author of a recently accepted publication in *iGIE* examining national gaps in gastroenterology APP onboarding and training, as well as a publication in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (CGH) focused on establishing and sustaining APP fellowship programs.

Cate is a sought-after speaker, educator, and mentor within the gastroenterology community. She serves as an active member of the ACG Mentorship Pathway Program and Education Committee and was recently selected as Vice Chair of the ACG APP Committee, where she will help shape national initiatives starting in October 2026. She has also played a key role in advancing the University of Colorado GI APP Fellowship Program over the last four years. With a passion for mentorship, leadership, and educational innovation, Cate continues to advance APP training and workforce development, ensuring the next generation of gastroenterology APPs are well-equipped to meet the growing demand for specialized digestive health care.



Lisa Budka, FNP-BC

Lisa Budka, MSN, FNP-C is a Family Nurse Practitioner with over 20 years of healthcare experience and currently serves as the FNP Residency Program Director at HealthLinc in Northern Indiana.

Lisa has rooted her practice, teaching philosophy, and leadership style in the lived experiences of being raised in an agricultural community, overcoming the vulnerability of poverty, and learning from the formative lessons of teenage motherhood. She chooses to lead with grace, gratitude, and respect, bringing a genuine desire to understand and engage everyone she encounters—whether residents, patients, colleagues, or fellow leaders. This approach has shaped more than a decade of meaningful, purpose driven work in postgraduate residency training.

Lisa has presented at the Consortium of Advanced Practice Providers on emotional intelligence and quality improvement in postgraduate training and at CAPNI on residency development. She has also led residents to the Indiana Statehouse for Advocacy Day and continues to advance truly interdisciplinary postgraduate training through intentional collaboration.



Sarah Carlan, MSW, PCC

Sarah brings a unique blend of therapeutic insight and leadership expertise to her work with medical providers navigating the complexities of modern healthcare. With a master's in social work from Smith College and a coaching certificate from Brown University School for Continuing Education, she's spent years exploring the powerful connection between mindset and human experience.

Her approach is rooted in curiosity and compassion. Drawing from Buddhist philosophy, the research-based work of thought leaders like Carol Dweck and Brené Brown, and her additional training in team coaching and the Dare to Lead curriculum, Sarah helps physicians, nurses, and healthcare teams find new perspectives to meet the moment with more efficacy. She understands the unique pressures of healthcare and guides providers beyond limiting beliefs toward more sustainable, authentic ways of showing up for their patients and themselves.

Whether working one-on-one or facilitating team transformation, Sarah believes that lasting change starts with understanding how we think—and that with the right support, even the most overwhelmed providers can reconnect with purpose and find new reserves of resilience.



Carlin Chi, MD

Dr. Carlin Chi is the medical director of primary care at Petaluma Health Center 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.



Patricia Cleveland, ARNP, FNP

Patricia Cleveland has been a primary care provider at Sea Mar Community Health Centers since 2009. She has been the Program Director of Sea Mar's Advanced Practice Provider Residency Program (formerly the Nurse Practitioner Residency program) since she developed the program in 2014. Under her leadership, the program has been expanded to include 12 FNP/PA residents at four sites and 6 psychiatric nurse practitioner residents at 3 sites. Patricia led the program through the initial accreditation in 2018, renewal of accreditation in 2021, and is preparing for accreditation renewal in 2026. She has also been Project Director on four HRSA grants, including three advanced nursing education grants and one integrated substance use training program grant. Outside of her work at Sea Mar, she has served on the Accreditation Commission and as an accreditation site visitor for the Consortium of Advanced Practice Providers since 2019. Patricia has co-led the Northwest Consortium for Advanced Practice and Education since 2015.

Patricia's philosophy of care is that every person deserves access to holistic and comprehensive health care, and that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. She believes in health promotion and the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle to aid in the prevention of chronic diseases. In her spare time, Patricia loves to read, enjoy outdoor recreation, and play board games with her husband and three children.



Charise Corsino, MA

Charise is the Program Director for CHCI's Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Programs. In this role, Charise manages the operations and growth of CHCI's NP Residency Programs which includes training programs for Family, Adult-Gerontology, Pediatric, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners. In addition, Charise also serves as an expert faculty and coach on the National Collaborative Agreement on Clinical Workforce Development funded through HRSA. In this role, Charise supports organizations in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of new postgraduate NP Residency Programs at FQHCs across the country. Charise has developed expertise in the development, planning, implementation and operation of postgraduate NP Residency Programs, particularly focused on the safety net setting. Charise also serves as a member on CHCI's Emerging Leadership Team as well as Weitzman's Education Programs Leadership team.

Charise joined CHCI in 2010 as the Program Manager for the Statewide Mobile Program and Community Wellness Programs, overseeing the organization's in-school dental program, Community HealthCorps program, and a portfolio community wellness programs. In 2012, Charise became the Director of Middlesex County Sites, managing the daily operations of three of CHCI's primary care health center locations. She joined the Weitzman Institute in 2014 as a Program Manager for the NP Residency Programs. Charise completed training at the Dartmouth Institute and is a certified Clinical Microsystems coach. She also completed a 10-month Health Leadership Fellowship through the Connecticut Health Foundation focused on system-based strategies for reducing racial and ethnic health disparities in Connecticut.

Charise earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management from the University of Connecticut's School of Business and a Masters of Arts degree in Health Communication from Emerson College in collaboration with Tufts University School of Medicine.



Bethany Croke, DNP, FNP-BC

Bethany Croke is an Assistant Professor of the Practice and director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Boston College, William F. Connell School of Nursing. Prior to entering this role, she helped spearhead and lead the NeighborHealth (formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center) FNP Fellowship Program as their Clinical Program Manager from 2021–2023. She maintains an interest in supporting postgraduate APP training programs through academic partnerships, postgraduate APP training outcomes, and primary care workforce development.



Patricia Dennehy, DNP, NP-C, FAAN

Dr. Patricia Dennehy is the owner and Principal of Dennehy & Associates LLC a NP owned consulting firm. She is a founding member of the Consortium and has served as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Membership Committee since the start of the organization.

Dr. Dennehy just completed a 9-year contract with the LA County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) on projects examining, updating and refining the roles of advanced practice providers throughout the system. She led the planning and lead the completion of the first NP Postgraduate Residency cohort. Also included in this contract was 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, Acute Care 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.

Patricia Dennehy bio continued from previous page

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 using nurse practitioner providers in expanded roles. In 2014, she received the Dr. Francis Curry Award for promoting the role of nurses in primary care.

Dr. Dennehy received her BSN and FNP from Sonoma State University, MSN from the University of California San Francisco and DNP from Rush University.



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

Dr. Mitchel Erickson is a board-certified acute care nurse practitioner who practiced for 27 years 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 Chair of 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 multi-year collaboration between the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Division of Geriatrics, creating an age-friendly model of care in the emergency department with several publications. The Age-friendly Emergency Department was approved by UCSF Health in 2024/2025 as a new NP clinical service in the Division of Geriatrics 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. 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.



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 supporting operational, logistical, and communication initiatives across the Consortium. Her work helps ensure clear communication, organization, and follow-through throughout all stages 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 to providing direct operational and administrative support to the Executive Director.

Before joining the Consortium, Shay served in administrative leadership roles within the Departments of Pathology and Neurology at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her background in healthcare operations, project management, and cross-functional collaboration supports her work advancing postgraduate APP training and accreditation.

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 advanced practice provider and regulatory issues, with a focus on developing and promoting 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. As part of a team sponsored by Premera Blue Cross and the University of Washington, she developed and supported a rural health initiative in Washington State that successfully placed family and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners in remote areas across the state until funding expired in 2025. She serves on the Consortium Board as a site visitor, on the Finance Committee, and is active in the revision of the Accreditation Standards. Her current clinical practice includes volunteering with the Medical Response Team on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and in local community access clinics. Shannon is the co-chair of the legislative committee for APRNs of Washington State, working on issues related to full reimbursement for services provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants.



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

Margaret Flinter is Senior Vice President and Clinical Director of the Community Health Center, Inc. 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 the Community Health Center, Inc. (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 National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium. 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.



Emily Graef, FNP-BC

Emily Graef is a Family Nurse Practitioner with 15 years of primary care experience. She practices as a primary care provider at Holyoke Health Center, where she also serves as Director of the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program. Emily Graef is also adjunct faculty in the graduate nursing program at Simmons University in Boston, furthering her commitment to training the next generation of nurse practitioners. Her work is grounded in a commitment to health equity, and she is passionate about clinical education and mentorship as a path to building a more representative and responsive primary care workforce.



Shelby Gross, FNP

Shelby Gross, MSN, FNP-C, is a Nurse Practitioner Resident in the Nurse Practitioner Family Medicine Residency Program at Highland Family Medicine. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from St. John Fisher University.



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 at 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 with expertise in operations, interprofessional practice, clinical education, and quality improvement. She is an Advanced Practice Clinician with 32 years of experience in ambulatory, acute, and academic settings.

Dr. Hayre-Kwan is the Associate Director of the Primary Care Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at the University of California, Davis. She has also practiced as a Family Nurse Practitioner for 24 years at the Russian River Health Clinic in Guerneville, CA.

Dr. Hayre-Kwan has a 26-year history with CANP, serving on the board for over 24 years at the state and local levels as president, president-elect, conference chair, and on the health policy and practice committee. She served a term as the Northern California representative for AANP. She has been a member of the Association of California Nurse Leaders for 16 years and serves as co-chair of the organization's Health Policy Committee.

She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Samuel Merritt University, a Master of Science in Nursing, a Master of Business Administration from Sonoma State University, and a Family Nurse Practitioner certificate. She is also a nationally certified NP in Family Practice.

Dr. Hayre-Kwan has been recognized as a Fellow in both the AANP and the American College of Healthcare 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' experience in primary care, including the development of a primary care residency program. She is an Associate 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.



Alexis Hopkins, FNP

(Catherine) Alexis Hopkins is the Director of the APP Fellowship Program at Neighborhealth, a federally qualified health center in Boston, Massachusetts.

She earned her BA in Cultural Anthropology from Emory University in 2004 and went on to receive her MSN from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in 2009, graduating as a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society.

Alexis has been a committed leader and advocate within her organization, serving as Co-chair of the APP Council at Neighborhealth from 2024 to 2025, where she championed initiatives to elevate APP voices in leadership. Her passion for service extends beyond her local community—she was a member of the National Health Service Corps from 2012 to 2014 and has participated in international nursing service trips to the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

As part of the Family Medicine Department at Neighborhealth since 2014, Alexis provides compassionate, culturally responsive primary care to patients of all ages as a bilingual Spanish-English PCP. In 2021, she became an Epic Clinician Builder in Informatics, improving patient outcomes and provider experience through enhancements to the electronic health record. She has also presented her work on obstetric informatics and health disparities at the 2026 Embodying Maternal Health Equity Conference.

Outside of her professional work, Alexis enjoys playing basketball and Mario Kart with her family.



Quyen 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 (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.



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*.



Victoria Rines Palmer, FNP-C

Victoria Palmer is a FNP who has spent her entire NP career to date working in community health centers. In 2020, she completed a FNP residency program at Neponset Health Center in Dorchester, MA. Following her residency training, Victoria served as a PCP with Harbor Health, both at Neponset Health Center and at Harbor Community Health Center in Plymouth, MA. In June 2024, Victoria helped start the APRN Transition-to-Practice Fellowship at South Boston Community Health Center and has been the Director since March 2025. As of June 2026, Victoria is the Deputy COO and is continuing to oversee the Fellowship while tackling all things clinical operations! Victoria also maintains her primary care practice, seeing patients one day a week, and is thrilled to be involved in the NP postgraduate movement.



Carolyn Read, MSN, MSW, MPH, APRN-BC, FNP, ACHPN

Carolyn Read is a certified Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner and a dedicated Faculty Member for the Oak Street Health (OSH) New Graduate NP Fellowship in Geriatric Primary Care. Since joining the faculty in 2022, she has played numerous roles on the fellowship team, serving as an advisor, preceptor, didactic curriculum designer, and live learning instructor, while also leading recruitment efforts. Notably, she played a pivotal role in securing the fellowship's recent accreditation with the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers in November 2025. Alongside her Fellowship work, Carolyn provides home-based palliative care services to Oak Street patients throughout the Chicagoland area. Within her fellowship role, she especially loves advising, mentoring, and teaching the next generation of NPs as they launch their careers in specialized geriatric primary care.



Shelley Rio, MSN, ACNP

Shelley Rio, MSN, ACNP-BC, is an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with the University of Colorado School of Medicine and has dedicated her career to advancing patient care, clinical excellence, and Advanced Practice Provider (APP) development.

Shelley earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Harding University and spent eight years as a Registered Nurse specializing in oncology and intensive care. She then obtained her Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University before joining the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Following graduation, Shelley practiced in Urologic Surgical Oncology for two and a half years before transitioning to Interventional Radiology (IR), where she has served for the past twelve years. Throughout her tenure in IR, she has been instrumental in the growth and advancement of the APP program. Under her leadership, the APP team expanded from four to eight providers, and she currently serves as the Lead APP for the division. She has participated in many process improvement projects within the hospital and IR department and continues to work to improve job satisfaction and career advancement for the APPs within the Department of Radiology.

Her passion for education and workforce development led her to create the nation's first Interventional Radiology APP Fellowship, establishing a pioneering training model for future APPs entering the specialty.

Shelley is equally committed to fostering a positive and connected workplace culture. She founded the department's Wellness Committee, which promotes employee engagement and well-being.



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 her nurse practitioner residency program at CHCI and subsequently practiced as a Primary Care Provider for 13 years. During this time, she 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 J. Seaters, DNP, MSN, ACNP-BC, is a masters prepared Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. She is an advanced practice executive with more than 22 years of experience in healthcare and 14 years as a nurse practitioner specializing in emergency medicine, pulmonary critical care, and advanced practice leadership. She currently serves as the Director of Advanced Practice Education and Fellowships at UC Davis Health, where she provides strategic, systemwide leadership for advanced practice provider (APP) professional development, education, fellowship program development and accreditation, mentorship, and workforce initiatives. She also maintains an active clinical practice in emergency medicine.

Danise is recognized for her work in APP workforce sustainability, advanced practice fellowship development, evidence-based practice implementation, and health policy advocacy. She has led the development of multiple specialty APP fellowship programs, fellowship accreditation, founded and expanded systemwide APP mentorship and professional development initiatives, and collaborates across disciplines to advance clinical excellence and workforce retention. Her scholarly work includes peer reviewed publications, national presentations, and contributions to an acute care nurse practitioner textbook. In addition to her academic and clinical leadership roles, Danise Seaters serves as President of the Sacramento Chapter of the California Association of Nurse Practitioners, where she is actively engaged in legislative advocacy and in advancing the professional advancement of the nurse practitioner profession.



Carissa Singh, DNP, FNP-C

Carissa Singh is a Doctor of Nursing Practice with over eight years of clinical experience and four years as the Clinical Director of the University of Rochester Highland Family Medicine NP Residency Program. A member of the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers' Accreditation Commission, Carissa brings a unique perspective, having completed an NP residency program at the start of her own career. Carissa is dedicated to advancing advanced practice education and ensuring high standards for future providers.



Mark Stolspart, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Mark Stolspart is a family nurse practitioner and NP Fellowship Faculty at Oak Street Health. His work focuses on postgraduate APP education, clinical mentorship, evaluation design, and supporting nurse practitioners through the transition into complex primary care practice.

In his faculty role, Mark has helped build practical evaluation structures that turn feedback into action for both individual fellows and the fellowship program. His work centers on creating systems that make evaluation more useful, actionable, and connected to real program improvement.



Grace H. Sun, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Grace Sun, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, is a nationally recognized clinician, educator, and thought leader at the forefront of nurse practitioner (NP) education, healthcare innovation, and artificial intelligence (AI) integration in practice and academia. As Assistant Dean of APRN Programs and Clinical Professor at the University of Texas at Tyler, she leads strategic initiatives to advance graduate nursing education through competency-based education, curriculum transformation, and the integration of emerging technologies.

With extensive experience in curriculum design and advanced practice nursing education, Dr. Sun is widely recognized for her pioneering work in AI and generative AI applications in healthcare education and clinical practice. A sought-after national speaker and author, she has presented at major forums including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), 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 work has been featured through numerous podcasts, webinars, publications, and invited presentations focused on preparing healthcare professionals for an increasingly technology-enabled future.

Dr. Sun currently serves as Secretary on the Executive Board of NONPF and is the founding Chair of the organization's Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group. In these leadership roles, she contributes to national initiatives advancing competency-based education, quality standards in NP education, and the responsible integration of emerging technologies into healthcare and professional training.

A Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) and the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), Dr. Sun is recognized nationally for her leadership, scholarship, and contributions to advancing nurse practitioner education and practice.

Across her leadership, clinical, educational, and scholarly roles, Dr. Sun remains committed to fostering innovation, interprofessional collaboration, and excellence in healthcare education and practice to improve outcomes and shape the future of the healthcare workforce.



Jill Terrien, PhD, ANP-BC

Dr. Terrien is an Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and is the project director and academic partner for a HRSA funded family nurse practitioner residency. She also has a second HRSA grant focused on supporting nursing preceptors across all levels of nursing education and employment. Her expertise includes curriculum design and evaluation, academic and community partnerships and interprofessional education. She is the Associate Dean for Interprofessional and Community Partnerships at UMass Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing in courses that include population health, social determinants of health, healthcare disparities and the healthcare system.



Sarah Tomasello, FNP

Sarah Tomasello, APRN, FNP-C is a Nurse Practitioner Resident in the Nurse Practitioner Family Medicine Residency Program at Highland Family Medicine. She earned her Master's degree in 2019 from the University of Rochester. She has a strong interest in primary care, preventative medicine, and healthcare innovation. Her current work focuses on integrating evidence-based practices through the use of AI technology into patient care and clinical reasoning.



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.



Darcy Wikoff, DNPc, FNP-C

Dr. Darcy Wikoff is a Family Nurse Practitioner, educator, and healthcare leader with extensive experience in primary care, advanced practice provider education, and program development. She serves as Clinical Director of Graduate Education and subsequently, Clinical Director for the APP Postgraduate Fellowship at WellSpace Health. Darcy is also an Assistant Professor for the College of Nursing at Samuel Merritt University, both in Sacramento, CA. Dr. Wikoff is passionate about preparing the next generation of APPs through innovative and practical teaching, mentorship, and experiential learning opportunities. She has played a key role in the development and oversight of the APP postgraduate fellowship and FNP clinical practicum training programs at WellSpace Health, collaborating with both community and academic partners. Her interests include primary care practice transformation for provider resilience and readiness to practice in the ever-evolving landscape of community medicine. Through her clinical, academic, and leadership roles, she continues to influence healthcare delivery and APP education across California.