












## New Futures Global Health Conference: Presenter Biographies


-  **Lorin Boynton, MD** - Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington. Lorin Boynton was born in Zimbabwe and grew up in South Africa. Her diverse cultural experiences led her into the field of Cultural Psychiatry. She has worked as the consultant psychiatrist in the International Medicine Clinic at Harborview Medical Center for 12 years. In this position she assesses and treats refugee and immigrant patients from many population groups, including a large number East Africa and Southeast Asia. In her role as a teacher within the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Washington, she has developed a curriculum on Religion, Spirituality and Culture in Psychiatry.
-  **Beth Farmer, MSW, MHP** - Beth Farmer, MSW, MHP has been practicing social work for over twenty years. She currently manages International Counseling and Community Services (ICCS), a program of Lutheran Community Services Northwest. ICCS is a licensed community mental health clinic whose primary participants are refugees. Beth is a graduate of the University of Washington's School of Social Work and has a history in counseling, direct services, and program management.
-  **Lilia Maritza Gomez, BA.** - Lilia Gomez, BA is the Special Populations and Outreach Coordinator for the Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers (WACMHC). WACMHC formed in 1985, is a non-profit organization that represents 25 Community Health Centers in Washington State. Their mission is to advocate on behalf of the low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations to promote health and human services, primarily through its membership, ensuring that all Washingtonians have access to primary health care, regardless of geographic location, nationality, income level or insurance status. Some of Lilia's accomplishments include; in 2005, she played an important role and co-funded the Washington Community Health Workers/Promotores Network. At her present position provides assistance in developing sustainable Promotores de Salud Programs at local and regional levels. Some of her greater strengths include her ability to communicate a shared vision on the important role that Promotores Programs play in reducing health disparities among underserved communities; and her ability to successfully influence other community leaders to advance the development and the implementation of Promotores Program throughout the state. She is recognized by her colleges as a leader who creates effective community partnerships to help reach the mutual goal of improving the services provided to seasonal/migrant farm workers and the Latino community in general. Lilia earned a BA degree from The Evergreen State College with a major in Multicultural Psychology and a minor in Social Work. She has more than twenty years of experience working with the highest professional and ethical standards with underserved communities in the social, legal and health services fields, and is able to communicate effectively and strategically with diverse cultural communities from different socioeconomic backgrounds.
-  **Khawla Hadi** - Khawla Hadi is a peer support specialist at International Counseling and Community Services (ICCS). Khawla originally came to the United States from Iraq as a refugee. Khawla supports Arabic-speaking refugees with adjustment, during counseling, and also with trauma-treatment. She is also raising children born both in Iraq and in the United States, and is able to speak from the perspective of both a refugee and a mother.
-  **J. Carey Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., M.A.** - Dr. Jackson is a general internist with graduate training in anthropology and public health. He is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington, and the Medical Director of the International Medicine Clinic, Community House Calls (a program to decrease cultural barriers to care for non-English speaking patients), and Interpreter Services at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle's county hospital. Dr. Jackson has served as Principal Investigator or Co-investigator for multiple community-based participatory research projects that address health disparities such as Tuberculosis or Hepatitis B experienced by Southeast Asian immigrant and refugee populations. He has previously led qualitative research initiatives addressing Cambodian immigrants' understanding of hepatitis concepts, Cambodian women's understanding of gynecologic health, hepatitis B testing and vaccination among Vietnamese immigrants, and Pap testing among Vietnamese women. His has received many honors and awards such the Patient Care Award for Excellence in Patient Education by a Physician (National Award), Vietnamese Friendship Association Award for "Devotion to Community Health and Dedication to Social Justice in the Field of Medicine," and the Sterling Munro Public Service Teaching Award from the University of Washington. Programs for which he is responsible have garnered awards from the National Minority Quality Forum and the Congressional Black Caucus and as part of the Foster G. McGaw Prize to Harborview Medical Center for Excellence in Community Service.


 **Diana Lindner, MD, FAAP** - Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington, Seattle, Member of the Hispanic Health Leaders Workgroup (HHLW). Diana Lindner MD, FAAP, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and received her Medical Degree from the Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires. She undertook postgraduate training at the University of Washington and Children's Hospital, in Seattle, where she was a Resident in Pediatrics and Fellow in Pediatric Endocrinology. She is Board certified in Pediatrics (1973) and Pediatric Endocrinology (1983). Subsequently she was named Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics. She has been a licensed physician in Washington State since 1972. Dr. Lindner has worked as a Pediatrician at Group Health Cooperative (GHC) for thirty years, until her retirement in August 2004. Since 2005 she has worked part time at Public Health Clinics of King County. Dr. Lindner is the creator of a Reach Out and Read (ROR) program at Eastgate Public Health. She is a member of the Eastside Latino Leadership Forum and participates in a Middle School Latina Girls mentoring program.


 **Safiya McCarter ND** - Safiya McCarter graduated from *Bastyr University School of Naturopathic Medicine* in 2010. She is currently completing a post-doctoral teaching fellowship in the School of Naturopathic Medicine at Bastyr. While a student, Safiya was involved in the creation of the Bastyr University Cultural Awareness Task force. She was certified as a Cultural Competency Trainer from *The Cross Cultural Health Care Program* in Seattle in 2008. In addition to teaching, Dr. McCarter is actively involved in the Diversity Committee and presently involved with the Curriculum Revision Working Group, with her specific role being to ensure that cultural awareness/competency is infused throughout the curriculum and training for students completing the Naturopathic Medicine program at Bastyr.


 **Sarah Rafton, MSW** - Director, Center of Diversity and Health Equity, Seattle Children's Hospital and Patient Navigators. Sarah Rafton has over twelve years experience in advocacy for underserved populations, and directs Seattle Children's Center for Diversity and Health Equity, to help overcome disparities at the hospital. Prior to this position, Sarah was Assistant Director of Community, Government Affairs and Advocacy at Seattle Children's, working to improve access to health care for low-income children. Sarah has also worked in legislative advocacy and health policy for the Children's Alliance and the Washington Community Mental Health Council. Sarah has a BA in political science and a Master's degree in Social Work, both from the University of Washington.


 **Christian B. Ramers, MD, MPH** - Dr. Ramers completed an undergraduate degree in Microbiology & Molecular Genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He then attended medical school at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and went on to complete a combined residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Duke University. He came to Seattle in 2007 where he served as a fellow in the UW division of Allergy & Infectious Diseases and completed an MPH degree in Global Health. He recently joined the faculty of the UW School of Medicine in both the Department of Medicine/Infectious Diseases and in the Department of Global Health. Dr. Ramers is Cuban-American and has provided medical care to Latinos throughout his medical training, beginning in San Diego as a medical student. He has been involved in clinical care projects in Mexico, Cuba, and Guatemala. He currently maintains a large panel of Spanish-speaking HIV patients at the Madison Clinic at Harborview Medical Center and oversees the clinic's Satellite clinics in neighboring Snohomish and Kitsap counties. Dr. Ramers also works with I-TECH (the International Training and Education Center for Health) developing HIV-related curriculum and supporting health systems strengthening in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Ethiopia. As a member of the faculty of Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center (NW-AETC) he delivers HIV-related lectures to practicing clinicians in the Pacific Northwest region.

 **Nimisha Ghosh Roy** - Nimisha Ghosh Roy is a program developer and certified trainer for the Cross Cultural Health Care Program, supporting both the Cultural Competency Training Program and the Bridging the Gap (BTG) Medical Interpreter Training Program. She was one of the primary curriculum developers and writers for the latest edition of the BTG curriculum and textbook published in early 2010. Nimisha is involved in a variety of current program initiatives including the development of a CCHCP Environmental Justice training curriculum and an online learning system for CCHCP trainings. In addition to CCHCP program development, Nimisha conducts program evaluations for CCHCP clients. Two recent evaluations, in which she was one of the principal researchers, involved a cultural competency needs assessment for a hospital security team and an analytical review of a hospital system's LEP work plans for adherence with the National Standards on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). Nimisha has completed her Masters in Teaching from Seattle Pacific University. She has worked in a variety of educational settings, including urban and rural communities, public and private schools with at-risk and limited English speaking student populations, and online learning communities. An advocate for youth, Nimisha is a mentor with the American Women in Science - Girls in Engineering, Math and Science Program and a volunteer for the Washington Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program, both of which serve underrepresented student populations in the greater Seattle area. As classical dancer and strong supporter of the arts and culture of her community, Nimisha has coordinated and performed in many venues over the years, including locations like the Northwest Folklife Festival, an event dedicated to not only the preservation of the culture of diverse communities in the Pacific Northwest, but also its continued growth and development.

 **Lourdes Portillo Salazar** - She was born in Chicago, Illinois. She was raised and lived in Mexico City until her late teens; at which time the family returned to the US. She works for the City of Bellevue as a Program Coordinator in the Probation Division. In addition to performing her duties as Program Coordinator, she helped develop the initial Spanish language defendant intake program, thus making it possible for Spanish-speaking inmates to understand the complexities of Probation and Court requirements and to successfully complete the probation process. Lourdes is the current President of Eastside Latino Leadership Forum, an eastside non-profit organization that advocates for Latinos in a variety of issues. Through this organization, she helped develop the first Hispanic-Latino Heritage Celebration in Bellevue—now an annual event. In partnership with the Bellevue School District she helped develop the Annual Latino Youth Conference, IMPULSO (a Latino parent leadership group), and ConeVyt—an internet “education gateway” sponsored by Mexico for both youth and adults. Lourdes currently serves on the Seattle Police Latino Advisory Committee. Board member for Latino Community Fund; and Leadership Eastside (Bellevue). Co-Founder of MUJERES of NW. Past Chair for the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

 **Ira SenGupta** - Ira SenGupta, Executive Director of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP), has actively contributed to the field of culturally and linguistically appropriate health and human services as a speaker, trainer, researcher and community advocate. She has served CCHCP in several capacities for the past eighteen years while representing the organization in multiple venues. An established professional in cultural competency training and assessment, she develops and conducts numerous hours of cultural competency training annually for hospital administrators, physicians, nurses, social workers, hospice and cancer clinical trial staff. Dedicated to equitable patient and family centered care, her trainings focus on the systemic integration of the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards in health and human services. She conducts major organizational assessments and has contributed to the profession of medical interpreting as a co-author and trainer of CCHCP's premier medical interpreter training curriculum: *Bridging the Gap*. Ira has led community-based research projects that examine the barriers minority populations face in accessing health care and on the utilization of interpreter services in major hospital systems. She was the principal investigator on developing a compendium of best practices for the CLAS standards. A leader in her own community, Ira has extensive experience working with ethnically diverse communities, and has gained a deep understanding of diverse perspectives on health care. She has served her community as an interpreter in three languages from India, as the President of the India Association of Western Washington and currently as a board member of Ragamala which promotes the performing arts of South Asia. She was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to the Board of Trustees of the Renton Technical College and is serving her second five- year term. A co-founder of the Society of Medical Interpreters, Ira continues to serve her professional community as a member of the national advisory board for the Diversity RX conference series and on the board of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA).

 **Marie-Sabine Thomas ND, LMP** - Marie-Sabine Thomas graduated from Bastyr University School of Naturopathic Medicine in 2007. She served as the Teaching Fellow for the School of Naturopathic Medicine from 2007-2008 and an external shift clinical supervisor at *Consejo Counseling and Referral Service* from 2008 to 2009. During her time as the Teaching Fellow she was involved in the creation of the Bastyr University Cultural Awareness Task force. She was certified as a Cultural Competency Trainer from *The Cross Cultural Health Care Program* in Seattle in 2008. Dr. Thomas is currently a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Bastyr University Research Institute. She received a National Institute of Health/National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NIH/NCCAM) grant to research the role of Complementary and Alternative Medicine utilization in Community and Global Health. Her current research projects are “Exploring Integrative Medicine in King County Community Health Centers” and “The role of Traditional Healers in Haitian Healthcare system”.

 **Dr. Matias Valenzuela** - Matias Valenzuela, Ph.D., is the Public Education Coordinator at Public Health - Seattle & King County, where he leads health education programs and campaigns. He also serves as a public information officer and spokesperson for the department. He is a lead staffer for King County Equity and Social Justice. His areas of expertise include health communication, media advocacy and social marketing. Earlier in his career, he worked as a print and broadcast journalist in the United States and abroad. He is an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

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