Ana María Nápoles
Scientific Director, Division of Intramural Research
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
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Anna María Nápoles, PhD, MPH, assumed the position of Scientific Director of the Intramural Research Program at NIMHD in November 2017. Prior to that, she was a Professor and behavioral epidemiologist in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) for 27 years, where she served as the Director of the UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities (CADC). Her research focuses on cancer health disparities, psycho-oncology, patient-clinician communication, quality of life of family caregivers, and community-based models of research in ethnically and socioeconomically diverse groups. She has built community-academic research partnerships to develop and test evidence-based behavioral interventions for ethnically diverse adults in community-based settings. This work has included community-based RCTs of a peer-delivered cognitive-behavioral stress management intervention for urban and rural Latinas with breast cancer called Nuevo Amanecer that improved quality of life and reduced depressive and somatic symptoms. She is also developing and testing mHealth interventions to improve symptom management among ethnically diverse, low-income cancer survivors through cognitive-behavioral stress management and/or walking. She has a particular interest in development of scientifically sound research methods for conducting health disparities research, i.e., recruitment and retention, health measurement, and translation methods that are appropriate for diverse populations.

Barbara Ferrer
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Dr. Barbara Ferrer is a nationally-known public health leader with over 30 years of professional experience as a philanthropic strategist, public health director, educational leader, researcher, and community advocate.

Currently, Dr. Ferrer is the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, which protects health, prevents disease, and promotes equity and well-being among LA County’s more than 10 million residents. She oversees a budget of over $1.3 billion, directs a multidisciplinary workforce of nearly 5,000 staff, and works to integrate services alongside her LA County Health Agency colleagues at the Departments of Health Services and Mental Health.

Most recently, Dr. Ferrer served as the Chief Strategy Officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Prior to that, Dr. Ferrer was the Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. Under her leadership, the City of Boston saw significant improvements in health outcomes, including a decrease in the rates of childhood obesity, smoking, and infant mortality. Dr. Ferrer also held various leadership positions at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, including Director of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention, and Director of the Division of Maternal & Child Health. She has also served as a Headmaster at a district high school in Boston. Dr. Ferrer received her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Brandeis University, a Master of Arts in Public Health from Boston University, a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.
Castulo de la Rocha  
President and CEO, AltaMed Health Services Corporation

Since 1977, President and CEO Cástulo de la Rocha has transformed AltaMed Health Services from a free clinic in East Los Angeles into an influential community health network serving approximately 300,000 patients per year. AltaMed’s 3,000 employees provide medical, dental, and behavioral health services, as well as mobile health screenings, a robust PACE program, HIV prevention and treatment, and opportunities for civic engagement and workforce development to communities across Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Mr. de la Rocha has received numerous awards in recognition for his contributions, including the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research Impact Award, the Los Angeles Business Journal’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Medallion of Excellence from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

Catherine Sarkisian  
Co-director, UCLA CTSI Special Populations Core  
Professor and Staff Physician, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
UCLA Division of Geriatrics/VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
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Catherine Sarkisian MD, MSHS is a Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Division of Geriatrics and Staff Physician at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System. She is Director of the new UCLA Value-Based Care Research Consortium. She is also Director of Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging (L.A. CAPRA, She is Director of the NIH/NIA-funded Resource Center for Minority Aging Research/Center for Healthcare Improvement of Minority Elders (RCMAR/CHIME) Community Liaison Core and Co-Leader of the UCLA CTSI Special Populations Program. She received her A.B. degree (with Honors) in Philosophy from Princeton University, her M.D. from University of California San Francisco, and an MSHS in Health Services from the UCLA School of Public Health.

David E. Hayes-Bautista  
Distinguished Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine  
Director, Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture  
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David E. Hayes-Bautista, Ph.D. is currently Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley, and completed his doctoral work in Basic Sciences at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Dr. Hayes-Bautista served on the faculty at the School of Public Health at U.C. Berkeley until 1987.

Some of Dr. Hayes-Bautista’s published books include El Cinco de Mayo: An American Tradition (University of California Press, 2012) and La Nueva California: Latinos from Pioneers to Post Millennials (University of California Press, 2017.) Dr. Hayes-Bautista writes columns for the Los Angeles Times and La Opinion, and is often asked to provide opinions on radio and television in both Spanish and English.

For the past five years, he has been chosen one of the 101 Top Leaders of the Latino Community in the U.S. by Latino Leaders Magazine. In 2012, he received the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Herbert W. Nickens Award for his lifelong concerns about the educational, societal, and health care needs of underrepresented groups, and in 2016 the Ohtli Award from the Mexican Government.
Gerardo Moreno  
Associate Professor of Family Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA  
Director of UCLA PRIME-LA (Program in Medical Education)  
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Dr. Gerardo Moreno is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is a bi-lingual researcher (Spanish-English) conducting research on vulnerable populations, particularly aging-related issues for Latinos with chronic conditions. Dr. Moreno is a recipient of a Paul Beeson Career Development Award, is a former Fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at UCLA. He received his medical degree from UCLA, completed a residency at the University of California, San Francisco, and received a Master of Science in Health Services in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He is a director of the American Board of Family Medicine.

Laura Trejo  
General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Aging  
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Laura Trejo, MSG, MPA, is General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging. Ms. Trejo received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1982. Subsequently she completed a Masters Degree in Public Administration as well as a Masters in Gerontology from USC’s Andrus School. She has served as General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) since 2002. In this capacity she is accountable to all seniors residing in Los Angeles, and she reports directly to the Mayor of Los Angeles.

Ms. Trejo has successfully competed for and obtained extramural funding to implement innovative evidenced-based programs aimed at improving the lives of older adults. She is a nationally-known leader with a strong relationship with the national Administration on Community Living, and has been recognized for her leadership in implementing the ACLs mission of applying evidence-based models to improve the health and functioning of older adults. She is currently the lead for Purposeful Aging L.A. an age-friendly initiative “to make the Los Angeles region the most age friendly in the world.” Among her other activities, Ms. Trejo serves as a founding Co-Director/Investigator of the UCLA Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging (LA CAPRA), Interim Director of the Los Angeles Foundation on Aging, and Executive Producer of Aging Well in L.A. an Emmy nominated magazine style public television program.

Peter Szilagyi  
Co-director, UCLA CTSI Special Populations Core  
Executive Vice-Chair, Vice-Chair for Research  
Professor of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine  
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Dr. Szilagyi is Professor and Executive Vice-Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA. He is also Co-Chair with Catherine Sarkisian of the Special Populations Program within the UCLA CTSI. Dr. Szilagyi is a pediatric health services and clinical researcher with an overall mission to improve access to healthcare, quality of care, and health outcomes for children. He has focused his research on improving the delivery of healthcare in primary care and other settings in three related areas: immunization delivery, healthcare financing, and improved care for children with chronic diseases. His research has led to improving immunization delivery and health insurance for children and adults. He serves as a voting member of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) which advises Congress and HHS about Medicaid and CHIP, and also on ACIP which makes the US vaccination recommendations. He has been continuously funded by NIH, CDC and other federal organizations for more than 25 years, and is a national leader in academic pediatrics. He is a primary care pediatrician with a mission of serving vulnerable populations.
Rashmi Shetgiri
Director, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Dr. Shetgiri is a pediatrician and Director of the Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology at the LA County Department of Public Health. She was previously the medical director of the pediatric primary care clinic at Harbor-UCLA and is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the UCLA School of Medicine. She completed her pediatrics residency at UCLA, followed by a research fellowship in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program, during which she obtained training in community-partnered research and a Masters in Health Services at the UCLA School of Public Health. She has conducted research on preventing bullying, child abuse, and youth violence, and on addressing racial/ethnic disparities in health, and social determinants of health.

Roshan Bastani
Professor of Health Policy and Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity
Director, UCLA Center for Prevention Research
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Roshan Bastani, Ph.D., is a professor in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity and the UCLA Center for Prevention Research. In the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, she is Director, Disparities and Community Engagement and Co-Director, Cancer Control and Survivorship. She also served an 11-year term as Associate Dean for Research in the School of Public Health.

Dr. Bastani is a social and health psychologist who has been conducting health disparities intervention research for over three decades, with a focus on implementing rigorous yet pragmatic individual, community, and system-directed intervention trials to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities. She has led a large number of studies targeting low income, ethnic minority and immigrant populations, and has had continuous research funding from the National Institutes of Health since 1988. Her research is conceptually grounded and includes strong and equitable community partnerships. Her methodological expertise includes quantitative methods; survey research; research design; comparative effectiveness trials; implementation research and program evaluation.

Dr. Bastani’s research includes studies on breast, cervix, colorectal and prostate cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up; hepatitis B screening; tobacco control; melanoma prevention; obesity control; liver disease; and HPV vaccine uptake. This work includes examination of the drivers of disparities among underserved groups, implementation of pragmatic intervention trials to mitigate observed disparities, methodological studies, as well as studies to advance theory in the field. Examples of her current research include two system-focused implementation trials to increase HPV vaccine uptake among low income, ethnic minority adolescents in safety-net clinical settings (NCI R01; PCORI pragmatic trial); a cluster-randomized obesity prevention intervention trial set in preschools located in underserved neighborhoods (NICHD R01); and an implementation trial of a multilevel, system intervention to improve CRC screening in a large FQHC (TRDRP).
Steven Dubinett
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Steven Dubinett MD is Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Director of the JCCC Lung Cancer Research Program. He has extensive experience in translational investigation, academic administration, mentorship and peer review. He is Chief, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and jointly appointed as Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Molecular and Medical Pharmacology. He has served on national advisory panels and committees including the NCI’s Translational Research Working Group. He has served as a permanent member of three different NIH study sections and numerous Special Emphasis Panels. He served as a member of the FDA Cellular, Tissue and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee and on several editorial boards including Clinical and Translational Science. He is an Associate Editor in Chief of the American Journal of Translational Research.

Steven Wallace
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Steven P. Wallace, Ph.D. is professor of Department of Community Health Sciences and Associate Director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Dr. Wallace has studied Latinos and migration issues since the mid-1980s when he published work on Central American immigration to the U.S. and the effects of immigration reform (IRCA) on immigrant communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. His interest in Latinos and migration issues since then has focused primarily on access to health care and social determinants of health. His work has included studies of Latin American immigrants in access to acute, long-term care, and preventive services. He has also published work on access to health care from an international comparative perspective, including studies involving Mexico, Nicaragua, and Chile.

His current research includes an NIH-funded study of Latin American and Asian immigrants’ experiences of immigration policies and the effects of those experiences on health care use, analyses on the impact of documentation status on access to health care, and several studies that identify gaps in health policies for underserved elders. His research has received broad media coverage, including articles in the Los Angeles Times, NPR, and Fox News. His research has informed state laws and been cited in legal decisions.

Recipient of the inaugural Mario Gutierrez Champion of Migrant Health from the Health Initiative of the Americas (2018), Wallace has received numerous honors and awards including a Fulbright Fellowship for research and lecturing in Chile in 2000 where he studied the impact of public policies on health equity among the elderly. Wallace earned his doctorate in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.