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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Medicine

Inaugural Global Health Initiatives Summit

Our Inaugural Global Health Initiatives Summit's theme is "Harnessing Data and Multilateral Collaborations to Advance Population Health." In advance of the event, we are sharing information about our esteemed attendees to help foster collaboration. **PLEASE NOTE:** Our participants list is subject to change and listed in each section alphabetically.

Distinguished Keynote Speakers

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat (natasha.muscat@gov.mt)



Dr. Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat is a medical doctor trained at University of Malta and a specialist in public health medicine trained at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2016 she obtained her PhD from the University of Maastricht. Between 2001 and 2013, she occupied various senior positions in the Ministry including Director for EU and International Affairs, Director General for Strategy and Chief Medical Officer. In 2020, Dr Azzopardi-Muscat joined WHO/Europe and was appointed

Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems. She served continuously in that position until her re-appointment as Director of Health Systems in June 2025. She is an associate professor at the University of Malta and Visiting scholar at the University of Maastricht.

Mr. Martin Seychell (martin.seychell@ec.europa.eu)



Mr. Martin Seychell is a graduate in chemistry and pharmaceutical technology. He occupied the post of Head of Directorate for Foodstuffs and Chemicals at the Malta Standards Authority between 2001 and 2006, and that of Director of Environment Protection at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority between 2006 and 2011. He was appointed Deputy Director General for Health and Consumers at the European Commission in March 2011. He also represented the Commission on the Management Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) between 2011 and 2020. He was

appointed Deputy Director General responsible for Directorates G & R Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, and Resources in June 2020.



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Distinguished Planning Committee

Dr. Jean Calleja (jean.calleja-agius@um.edu.mt)



Dr. Jean Calleja is Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta. Professor Jean Calleja-Agius graduated as a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Malta. She further specialized in Obstetrics and Gynecology, both locally and at University College London Hospital (UCLH). She obtained her Memberships of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. From an early stage in her career, Professor Calleja-Agius showed a keen interest in research and teaching on all aspects of anatomy, particularly embryology and reproductive sciences. The current research interests of Prof Calleja-Agius are embryology and reproductive medicine, particularly recurrent miscarriages and infertility.

Dr. Neville Calleja (neville.calleja@um.edu.mt)



Dr. Neville Calleja is an Associate Professor in Public Health and Medical Statistics at the University of Malta and the Head of Department for Public Health within the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery at the same institution. He is also the Director for Health Information and Statistics within the Ministry of Health in Malta since 2007. Calleja has been involved in the development and revision of the WHO (Europe) tool for health information system assessments and has conducted such assessments in several countries in Europe. He served as the Acting Chief Medical Officer in Malta during 2014 and 2015. His research focuses on epidemiology, medical statistics, and medical education.

Dr. Elena Cyrus (Elena.Cyrus@ucf.edu)



Dr. Elena Cyrus is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. She is currently a Visiting Professor at la Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas and she is an alum of the University of California San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Visiting Professors Program. As a global health researcher and interventionist, her current work focuses on the prevention of infectious diseases, substance use and HIV/sexually transmitted infections.



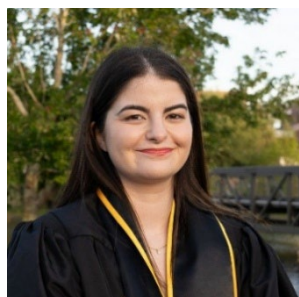
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Elika Hashemi (elika.hashemi-damavandi1@student.lshmt.ac.uk)



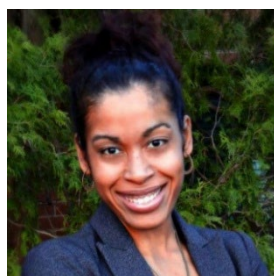
Elika Hashemi is a Master's student studying the Control of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She earned her bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Central Florida, where she was involved in HIV/AIDS research. At the Oxford Vaccine Group, Hashemi's current research focuses on evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of treatment decision algorithms for children with presumed tuberculosis.

Dr. Godfrey LaFerla (godfrey.laferla@um.edu.mt)



Prof. Godfrey La Ferla has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta since 2003. He obtained his medical degree in London in 1977 and, in 1982, was elected Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and England. In recognition of his academic contributions, he was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of Glasgow in 1988, followed by an M.D. from the University of Malta in 1989. Throughout his tenure as Dean, Prof. La Ferla has overseen significant reforms within the Faculty, and he was appointed a Member of the National Order of Merit in 2017.

Dr. Allysha Maragh-Bass (Allysha.Maragh-Bass@ucf.edu)



Dr. Allysha C. Maragh-Bass is a Social/Behavioral and former HIV Prevention Trials Network Domestic Scholar and UCSF Visiting Professor in the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. Her research interests are in HIV prevention science in young adult communities marginalized by race, sexual orientation, and gender identity. She is adjunct faculty at the George Washington Milken Institute School of Public Health, a Career Coach at Duke Global Health Institute, and a Consultant at UCF College of Medicine.

Dr. Angela Requena Suarez (Angela.Requena.Suarez@ucf.edu)



Dr. Angela Requena Suarez is a dentist with a passion for public health. Traveling to the UK, she received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Edinburgh. She is a Visiting Professor and Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at UCF College of Medicine. Requena was selected through the Academic Health Sciences Population Health Collaborative Global Health Initiative.



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Dr. Eric Scrimshaw (Eric.Schrimshaw@ucf.edu)



Dr. Schrimshaw is Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences at the UCF College of Medicine. Before joining UCF, he spent 22 years at Columbia University's Department of Sociomedical Sciences. Dr. Schrimshaw's research is focused on LGBT health disparities, resulting in over 100 peer-reviewed publications on studies of HIV-positive women and older adults, behaviorally-bisexual men, pornography use, use of hook-up apps, men involved in sex work online, LGBTQ suicide prevention, and sexual violence perpetration online. He has collaborated on 25+ NIH-funded studies and currently serves on several editorial boards.

Distinguished Attendees

Dr. Donte Boyd (boyd.465@osu.edu)



Dr. Donte Boyd is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University College of Social Work. He also serves as a Visiting Research Faculty member as part of the Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholars at Yale University School of Public Health through the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA). Dr. Boyd's research addresses how socio-contextual factors impact young Black MSM decision-making behaviors. He is particularly interested in examining the role of the family (e.g., parent/sibling support, communication, and socialization) and important people in young Black men's HIV prevention behavior (e.g., HIV testing, PrEP Use), and health outcomes.

Dr. Russell Brewer (rbrewer@bsd.uchicago.edu)



Dr. Russell Brewer currently serves as Research Professor at the University of Chicago (UC). He is an implementation scientist and mixed-methods community-engaged researcher whose work has centered on developing and evaluating bundled HIV, substance use, mental health, and structural interventions for highly HIV-impacted populations including criminal legal-involved populations in the Midwest and Southern United States. Dr. Brewer has more than 25 years of experience in public health program development, implementation, and evaluation from a variety of settings (e.g., non-profit, governmental public health).



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Dr. Lunthita Duthely (lduthely@miami.edu)



Dr. Lunthita Duthely holds two bachelors: a BA in Chemistry and a BS in Computer Science, both from the University of Miami (U.M.). She completed her Master's of Science at U.M., and her Doctorate of Education with the School of Advanced Studies, University of Phoenix. She is currently a Research Associate Professor at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Duthely's mCARES Lab is focused on technology-infused, behavioral and educational interventions for women with HIV primarily of Hispanic/Latina, African American and Caribbean-American descent.

Dr. Jerome Galea (Jerome.galea@usf.edu)



Dr. Jerome Galea is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of South Florida. Galea is a licensed clinical social worker and global mental health implementation scientist. He joined the United States Agency for International Development as the agency's mental health coordinator, in 2024. Galea has worked closely with the World Health Organization on Tuberculosis and mental health integration. He directs the University of South Florida's School of Social Work ACCESS Lab where his work focuses on mental health equity and access.

Dr. Kenneth Grech (kenneth.grech@um.edu.mt)



Dr. Kenneth Grech is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta, a Consultant in Public Health in the Ministry for Health in Malta and Co-Chair of the EU Expert Group on Health System Performance Assessment. He is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, UK. He occupied several senior management and policy positions in Malta and Europe, including that of Chief Executive Officer of St Luke's Hospital, Director Social Welfare Standards and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Health. Recently, he was responsible for the overall coordination of Malta's national COVID response. His research interests are in health system performance, health policy, training and education.



Dr. Dexter Hadley (Dexter.Hadley@ucf.edu)



Dr. Dexter Hadley is a physician-scientist and nationally recognized leader in artificial intelligence and precision medicine. He currently serves as the Founding Chief of the Division of Artificial Intelligence at the UCF College of Medicine, where he integrates AI into clinical training and healthcare delivery. He also holds a national leadership role as Director of AI for the American Board of Precision Medicine, helping to define and elevate standards for ethical, inclusive AI in modern medical practice. His early work contributed to landmark advances in applied genomics, including a successful precision medicine clinical trial for ADHD. At UCSF, he led NIH-funded initiatives focused on open data curation and digital health infrastructure to support the discovery of therapeutic targets and better patient outcomes in diseases like breast cancer and COVID-19.

Dr. Samantha Hill (Samantha.veronica.hill@emory.edu)



Dr. Samatha Hill is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Emory University. Dr. Hill's research focuses on improving sexual health knowledge and HIV prevention strategies among adolescents, particularly focusing on Black youth in the Southern United States. Her research is inspired by the youth she cares for in adolescent and HIV clinics. Dr. Hill was awarded a K23 from the National Institutes of Mental Health so she can focus on increasing sexual health and HIV prevention knowledge among teenagers. The last part of this study involves refining an app called "HealthMpowerment" so she can improve sexual health knowledge and behaviors among Atlanta youth and Alabama youth (where she first started this research).

Dr. Nolan Kline (nolan.kline@ucf.edu)



Dr. Nolan Kline is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. He received his PhD in Applied Anthropology. His research areas focus on health equity and social determinants of health, with particular attention to immigrant policing, LGBTQ+ Latinx social and political mobilization, and the politics of novel vaccine promotion. Dr. Kline's research is informed by biopolitics, critical race theory, and political economy of health.



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Dr. Omar Martinez (Omar.Martinez@ucf.edu)



Dr. Omar Martinez is an Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine, where he joined the Population Health Sciences Department in August 2022. He is the Director of the Implementation Sciences Research Laboratory at UCF, which has gained national and international recognition for its high-impact health disparities research and training the next generation of behavioral researchers. Martinez's research integrates perspectives from public health, medicine, law, social work, and human sexuality to address health disparities among sexual and gender minorities in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Tanya Melillo (tanya.melillo@gov.mt)



Dr. Tanya Melillo is a Consultant in Public Health Medicine who has the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit within Malta' Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate for the last 13 years. At the international level, she represents Malta on various European network meetings for most infectious diseases like vaccine preventable diseases, STI, Vector borne, influenza, and is the national focal point for Malta for surveillance, preparedness and response the at European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Furthermore, she represents Malta at the Health Security Committee within the European Commission and involved in the International Health Regulations under the remit of the World Health Organization. She is a senior lecturer at the University of Malta and published a number of articles on infectious diseases and migrant health.

Dr. Cristina Micallef (Cristina.micallef@gov.mt)



Dr. Cristina Micallef is a Medical Doctor and Consultant in Public Health, working within the office of Malta's Chief Medical Officer, Health Policy. She is working on projects related to rare diseases, child and adolescent public health. Dr. Micallef is the National Focal Point on Rare Diseases and the National Focal Point Child and Adolescent Public Health. She obtained her Master's Degree in Public Health and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Malta. She earned her Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Travel health from Baylor College of Medicine in the United States. She is currently studying for a PhD in Global Public Health



Dr. Pohl Milon (pmilon@upc.pe)



Dr. Pohl Milon holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the Università degli Studi di Camerino in Italy and has completed postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Germany. Dr. Milon is a biochemist and molecular biologist with extensive experience in academia and research. He currently serves as the Director of the School of Biology and the Biomolecules Laboratory at the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas in Lima, Peru. His research focuses on the importance of ribosome performance in bacterial proteome shaping, homeostasis, and adaptation to the host.

Dr. Antonio Morgan-Lopez (amorganlopez@rti.org)



Dr. Antonio Morgan-Lopez is a Senior Fellow in Quantitative Psychology at RTI International. He currently serves as Associate Editor for the journal Prevention Science and Editor-at-Large for Methodology and Statistics for the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. At RTI International, Morgan-Lopez focuses on advancing measurement and analysis in behavioral drug and alcoholism treatment contexts. He also conducts research on causal inference in non-experimental data, particularly as it relates to the evaluation of substance use, mental health, and youth violence prevention programs.

Mg. Segundo Ramos Leon (Segundo.Leon@upsjb.edu.pe)



Mg. Segundo Ramos León Sandoval is the Director of Research and Technology Transfer at the Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista (UPSJB) in Peru. He is also a researcher and professor at the university. His expertise lies in global health, with a focus on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV, particularly in diagnostics and epidemiology. He was designated as a member of the Global Expert Group that developed the World Health Organization's Global Guidelines for HIV Diagnostic Services. More recently, he has been included in the Global Expert Group for the development of Auto-Diagnosis Guidelines for Hepatitis C. Ramos León has received training from institutions such as the National University of San Marcos and University of Washington.

Dr. Yan Wang (wangyan@ucla.edu)

Dr. Yan Wang is an assistant adjunct professor in the section of Public and Population Health, within the Division of Oral and Systemic Health Sciences at UCLA. Dr. Wang



specializes in survey design, sampling algorithms, and the application of data science and machine learning techniques. Her research is at the forefront of advancing our understanding of how the human microbiome impacts health and contributes to disease. She has contributed research to advance sequencing of both the oral and vaginal microbiome in populations experiencing different health sequelae.

Distinguished Trainees

Taylor Aldeghegi (ta148850@ucf.edu)



Taylor Aldeghegi is a rising third-year medical student at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. She also completed her undergraduate degree at UCF, earning her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Cinema Studies. She was enrolled in the Burnett Medical Scholars program, a combined BS/MD tract. Her research interests include public health, health equity, and women's health. She is interested in pursuing a primary care specialty, with interests in pediatrics and women's health. Outside of academic pursuits, she enjoys traveling, reading, watching new films, and spending time with her dog.

Dr. Adoma Dwomo-Fokuo Odame (yaa.dwomo-fokuo.24@um.edu.mt)



Dr. Adoma Dwomo-Fokuo Odame is a Senior Specialist Paediatrician at HopeXchange Medical Centre and an adjunct Lecturer at KNUST's School of Medical Sciences. With extensive experience in pediatric care across Ghana, she specializes in neonatal care, pediatric emergencies, and childhood epilepsy. She is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of healthcare professionals and serves as Chairperson of the Ashanti branch of the Medical Women's Association of Ghana. A national trainer in key child health programs who has offered newborn consultancy services to organizations like UNICEF and JHPIEGO, Dr. Dwomo-Fokuo has contributed to the development of several national child health policies.

Eunice Enty (euniceenty@gmail.com)

Ms. Eunice Enty is a dedicated nursing professional and the Nurse Manager of HopeXchange Medical Centre Kumasi, Ghana. As head of nursing and midwifery service,



she provides strategic leadership in nursing practice and oversees the delivery of high-quality patient care. With strong foundation in clinical practice and healthcare administration, she is committed to advancing nursing standards, optimizing patient outcomes and experience, fostering professional growth and continuous improvement of healthcare systems in Ghana. In her pursuit for academic and professional growth, she is currently enrolled in a Master of Science in Public Health at the University of Malta.

Dr. Akosua Frimpomaa Amoateng (akosua.f.amoateng.24@um.edu.mt)



Dr. Akosua Frimpomaa Amoateng is a dedicated physician and the Medical Superintendent at HopeXchange Medical Centre in Ghana. A member of the Ghana College of Physicians, she is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health through the University of Malta, studying remotely while continuing her clinical and administrative responsibilities. With a strong passion for advancing care for patients with cardio-renal-metabolic (CRM) conditions, Dr. Amoateng has played a key role in establishing a multidisciplinary clinic at HopeXchange, designed to provide holistic, patient-centered care.

Riley Nguyen (ri656776@ucf.edu)



Riley Nguyen is a rising second-year medical student at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine with a background in cardiovascular ultrasound imaging. She earned her bachelor's degree in cardiopulmonary science from Louisiana State University and is a registered cardiac sonographer. Her clinical and research interests include internal medicine, cardiology, and preventive medicine, with a focus on serving underserved and marginalized communities. In her free time, she enjoys gymnastics, weightlifting, boxing, and promoting fitness

Meltem Tutar (meltemtutar@ucf.edu)



Meltem Tutar is a rising second-year medical student at the UCF College of Medicine with a background in data science. Prior to medical school, she worked at the education tech company Udemy and participated in cancer disparities research at UCSF. She has an interest in pediatric specialties and public health. Outside of medicine, she enjoys sailing, spending time in nature, and practicing yoga.