



## **Addressing Health Disparities in Central Nervous System Disorders**

### **Virtual Workshop #2: Disparities in Access to Care**

**April 18, 2023**

#### *Workshop Speaker Biographies*

**Kiara Alvarez, PhD**, is an Instructor in the Disparities Research Unit in the Department of



Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Her research and clinical work focuses on improving adolescent behavioral health outcomes, with an emphasis on Latino/a and immigrant youth and their families. She has particular interests in the prevention of suicidal behavior and in the integration of behavioral health care across clinical

and community settings serving youth. Dr. Alvarez is currently principal investigator of an NIMH-funded career development award, Early Intervention for Suicide Risk among Immigrant Youth, which focuses on family-based strategies to prevent suicide. She is also co-principal investigator of the William T. Grant Foundation-funded project MGH Photostories, a mixed methods participatory research project focused on eliciting youth perspectives to inform community-based programs and reduce behavioral health disparities. Dr. Alvarez completed her psychology internship training at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and received her doctorate from the APA-accredited School Psychology program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship Program in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She also holds an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Literature from Harvard University.

**Michael Chiang, MD**, is director of the National Eye Institute, at the National Institutes of

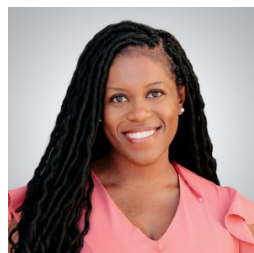


Health in Bethesda, Maryland. His clinical practice focuses on pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, and he is board-certified in clinical informatics. His research develops and applies biomedical informatics methods to clinical ophthalmology in areas such as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), telehealth, artificial intelligence, clinical information systems, genotype-phenotype correlation, and data analytics. His group has published over 200 peer-



reviewed papers and has developed an assistive artificial intelligence system for ROP that received Breakthrough Status from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering and Biology from Stanford University in 1991, an MD from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology in 1996, and an MA in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University. He completed residency and pediatric ophthalmology fellowship training at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. Between 2001-2010, he worked at Columbia University, where he was Anne S. Cohen Associate Professor of Ophthalmology & Biomedical Informatics, director of medical student education in ophthalmology, and director of the introductory graduate student course in biomedical informatics. From 2010-2020, he was Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology & Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology, and Associate Director of the Casey Eye Institute, at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Casey Eye Institute. He co-directed an NIH-funded T32 training program in visual science for graduate students and research fellows, as well as an NIH-funded K12 clinician-scientist program at OHSU. He has served as a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Board of Trustees, Chair of the AAO IRIS Registry Data Analytics Committee, Chair of the AAO Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Chair of the AAO Medical Information Technology Committee, and on numerous other national and local committees. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* and on the Editorial Board for Ophthalmology and the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology* and is Associate Editor of the textbook *Biomedical Informatics: Computer Applications in Health Care and Biomedicine*. He has previously served as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus* and on the Editorial Board for *Ophthalmology Retina*.

**Christine Crawford, MPH, MD**, is an adult and child psychiatrist based in Boston and is an



Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Crawford has worked in various outpatient community settings where she has provided psychiatric care to a number of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Crawford has a strong passion for using education as a tool for community outreach and engagement. She has authored multiple

book chapters on mental health disparities and sociocultural issues within psychiatry as well as made appearances on a number of media outlets where she has discussed various topics within mental health.



**Jason Flatt, PhD, MPH**, (Pronouns: He/Him/They/Them) is an Assistant Professor at the



University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Health. Jason's current research works to better understand concerns and needs of diverse LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual as well as additional identities or referred to as sexual and gender minorities) people living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and their care providers. Jason's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Aging; American Federation for Aging Research; Alzheimer's Association and The Michael J. Fox Foundation. Jason also works with several communities on [www.theRISEregistry.org](http://www.theRISEregistry.org), the first NIH-funded registry for LGBTQIA+ people experiencing memory loss or caring for someone with memory loss. Jason's work has been featured in the NPR, U.S. News and World Report, The Advocate, Newsweek, as well as at the Alzheimer's Association. Learn more about Jason's research at [www.RainbowsofAging.org](http://www.RainbowsofAging.org).

**Ayana Jordan, MD, PhD**, is an endowed Barbara Wilson Associate Professor in the

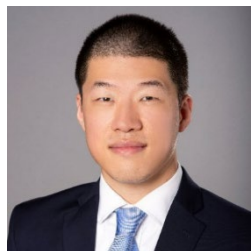


Department of Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatrist and Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health at New York University (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine. She also serves as Pillar Co-Lead for Community Engagement at NYU Langone's Institute for Excellence in Health Equity. As Principal Investigator for the Jordan Wellness

Collaborative (JWC), she leads a research, education, and clinical program that partners with community members to provide optimal access to evidence-based treatments for racial and ethnic minoritized patients with mental health disorders. Through her multi-faceted work, she provides addiction treatment in faith settings, studies health outcomes for people with opioid use disorder in the carceral system, and trains addiction specialists to provide culturally-informed treatment. Dr. Jordan is dedicated to creating spaces and opportunities for more people of color, specifically Black women in academia who are vastly underrepresented. She has numerous peer-reviewed publications, has been featured at international conferences, and is the proud recipient of various clinical and research awards. The fundamental message of equity and inclusion has informed her research, clinical work, and leadership duties at NYU and beyond.



**David Mou, MBA, MD**, is the Chief Executive Officer of Cerebral Health, a leading tele-mental health company committed to improving access to high quality care. David is combining the speed of entrepreneurship with the rigor of data science to reinvent mental health. Cerebral has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans across all 50 states. Previously, David was President, Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Valera Health, a tele-mental health service that was able to reduce hospitalizations for patients with serious mental illness. David is on faculty at Harvard Medical School, and he is the Director of the Innovations Council for Massachusetts General Hospital's Psychiatry Department. He has conducted research on how technology can help better predict and prevent suicidal behaviors. David has been named 'Top 10 under 35 for Healthcare' by LinkedIn, as well as '40 under 40' for healthcare innovation by MedTech Boston. David is a Soros Fellow, a Gates Scholar, a Horatio Alger National Scholar, and a member of World Economic Forum Global Shapers and the Academy of Achievement. He graduated from Harvard College with a degree in neurobiology, and earned his MD MBA from Harvard Medical School and Harvard Business School. His writings have appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine and Stat.



**Hoangmai Pham, MD MPH**, leads the Institute for Exceptional Care, a nonprofit committed to making healthcare safe and inclusive for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Previously, she was Vice President, Provider Alignment Solutions at Anthem, Inc., responsible for value-based care initiatives at the country's second largest health insurance company. Dr. Pham served as Chief Innovation Officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, where she was a founding official, and the architect of Medicare's foundational programs on accountable care organizations and primary care. She has published extensively in the medical literature on provider payment policy and its intersection with health disparities, care coordination, quality performance, provider behavior, and market trends. Dr. Pham serves on the boards of Atlantic Health Systems and the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, and the National Advisory Council for the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality. She is Faculty at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Dr. Pham earned her A.B. from Harvard University, her M.D. from Temple University, and her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.





**Altat Saadi, MD**, is a general neurologist and neurohospitalist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. She is also the Associate Director of the MGH Asylum Clinic. Her research focuses on neurologic and neuropsychiatric health disparities and addressing the needs of displaced populations including immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, both within the community and in immigration detention. Her research employs a life course approach alongside mixed methods and community based participatory research methodology. She has current funding from the NIH (NINDS and NIMHD), NSF, Russel Sage Foundation, and American Academy of Neurology. She serves as a medical expert for the Physicians for Human Rights Asylum Network and has served as a medical expert with other civil rights and human rights organizations like the ACLU, Human Rights First, National Immigrant Justice Center, and Disability Rights California. She was named a 2020 STAT Wunderkind, 2021 National Minority Quality Forum "40 under 40 Leader in Minority Health," and received the 2021 YW Boston Academy of Women Achievers Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Award for a rising professional woman of color who is a leader in her field and changing the city of Boston. Dr. Saadi completed her neurology residency training at the Harvard Mass General Brigham Neurology Program, where she also served as Chief Resident. She completed her undergraduate studies at Yale College, earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and received her Master's in Health Policy and Management from UCLA, where she completed a health services post-doctoral research fellowship, the National Clinician Scholars Program.

