



**Addressing Health Disparities in Central Nervous System Disorders**  
**Virtual Workshop #3: Moving Forward to Drive Transformative Change**  
**April 25, 2023**

*Workshop Speaker Biographies*

**Neeraj Gandotra, MD**, serves as the Chief Medical Officer for the Substance Abuse and



Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Dr. Gandotra began his addiction career in public health by training within an underserved community in Washington D.C., where he developed his perspective of how a nationwide approach to local addiction treatment is greatly needed. Later, as medical director of Addiction Treatment Services at Johns Hopkins, he directed and delivered care through implementation of department initiatives and medical center resources. Dr. Gandotra was tasked with both administrative and supervisory roles for all providers and clinics within Addiction Treatment Services. Dr. Gandotra received his Bachelor of Science in Biology at University of Maryland, his Doctor of Medicine from the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) School of Medicine and completed his Psychiatric residency at Howard University. He completed an Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Gandotra had served on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University and Howard University Hospital for a decade.

**Joseph P. Gone, PhD**, is a professor at Harvard University and an international expert in the



psychology and mental health of American Indians and other Indigenous peoples. Dr. Gone has collaborated with tribal communities for over 25 years to critique conventional mental health services and harness traditional culture and spirituality for advancing Indigenous well-being. He has published over 100 scientific articles and chapters, and received recognition in his fields through several fellowships and career awards, including a year-long residency at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Illinois, Dr. Gone also trained at Dartmouth College and McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He is currently a Fellow of the Association for Psychological



Science, and of seven divisions of the American Psychological Association (APA). An enrolled member of the Aaniiih-Gros Ventre Tribal Nation of Montana, he also served briefly as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Fort Belknap Indian reservation. In 2014, Gone was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2021 he received the APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

**Héctor González, PhD**, is a Professor of Neurosciences in the School of Medicine at the



University of California, San Diego. Dr. González is a population neuroscientist and the Principal Investigator of the Study of Latinos- Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA), which is the largest study of cognitive aging, impairment, and disorders among diverse Latinos in the United States. The goals of the SOL-INCA studies are to discover sociocultural, cardiovascular and genetic risks for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among diverse Latinos.

**Alvin Hathaway, PhD, DMin**, is the CEO of the African Ancestry Neuroscience Research



Initiative. He has an honorary degree: PhD in Philosophy of Religion from The North Carolina College of Theology and an earned Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary. He earned his Masters of Arts in Church Ministries and a Certificate in Urban Ministry from Saint Mary's Seminary and University. He is a graduate of The Harvard Divinity School's

Summer Leadership Institute. He was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College on April 12, 2012. He received the Judge Alexander Williams Award for Educational Excellence on November 20, 2019. In 2021 Dr. Hathaway was inducted into the Class of The Sunpapers Business and Civic Hall of Fame and named an Influential Marylander by The Daily Record. Dr. Hathaway is a contributing author of "Children's Mental Health: Partnering with the Faith Community" in the book: Providing Mental Health Services to Youth Where They Are: School – and Community-Based Approaches. (New York: Brunner-Routledge. 2002); "Reaching Out to School and Community Stakeholders to Improve Mental Health Services for Youth in an Urban US Community," *International Journal of Mental Health Promotion*. (Volume 4, Issue 4 – November 2002); "Enhancing Child and Adolescent Resilience Through Faith-Community Connections." In C. Clauss-Ehlers & M. Weist (Eds.) *Community*



Planning to Promote Resilience in Youth. (New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishing, 2004).

**Stephanie Monroe, JD**, is Vice President and Senior Advisor on Health Equity at



UsAgainstAlzheimer's (UsA2), a national advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Ms. Monroe also serves as the Executive Director of African Americans Against Alzheimer's, a network of UsA2 which was founded in 2013 and is the first national network created specifically to respond to Alzheimer's disease's disparate impact on African Americans. By working nationally, locally, and through strategic partnerships, African Americans Against Alzheimer's is raising awareness of the impact of Alzheimer's health disparities on communities of color and women, the need for greater minority participation in clinical trials to find better treatments and hopefully a cure, and the importance of all communities, especially those most at risk to begin to focus on brain health and adopt risk reduction strategies that promote brain health and healthy aging. Dr. Monroe is also a member of the NASEM Board on Children, Youth and Families.

**Nina Wallerstein, DrPH**, is a Professor of Public Health in the College of Population Health

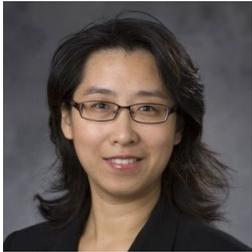


and Director for the Center for Participatory Research at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Wallerstein has been developing community based participatory research (CBPR) and empowerment/Freirian interventions for over thirty-five years. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of an intergenerational culture-centered family prevention program with three Southwest tribes. To strengthen the science, art, and equity advocacy of CBPR, she is Principal Investigator of Engage for Equity, an NINR-funded RO1, with national partners, to research best partnering practices associated with health outcomes and to develop a partnership collective reflection/action toolkit. She is an appointed member of the NASEM committee for developing measures for community engaged science for health services and policy. She has collaboratively produced with Latin American colleagues a train-the trainer Empowerment, Health Promotion, and Participatory Research curriculum (initially sponsored by Pan American Health Organization in 1999) with its 2021 third edition (revised by



Wallerstein and Parajon), to be available in Spanish, Portuguese and English; and co-sponsors an annual summer Institute in CBPR for Health since 2009.

**Tracy Wang, MSc, MHS, MD**, is the current Chief of Comparative Clinical Effectiveness



Research at Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Prior to joining PCORI, Dr. Wang was a professor of medicine at Duke University and director of health services and outcomes research at the Duke Clinical Research Institute. She has published more than 350 peer-reviewed articles and lectured widely on the use of big data to identify treatment gaps and develop strategies for intervention. Throughout her career, Dr. Wang has worked diligently to address disparities in health access and outcomes. She has helped spearhead several national initiatives to foster diversity in research participation as well as in the research and healthcare workforce. Dr. Wang obtained her doctor of medicine from Harvard University, her master of health science in clinical research from Duke University, and her master of science in molecular biochemistry and biophysics from Yale University. She completed training in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and subspecialty cardiology training at Duke University.

**Olajide Williams, MS, MD**, is a Professor and Chief of Staff of the Department of Neurology



at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. A specialist in the treatment of stroke and cerebrovascular diseases, Dr. Williams is also an attending physician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and a clinical neurologist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He attained his medical degree from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and completed his neurology residency and neuromuscular fellowship training at The Neurological Institute of New York. Dr. Williams also holds a Master of Science degree from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Williams is a world-renowned leader in stroke disparities and community-based behavioral intervention research. He is founder and chair of Hip Hop Public Health, an internationally recognized organization that creates and implements multimedia public health interventions that target and engage young people in the health of their families and communities. He is a principal investigator of



multiple NIH investigator-initiated awards, including a Center for Stroke Disparities Solutions in New York.