

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange:

Evaluating Community Response, Advancing Transformative Recovery, and Enhancing Proactive Preparedness for the Impacts of Future Oil Spills

Workshop Speaker Biographies



Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak

Inupiaq activist; Former Mayor of Nuiqsut, Alaska

Dr. Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak is an Inupiaq teacher, activist, and former mayor and community health aide of Nuiqsut, Alaska. She is also the founder and executive director of Grandmothers Growing Goodness, an organization dedicated to elevating the understanding and protection of Inupiat culture and people in the face of oil and gas development and climate change. She has fought tirelessly for the health and protection of her people and the Arctic's unparalleled

land, seas, and life that have sustained her culture for thousands of years. As an advocate of community rights, she has been vocal about the impact of oil development in close proximity to her village. Her work aligns with the vision of Native Movement, an organization formed in 2003 in Arctic Village, AK, which focuses on grassroots-led movements, healthy Indigenous nations, and sustainable communities for all and Mother Earth. Ahtuanguaruak's dedication to defending clean air, water, and the sacredness of the environment reflects the fight of Indigenous people to maintain their way of life.



Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine

Executive Director, Gulf Research Program, NASEM

Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine is responsible for overseeing all aspects of management and use of the criminal settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon disaster that were entrusted with the National Academies by the federal government. Since her tenure at the National Academies began in 2002, Augustine has gained experience working in a variety of roles on a broad range of topics pertaining to water, natural disasters, and resilience. Prior to joining the Gulf Research Program in 2018, she served as director of the Resilient America Program, which supports communities' efforts to build resilience to extreme events using science and diverse stakeholder engagement. In addition, she has formerly served as country director for the African Science Academy Development Initiative, a decade-long program that built scientific capacity in national academies across Africa; as director of the Disasters Roundtable; and as a study director for the Water Science and Technology Board.

Outside of her work at the National Academies, Augustine has served on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Risk and Resilience; was a member of the Advisory Board for the American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange program; and was a juror for two resilience competitions, Rebuild by Design for recovery after Hurricane Sandy and Resilience by Design in San Francisco. She is also a NATO expert for the Civil Protection Group. Augustine earned her B.S. in applied mathematics and systems engineering and her M.S. in environmental planning and policy from the University of Virginia, and her Ph.D. in an interdisciplinary program that combined physical hydrology, geomorphology, and ecology from Harvard University.



Dr. Adriana Bejarano

Environmental Scientist, NOAA

Dr. Bejarano is an Environmental Scientist at NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, Emergency Response Division. She was previously a Senior Ecotoxicologist at Shell Oil Company and at Research Planning, Inc. She is a scientist with broad experience in computational toxicology, environmental modeling, environmental statistics, and applied eco-toxicology. She has studied the toxicological effects of organic pollutants on marine and estuarine organisms at multiple levels of biological organization (i.e., from hormones to populations), and has worked on integrating scientific knowledge into tools for use in chemical and oil spill preparedness and response. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of South Carolina, a M.S. in Marine Sciences from the University of South Carolina, and a B.S. in Marine Biology from the Universidad del Valle, Colombia.



Tap Bui

Executive Director, Sông Community Development Corporation

Tap Bui is an experienced community development and systems change leader with over 14 years of impact on the New Orleans East community and beyond. A New Orleans native, Tap is committed to engaging communities, stakeholders, funders, and policymakers in co-creating solutions to complex issues and collective decision-making to drive innovation and impact. She currently serves as the Co-Executive Director of Sông Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the quality of life for BIPOC communities in Southern Louisiana. In this role, she oversees the organization's strategic direction and initiatives as it relates to equitable community development, disaster response and recovery, advocacy and policy, and community services and programming. She strongly believes in de-stigmatizing New Orleans East and beyond and reclaiming the cultural resilience narrative of BIPOC residents. Her experience spans community organizing, disaster recovery and response, nonprofit management, public health programming, program evaluation, and philanthropy. She has previously been the Health Outreach Coordinator at MQVN Community Development Corporation, the Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of Southeast Louisiana and led advocacy and community organizing efforts in response to the Deepwater Horizon BP oil drilling disaster. Her volunteer activities included serving on the boards of the New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School (Sci High) and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. She currently serves as the Vice Chair on the board of the Institute of Mental Hygiene New Orleans and Member of the Louisiana Public Health Institute Board of Directors. Tap holds a Master's in Public Health from LSUHSC School of Public Health, is a certified medical interpreter and fluent in Vietnamese.



Dr. Hannah Covert

Independent Consultant

Dr. Hannah Covert is a former Research Assistant Professor of environmental public health at the University of Pittsburgh and Tulane University. In these positions, she managed an environmental and community health research and capacity building portfolio, providing both scientific and administrative leadership for externally funded projects. While diverse in topic, these projects were community-academic partnerships that promoted resilience in communities facing environmental health threats and long-standing health disparities. After the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, she was involved in research on the impacts of the spill on women's health in SE Louisiana. She also managed several projects funded by the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program (GRHOP) which was designed to strengthen the public health infrastructure in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. GRHOP itself was funded by the Deepwater Horizon Medical Benefits Class Action Settlement. Dr. Covert's subject matter expertise is in environmental health literacy, climate change adaptation, community health

worker programs, and program evaluation. She holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration and a M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida and a B.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College.



Karolien Debusschere

Deputy Oil Spill Coordinator, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Karolien Debusschere is the Deputy Coordinator at the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office. She obtained a B.S. in Geography from the University of Ghent, Belgium and a Doctorate Degree in Geomorphology from Louisiana State University. She has over 35 years of experience working on oil spills, starting with the 1989 spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. She currently chairs the RRT6

Preparedness Committee and has been heavily involved with drafting policy and planning documents dealing with dispersants, in situ burn, bioremediation, and surface washing agents to name a few.



Dr. Laura "Uutukuu" Eichelberger

Epidemiology and Health Research Consultant, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Dr. Laura "Uutukuu" Eichelberger is an Epidemiology and Health Research Consultant in the Tribal Water Center and Department of Research Services at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Laura does research for Alaska Native communities to assist in community-identified priorities. Her projects have included investigating household water security, the impacts of the COVID-

19 pandemic, and vaccine acceptance in remote Alaska Native communities. She received her BA in anthropology from Colby College and worked in civil rights in New York City before getting her Ph.D. in cultural and medical anthropology at the University of Arizona and her MPH at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to returning to her home state of Alaska, she was a National Cancer Prevention Fellow, and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas San Antonio. Laura loves seal oil and salmon, skiing, camping and playing with her family.



Scott Eustis

Community Science Director, Healthy Gulf

Scott Eustis is the Community Science Director for Healthy Gulf, an organization focused on returning the Gulf of Mexico to its former splendor in support of a thriving ecosystem including the Gulf's natural resources, people, communities, and culture. With an extensive background in wetlands and fisheries research from his Master's from the University of New Orleans, Scott supports Healthy Gulf's Science and Water Policy team by analyzing wetlands restoration projects, providing scientific arguments in comments against bad developments and wetlands destruction, and by representing Healthy Gulf in many public forums. Scott has a Bachelor of Science in Ecology from UGA's Odum School of Ecology, as well as a degree in English from UGA, and spends a lot of his time flying kites for Public Lab and learning about our natural world with the Louisiana Master Naturalists, GNO.



Dr. Shannon Guillot-Wright

Associate Professor, University of Texas Houston

Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD is an Associate Professor at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, Director of Health Policy at the Center for Violence Prevention, and Director of Total Worker Health® at the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. Her research focuses on labor rights and the use of evidence in policymaking, with an emphasis on precarious employment among migrant and low-income workers. She is particularly interested in understanding power, influence, and social change using participatory research methods, including ethnography and photovoice. She is on the board of SAVIR and a Governing Councilor for APHA, and was recently a Visiting Scholar in Health Policy at the Robert Graham Center in Washington, DC. Her work has been featured in the American Journal of Public Health, New York Times, National Public Radio, TIME Magazine, and Texas Monthly, among others.

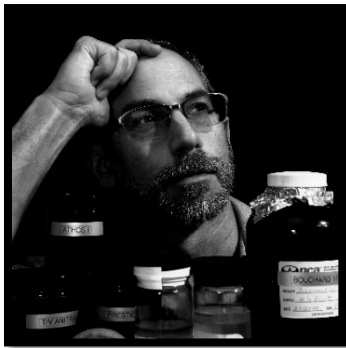


Ann Hayward Walker

Founder, SEA Consulting Group

Ann Hayward Walker's 40+ year career began at the University of Hawaii and Virginia Institute of Marine Science as a coastal zone planner – managing coastal areas to balance environmental, economic, human health, and human activities. In 1983, she founded Scientific and Environmental Associates, Inc. (SEA Consulting Group). Over her career, she responded to approximately 250 oil and hazmat incidents, in addition to project work on contingency planning, training, risk communication, incident command system (ICS), and technical support for government and other clients. As a NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator

(1980-90), she was a member of NOAA's Emergency Response Division team. During the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS), she coordinated an expert panel assessment of EVOS oil on subsistence seafood with affected native communities. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill under subcontract to BP, she provided scientific coordination, risk communication and stakeholder engagement support for aerial dispersants and SCAT (shoreline cleanup assessment technique) coordination in Houma and New Orleans incident command posts. She is a specialist in real-time decision support and interdisciplinary collaborative approaches involving natural, social, and decision sciences and affected communities. The final phase of her career focused on the intersection of environmental and human disasters. In 2017, she chaired the National Academies' committee for "Preparing for a Rapid Response to Major Offshore Oil and Gas Spills: A Workshop on Research Needs to Protect the Health and Well-being of Communities" and co-authored the 2021 research synthesis on "Human Health and Socioeconomic Effects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico", funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI). She holds an MBA from Golden Gate University and a BFA in Architecture/Environmental Planning from the University of Hawaii.



ED Levine

Science Support Coordinator, NOAA (retired); Founder, SS&C, LLC

Committee Chair, Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange

Mr. Edwin "ED" Levine currently operates his own consulting company providing training and crisis response. He retired from NOAA after 33 years with the Emergency Response Division. He has participated locally, nationally, and internationally in hundreds of incidents involving oil spills, chemical releases, and many other various emergency responses including the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spills. He provided planning and preparedness activities including training and participation on numerous committees at all levels of government, industry, and academia. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO). Among his many recognitions Mr. Levine received the NOAA Distinguished Career Award, three USCG Meritorious Team Commendations, and the USCG Commander's Award for Civilian Service. He received a Master of Science degree from the University of Puerto Rico in Marine Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University in Coastal Environmental Sciences. Most recently he was the Vice-chair of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine publication *Oil in the Sea IV: Inputs, Fates, and Effects* (2022).



Dr. Jacqueline Michel

President, Research Planning Inc. (RPI)

Dr. Michel is a multi-disciplinary scientist who addresses coastal and marine resources protection and management. She has worked in 34 countries. Much of her expertise is based on 46 years of emergency response to oil and chemical spills, dealing with the spill behavior, fate, and effects; response strategies; shoreline cleanup; and natural resource damage assessment. She is currently the President of Research Planning Inc. (RPI) and a Non-Academic Affiliate at the

School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment at the University of South Carolina. She holds a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of South Carolina.



Lloyd Montgomery

Elder, Native Village of Eyak; Commercial Fisherman

Lloyd Montgomery is an elder from the Native Village of Eyak. Lloyd has been fishing as a way of life as a commercial fisherman for over 60 years. He has been completing annual oil spill training since 1997. He had the honor to go to Washington D.C. to testify in front of the Alaska State Legislature along with congressman Dace Reichart about the impacts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on Cordova fishermen. He also was asked to witness the Supreme Court ruling in 2008. When

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill occurred, he traveled to Louisiana and worked on cleanup for seven weeks for approximately 12 hours a day.



Mây Nguyễn

Senior Philanthropic Advisor, East Bay Community Foundation

Ms. Mây Thi Nguyen serves as Senior Philanthropic Advisor at the East Bay Community Foundation, bringing two decades of experience in climate and disaster resilience as a community organizer, attorney, and nonprofit leader. She has testified on the Oil Pollution Act before a US Senate Energy Subcommittee, appeared on NBC, NPR, and Louisiana media outlets, and co-authored a BP Oil Spill white paper for the White House Initiative on AAPI. In her

community work, Mây authored an environmental law and policy advocacy guide, taught undergraduate courses, and trained over a thousand community members and local officials in environmental protection. Her transformative organizing work with Black, Indigenous, and immigrant fishing communities—which secured recognition and damages for traditional fishing practices—earned UCLA School of Public Policy's Rishwain Social Justice Entrepreneurship Award. Mây holds a JD with a Public Interest Law and Policy certificate from UCLA School of Law, a BA in

Political Science from Amherst College, and an MA in International Economics and Southeast Asia Studies from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.



Frank M. Paskewich

President, Clean Gulf Associates

Frank M. Paskewich has over 40 years of experience in the field of Coastal Disaster Response, including Oil Spills. He earned his BS in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture from the United States Coast Guard Academy. He also completed his MS in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture, and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan. Today, this he is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Michigan. Formerly, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 26 years, retiring at the rank of Captain. During his time in the U.S. Coast Guard, he served as the Captain of the Port in New Orleans, as well as the Coast Guard's Incident Commander for response operations during Hurricane Katrina. Since 2007, he has worked for Clean Gulf Associates, a not-for-profit oil spill cooperative dedicated to the Gulf of Mexico's Exploration and Production (E&P) Industry, where he currently serves as their President.



Rosina Philippe

Elder - Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha Tribe; Board Vice President, Lowlander Center

Rosina Philippe is an elder in the Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha Tribe in Louisiana and the Vice President of the Board for the Lowlander Center. Her work is focused on partnering with leaders from other communities, and various organizations/groups, to work for environmental sustainability of coastal, traditional and historied communities. These alliances are forged to address issues of: Climate Change, Economic Instability, Environmental Justice, Gentrification and Coastal Restoration/Preservation; issues that are familiar to most of our communities and have plagued its peoples for generations. As a guest lecturer, she speaks on recognizing accountability and identifying contributing factors and entities in relation to these issues. Ms. Philippe is a firm believer that people facing similar problems, through informed education and information sharing, have the power to affect positive long-term changes; and through collaboration, take charge of their own destinies, building toward a more resilient and sustainable life.



Colette Pichon Battle

Co-Executive Director, Taproot Earth

Colette Pichon Battle is a generational native of Bayou Liberty, Louisiana. As founder and Co-Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (GCCLP), now Taproot Earth, she develops programming focused on equitable disaster recovery, global migration, community economic development, climate justice, and energy democracy. Colette worked with local communities, national funders, and elected officials in the post-Katrina and post-Deepwater Horizon disaster recovery. She was a lead coordinator for Gulf South

Rising 2015, a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South. In 2015 Colette was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow, in 2016 she was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity, and in 2018 Kenyon College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. In 2019, Colette was named an Obama Fellow for her work with Black and Native communities on the frontline of climate change. Colette serves on the boards of the US Climate Action Network and the Highlander Research and Education Center, advises the Kataly Foundation's Environmental Justice Resourcing Collective, and chairs the Equity Advisory Group of the Louisiana Governor's Climate Initiative Task Force.



Kelly Samek

Gulf Regional Lead and Federal Program Officer, NOAA

Kelly Samek holds a J.D. from the University of Florida and an LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy from Florida State University, and she practiced law for the State of Florida for several years before entering program administration. This professional background informs her present role as the Gulf Regional Lead and Federal Program Officer supporting the Sea Grant Legal Network. Prior to joining NOAA in 2016, she served as the Coastal Program

Administrator at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and as the Gulf Restoration Coordinator at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Before attending law school, she began her career in those same agencies in sea turtle research and management. As a “double Gator,” Kelly also holds a Master's in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and a graduate certificate in Ecological Restoration from UF.



Susan Saupe

Director of Science & Research, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Susan Saupe is a life-long Alaskan and currently works for the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) from her office in the coastal community of Homer Alaska. She has a B.S. in Chemistry (1985) and M.S. in Oceanography (1990) from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Following research on east coast estuarine systems, she returned to Alaska to conduct Exxon Valdez oil spill damage assessment studies for UAF. Since 1996, Ms. Saupe conducts a multi-disciplinary science program for CIRCAC focused on nearshore habitats, physical oceanography, and oil fate and effects. She was also Lead Scientist for Alaska's first Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program surveys and initiated a web-based ShoreZone coastal mapping program in Cook Inlet that has since developed into a state-wide program.



Dr. Jeffrey Short

Chemist, NOAA (retired); Founder, JWS Consulting

Dr. Jeffrey Short, retired from a 31-year career as a research chemist at NOAA, where he worked primarily on oil pollution and other contaminant issues. He was the leading chemist for the governments of Alaska and the United States for the natural resource damage assessment and restoration of Exxon Valdez oil spill, and guided numerous studies on the distribution, persistence, and effects of the oil. These studies led to discovery of an oil toxicity mechanism hundred-fold more effective than realized previously, garnering him a bronze medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce, and to the first fully quantitative assessments of oil remaining on beaches anywhere. Dr. Short has consulted on numerous major oil spills worldwide following his retirement from NOAA, including the Deepwater Horizon blowout in the Gulf of Mexico.



Cynthia Sarthou

Former Executive Director (retired), Healthy Gulf

A native of the Gulf of Mexico region, Cynthia Sarthou was the Executive Director of Healthy Gulf for 26 years, stepping down to retire in 2022. Originally named the Gulf Restoration Network, Healthy Gulf collaborates with and serves communities by providing the research, communications, and coalition-building tools needed to reverse the long pattern of over exploitation of the Gulf's natural resources. Among a long list of efforts she has contributed to, Cynthia has lead efforts helping to stop the Yazoo Pumps project, pressure oil companies to clean up oil spills, reduce the Dead Zone, defend Louisiana's coast by protecting wetlands, and work to empower smaller organizations to enact change at a local level. She has testified before Congress

about the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill and about the continued unequal impacts of fossil fuel drilling and industrial development on disadvantaged communities. Cynthia has been widely recognized as an environmental leader throughout the Southeast, the Gulf, and the Mississippi River Basin. Prior to her tenure with Healthy Gulf, Cynthia was a staff attorney in Seattle for a nonprofit watchdog working on the cleanup of the Hanford nuclear reservation. She holds an LLM degree in Law and Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.



Dr. Danielle Verna

Environmental Monitoring Project Manager, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Danielle Verna is the Environmental Monitoring Project Manager for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. In coordination with the Council's Scientific Advisory Committee, she works with researchers to monitor the environment and promote community well-being in the Exxon Valdez oil spill region. Danielle earned her PhD in Environmental Sciences from Portland State

University in 2021 and values place-based research, partnership building, and working at the intersection of science and policy. She is an Affiliate Faculty member at Alaska Pacific University and an Adjunct Faculty member at Prince William Sound College. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Danielle moved to Alaska in 2008, primarily residing in the Prince William Sound communities of Cordova and Valdez.



Dr. Collin P. Ward

Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Dr. Collin Ward is an Associate Scientist in the Department of Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His research characterizes how and how fast sunlight and microbes alter the physical and chemical properties of organic carbon in aquatic ecosystems. He works on a wide range of organic carbon types, including natural organic matter, crude oil, and plastics. His study sites span fresh and saline surface waters from

the Alaskan Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico. He was a chair of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Synthesis and Legacy effort, with a focus on oil fate and weathering at the sea surface and on shorelines. He received the 2024 James J. Morgan Environmental Science & Technology Early Career Award from the American Chemical Society. He earned a BS and MS in Environmental Sciences from The Ohio State University, and a PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of Michigan.



Dr. Francis Wiese

Senior Scholar, Gulf Research Program, NASEM

Dr. Francis Wiese recently joined the GRP as the resident Senior Scholar. Dr. Wiese is an applied systems thinker and ecologist and was Stantec's Science Director for Climate Solutions. He has 30 years' experience working around the world, designing, implementing, and managing large inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional science programs that address important socio-ecological issues related to climate change, the ocean, and its uses. He has extensively focused on climate change and other anthropogenic stressors on the environment, system science, adaptive management, resilience, and environmental policy. He is also a technical reviewer for over 20 international journals and serves on a variety of national and international science panels, committees, and working groups.