

Building Public Trust in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Science: A Workshop

Committee

Sandra C. Quinn

Chair

Sandra Crouse Quinn is Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Science and Senior Associate Director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland. She is currently co-PI on a MPowering the State grant, Predicting and Improving COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance Among African Americans during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and co-principal investigator of a local research team in Prince George's County, MD and a member of the larger Working Committee on a Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative grant, "The Community's Role in an Equitable and Effective COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout (Communivax)" (Schoch-Spana and Brunson, PIs). She has been the PI on CDC, NIH and FDA grants focused on trust, vaccine acceptance, vaccine disparities, and communication during routine and emergency situations, and engagement of racial/ethnic minorities in research. At the University of Pittsburgh, she facilitated development of the graduate certificate in Public Health Preparedness and Response, developed and taught Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication course, and was joint PI (2008-2010) for the CDC funded, Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center. She is currently a member of the NIH funded, COVID-19 Prevention Network expert panel on older adults and the Maryland SARS CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group. She served on the NASEM committee on Evidence-Based Practice for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. She holds a PhD in Health Education from the University of Maryland.

Dominique Brossard

Member

Dominique Brossard is professor and chair in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an affiliate of the UW-Madison Robert & Jean Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, the UW-Madison Energy Institute, the UW-Madison Global Health Institute, the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Morgridge Institute for Research. Her teaching responsibilities include courses in strategic communication theory and research, with a focus on science and risk communication. Brossard's research agenda focuses on the intersection between science, media and policy with the Science, Media and the Public (SCIMEP) research group, which she co-directs. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the International Communication Association, Brossard is an internationally known expert in public opinion dynamics related to controversial scientific issues. She is particularly interested in understanding the role of values in shaping public attitudes and using cross-cultural analysis to understand these processes. She has published more than 100 research articles in outlets such as *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Science Communication*, *Public Understanding of Science*, the *International Journal of Public Opinion*, and *Communication Research* and has been an expert panelist for the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) on various occasions. She currently serves on the NASEM Climate Communication Initiative Advisory Committee as well as on the Executive Committee of the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN), which aims at facilitating rapid and actionable responses to social, behavioral, and economic-related COVID-19 questions. Brossard is a member of the Board on Life Sciences of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. She is also on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences and she is the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation.

Esther Chernak

Member

Esther Chernak is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health, Drexel University School of Public Health, and the Drexel University College of Medicine. She directs the Drexel Center for Public Health Readiness and Communication (CPHRC). Her academic work focuses on initiatives that enhance public health and health care capacity at the local and state level, improve the preparedness of at-risk communities, build community resilience through partnerships between public health and community sectors, and improve risk communication. She recently led a CDC-sponsored study on the disaster communication needs of children with special health care challenges and is Co-I on another study to investigate the impact of home assessments on preparedness of children with special health challenges. Prior to joining the Drexel faculty in 2010, Dr. Chernak worked at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health for over 25 years, serving as Medical Director and Program Manager of the Acute Communicable Disease Control and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Programs in the Division of Disease Control, and Clinical Director of HIV Services for the Division of Ambulatory Health Services which operates the safety-net primary care network for the City of Philadelphia. Dr. Chernak is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society, the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, and has received several Golden Apple Awards for teaching at Drexel University. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

Kenny Hendrickson

Member

Kenny Hendrickson is an Associate Professor of Public Administration and Social Sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands. He also functions as the Director of the Master of Public Administration Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Dr. Hendrickson holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Urban Studies and Public Affairs from the University of Akron in Ohio. He also holds a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of the Virgin Islands. Dr. Hendrickson's research interests are centered on disaster research, public trust, public health, caring, crisis leadership, leadership, Public Administration, and STEM higher education. In 2020, Dr. Hendrickson served as an investigator on a research project that investigated post-disaster burnout and quality of life of frontline government workers in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). Currently, He is the primary investigator of a research study entitled Ensuring Community Resilience through Public Trust. This research study examines USVI residents' public trust of public health disaster response and community resilience.

Hilary N. Karasz

Member

Hilary Karasz is the Deputy Communications Director at Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), which is the local health department serving the 2.3 million residents of King County, Washington. Over a 20 year career at PHSKC her public health communications experience includes health promotion, crisis and emergency communications, media management, employee and policy communications, community outreach related to communications and health inequities, and other topic areas related to public health practice. Since the start of the COVID pandemic she has led an expanded team of 25 health and risk communicators. She is also an affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington in the School of Public Health where she teaches graduate level health promotion and health communication classes. Her research interests are related to public health applications of mobile (SMS text messaging) technology, and she was a principal investigator for a CDC funded grant on SMS and emergency communications at the University of Washington Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center.

Jennifer Kiger

Member

Jennifer Kiger is Director of the COVID-19 Division for Harris County Public Health. Jennifer received her Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, TX. She started her Public Health career as an epidemiologist investigator and preparedness specialist for the City of Houston Health Department. Then she worked at the Association of Schools of Public Health in Washington, D.C. as a Program Manager for the Centers for Public Health Preparedness. In 2007, she returned to Texas to work for the Department of State Health Services. She spent over 7 years working at the state and regional offices within Texas working in the public health preparedness field serving various roles including liaison, Strategic National Stockpile coordinator, Preparedness Planner, and Regional Public Health Preparedness Manager. Jennifer has held command roles in several responses including Hurricane Ike, H1N1, TX West Nile Response, and Texas Wildfires 2010, Harris County Flooding events in 2015 & 2016, Hurricane Harvey 2017, and ITC Chemical Fire 2019.

Rachael Piltch-Loeb

Member

Rachael Piltch-Loeb is an expert in public health emergency preparedness and response and risk communication. She holds appointments as a public health emergency preparedness researcher at both the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the New York University School of Global Public Health. Rachael's work focuses both the systems and individual side to improve the development and execution of practice in public health preparedness, response, and risk communication. She received her Ph.D. in public health from New York University, an M.S.P.H. from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and a B.S. from Georgetown University.

Kai Ruggeri

Member

Kai Ruggeri is Assistant Professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management. Prior to this role, he was an academic at the University of Cambridge, where he also founded and directed the Policy Research Group in the Department of Psychology. He also serves on state active military service as part of Operation COVID-19 in New York State. His primary research is in population behaviors and how those insights contribute to public policy, with an emphasis on interventions that reduce inequality. This work includes both real-world and experimental approaches to understanding human behavior in a way that can better inform policy, primarily in health and wealth. Through this work, he has produced numerous scientific publications in leading journals as well as and policy reports on the use of evidence. Kai received his PhD in psychology from Queen's University, Belfast, in Northern Ireland, where he focused on the barriers to understanding risk and uncertainty, both in educational settings and in the real world.

Monica Schoch-Spana

Member

Monica Schoch-Spana is Senior Scholar with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and Senior Scientist with the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. A medical anthropologist, she has worked as both researcher and policy analyst/advisor in public health emergency management for over 20 years. Her areas of expertise include community resilience to disaster, behaviorally realistic emergency plans, public engagement in policymaking, sociocultural dimensions of disasters, and crisis and emergency risk communication. National advisory roles include the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the US Environmental Protection Agency; the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which she formerly co-chaired; and the National Research Council Committee on Increasing National Resilience to Hazards and Disasters. From 2003-2017, Dr. Schoch-Spana worked at the UPMC Center for Health Security, and prior to that, at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, starting in 1998. She received her PhD in cultural anthropology from Johns Hopkins University.

Cathy Slemp

Member

Cathy Slemp currently enjoys her own public health consulting practice with current projects primarily focusing on community resiliency and leadership development. From 2018 to 2020, Dr. Slemp served as Commissioner and State Health Officer with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health overseeing the full scope of the state's public health activities and partnerships as well as launching the state's response to COVID19. Similarly, she served from 2002-2011 as West Virginia's State Health Officer, then overseeing immunization programs, outbreak and disease control programs, emergency preparedness and response efforts, and agency quality improvement activities. Concurrently, she served as the state's Emergency Preparedness Director, founding and directing preparedness programs, managing multi-million-dollar grants, and leading public health agency responses, including the 2009 influenza pandemic, floods, hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and other emergencies. Prior to these roles, she was the founding director of the state's Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and epidemiologist for the WV Cancer Registry. Throughout her career, Dr. Slemp has worked closely with public health agencies, health care facilities, and cross-sector partners to build both epidemiology and emergency preparedness infrastructure within communities. Prior to her medical and public health career, she trained as a family practitioner and volunteered internationally in community development.