

Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence

Committee

Stephen Ewell

Co-Chair

Steve Ewell is the executive director of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) Foundation, a charitable foundation with the mission of linking seniors and people with disabilities with technology that can enhance their lives. They support programs providing independence, purpose and vital connections for people across the country. He joined the CTA Foundation at its start in January 2012. Prior to joining the CTA Foundation he served in other nonprofit leadership roles. He was managing director of the InfraGard National Members Alliance (INMA), a public private partnership with the FBI focused on promoting and developing critical infrastructure protection, with 86 chapters and more than 40,000 members. While at Business Executives for National Security (BENS), Steve served as the director of the Metro Washington, DC region where he built the membership in DC, Maryland and Virginia into one of the largest and most active regions in the organization through a wide variety of policy engagements and programs. Steve graduated from Drew University with a Bachelors of Arts and earned his MBA and Masters of Science in information and telecommunications systems from Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School. He serves on the Advisory Councils for the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) at University of Colorado and the Enhancing Neurocognitive Health, Abilities, Networks & Community Engagement (ENHANCE) at Weill Cornell.

Rebecca Jackson Stoeckle

Co-Chair

Ms. Stoeckle is a Senior Vice President at Education Development Center, where she directs initiatives in health, technology, aging and systems change. Her primary focus is the intersection between innovation and impact in the design of interventions, especially for clinicians and those facing health disparities. Ms. Stoeckle has extensive experience implementing models of care and working with older adults. She is currently the director and Principal Investigator of the National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment, funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation and The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, leading a team of national experts to design and test a national care model to improve the response to elder mistreatment. She is also a Co-Investigator on The John A. Hartford Foundation-funded program to nationally disseminate the evidence-based UCLA Alzheimer's and other Dementia Care (ADC) model for community-based care. Ms. Stoeckle is a member and Co-Chair of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Forum on Aging, Disability and Independence. Ms. Stoeckle is also a member of the World Health Organization's G7 Advisory Group on Aging and the Environment and of the US International Standards Organization's Technical Advisory Group on Dementia. She is a practitioner of the Human Centered Design approach to intervention development, which emphasizes the importance of understanding cultural and contextual feasibility to ensure uptake and impact in a particular target audience. For over two decades, she has directed projects and teams aimed at improving health services and the integration of behavioral health services in community settings, primary care, and hospital settings, addressing some of the world's foremost health and education challenges, including end-of-life care, the prevention of falls in long-term care, and ethical practices in the VHA system. She has led complex, multi-component collaboration projects, bringing together clinicians and academics to develop effective and scalable responses to health challenges such as advance care planning, PTSD among veterans, HIV prevention, and breast and cervical cancer. Her work has been funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Veterans Administration, and by the private sector, and has received national recognition and awards for excellence in innovation and sustainable systems change.

John Auerbach

Member

John Auerbach is the Director of Intergovernmental and Strategic Affairs at CDC. As such, he is the lead strategic advisor on CDC engagement with the government agencies at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, public health partners, and other external partners. Within the agency, he assists the Director in the development of priority initiatives. Over the course of a thirty-year career, he has held senior public health positions at the federal, state, and local levels. Immediately before returning to CDC, he was the President and CEO of Trust for America's Health (TFAH), where he oversaw TFAH's work to promote sound public health policy and make disease prevention a national priority through research, reports, communications campaigns, and government relations. Earlier in his career, Auerbach was the Associate Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he oversaw policy and the agency's collaborative efforts with CMS, commercial payers, and large health systems. He also served as the Acting Director of the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. During his six years as the Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he developed innovative programs to promote health equity, combat chronic and infectious disease, and support the successful implementation of the state's health care reform initiative. Auerbach was previously the Director of the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and a founding member of the National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. As Boston's health commissioner for nine years, he directed homeless, substance abuse, and emergency medical services for the city as well as a wide range of public health divisions.

George Demiris

Member

George Demiris is a PIK (Penn Integrates Knowledge) University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and holds joint faculty appointments in the Department of Biobehavioral Health Sciences of the School of Nursing and the Informatics Division of the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, Perelman School of Medicine. He explores innovative ways to utilize technology and support older adults and their families in various settings, including home and hospice care. He also focuses on designing and evaluating personal health systems that produce patient-generated data including "smart home" solutions for aging. He is a Member of the National Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, the Gerontological Society of America and the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics. He is the Editor-In-Chief of Informatics for Health and Social Care and a Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics. He has conducted numerous federally funded studies and his work has been funded consistently over the years both by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Frank R. Lin

Member

Frank R. Lin, M.D., Ph.D. is the Director of the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health and a Professor of Otolaryngology, Medicine, Mental Health, and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. As an otologic surgeon & epidemiologist, Dr. Lin has translated his clinical experiences caring for patients with hearing loss into foundational public health research and federal policy in the U.S. His epidemiological research from 2010-2014 established the association of hearing loss with cognitive decline & dementia, and his research served as the direct basis for the 2017 and 2020 Lancet Commission on Dementia conclusion that hearing loss is the leading modifiable risk factor for dementia. Based on this early research, he now leads ongoing, NIH-funded randomized trials that are investigating the efficacy of hearing interventions for mitigating cognitive decline and other functional outcomes in older adults. In parallel, Dr. Lin has collaborated with the National Academies, White House, and Congress to develop policies to ensure hearing loss can be effectively and sustainably addressed in society. These efforts directly resulted in bipartisan passage of the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 which Dr. Lin testified on before Congress.

Jon A. Sanford

Member

Jon A. Sanford is a professor in the School of Industrial Design at Georgia Tech. He is internationally-recognized for his expertise in universal design, accessible design, and design for aging. His research focus is at the intersection of aging and disability and he serves as the Director of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-term Disabilities, a 5-year grant funded by the National Institute for Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research. He has more than 300 scholarly presentations and publications and currently serves on both national and international advisory boards focused on design and technology to promote health, safety and independence of people aging with disabilities. He is the author of Design for the Ages: Universal Design as a Rehabilitation Strategy and teaches universal design as a way of design thinking that bridges the gaps in design, human computer interaction, and engineering professions. Mr. Sanford received his Master of Architecture from Georgia Tech and BS degrees in Psychology from Duke University and Architecture from Georgia Tech.

Bonnielin Swenor

Member

Dr. Swenor is an associate professor at The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute and the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is the founder and director of the Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center, which addresses health inequities for people with disabilities through research, education, and policy. Dr. Swenor's career is motivated by her personal experience with visual impairment, and her work seeks to transform traditional thinking on health disparities research by focusing on three interrelated areas: (1) finding strategies to maximize health and advance health equity for people with disabilities, (2) addressing healthcare disparities for people with disabilities; and (3) enhancing the inclusion of people with disabilities in the biomedical workforce and across other settings. Dr. Swenor received an MPH and doctorate degrees in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Institute on Aging.

Fernando Torres-Gil

Member

Fernando M. Torres-Gil, PhD, is a Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy at UCLA, an Adjunct Professor of Gerontology at USC, and Director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging. He has served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, and most recently Chair of the Social Welfare Department. He has written six books and over 100 publications, including *The New Aging: Politics and Change in America* (1992) and *Lessons from Three Nations, Volumes I and II* (2007). His academic contributions have earned him membership in the prestigious Academies of Public Administration, Gerontology and Social Insurance. His research spans important topics of health and long-term care, disability, entitlement reform, and the politics of aging.

Torres-Gil has an impressive portfolio of public service and national and international recognition as a leading spokesperson on demographics, aging, and public policy. He earned his first presidential appointment in 1978 when President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the Federal Council on Aging. He was selected as a White House Fellow and served under Joseph Califano, then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), and continued as a Special Assistant to the subsequent Secretary of HEW, Patricia Harris. He was appointed (with Senate Confirmation) by President Bill Clinton as the first-ever U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). As the Clinton Administration's chief advocate on aging, Torres-Gil played a key role in promoting the importance of the issues of aging, long-term care and disability, community services for the elderly, and baby boomer preparation for retirement. He served under HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, managing the Administration on Aging and organizing the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, in addition to serving as a member of the President's Welfare Reform Working Group. In 2010 he received his third presidential appointment (with Senate Confirmation) when President Barack Obama appointed him as Vice Chair of the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that reports to the Congress and White House on federal matters related to disability policy. During his public service in Washington, D.C., he also served as Staff Director of the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging under his mentor, Congressman Edward R. Roybal.

At the local level, Torres-Gil has served as the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission and a member of the Harbor and Taxi Commissions for the city of Los Angeles. He currently serves Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as an appointed member of the Board of Airport Commissioners. At the state level, he was appointed by former Governor Gray Davis to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Veterans' Homes and by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. He continues to provide important leadership in philanthropy and non-profit organizations as a board member of the AARP Foundation, and he is a former board member of The California Endowment, National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California and the Los Angeles Chinatown Service Center. Torres-Gil was born and raised in Salinas, California, the son of migrant farm workers. He earned his A.A. in Political Science at Hartnell Community College (1968), a B.A. with honors in Political Science from San Jose State University (1970), and an M.S.W. (1972) and Ph.D. (1976) in Social Policy, Planning and Research from the Heller Graduate School in Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

James C. Appleby

Ex Officio Member

James C. Appleby is the Chief Executive Officer of The Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the aging field. The Society works to advance innovation in aging and disseminate information among scientists, clinicians, policy makers and the public. He is leading the Society's current initiative to "reframe aging" in America by fostering accurate narratives of aging to replace the outdated "conventional wisdom" that dominates public understanding. The 5,400 member Society is advancing major initiatives related to improving adult immunization rates, earlier detection of cognitive impairment, improving oral health, and demonstrating the impact of the longevity economy. Prior to joining GSA, Mr. Appleby had a 17-year career with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) where he served in a variety of roles before being appointed Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining APhA, Mr. Appleby was on faculty at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (PCPS). Mr. Appleby holds a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from PCPS and a master of public health degree from Temple University. He has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Tamala David

Ex Officio Member

Dr. David is a native resident of Rochester, New York; an area with a large deaf population. She grew up in a household with a deaf grandmother (a sign language user) and is passionate about issues related to the health and well-being of deaf older adult sign language users. She received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing and Master's degree in Public Administration (with an emphasis in Healthcare and a certificate in non-profit management) from the College at Brockport, State University of New York. She received her Master's degree in Nursing, with specialty as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and PhD in Health Practice Research from the University of Rochester. She joined the Brockport nursing faculty in August of 2008. She also holds a faculty appointment at the University of Rochester. She has more than a decade of experience providing education related to community health nursing and Deaf Health to nurses and physicians at all levels (from students to seasoned clinicians/faculty) locally, nationally, and internationally. At the College, she teaches courses related to Community Health Nursing and in 2011, developed the department's first study abroad course; Community Health Nursing Clinical in Costa Rica. She expanded her work with the department's study abroad initiatives by developing a departmental exchange program for nursing students from the University of Costa Rica. She currently leads the Department of Nursing's International Education committee.

She has been a member of the Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) at the University of Rochester since 2004 and has been a member of other research/health project teams at the University of Rochester since 2015. Her projects have addressed population health issues at local, national, and international levels. She has presented at several local, national, and international professional meetings or conferences and has a growing body of published articles. As a clinician, she has nearly 20 years of clinical experience in the field of family and community health nursing. Her clinical knowledge and experiences include: sleep medicine, cardiovascular and respiratory care, health promotion and disease prevention, long-term care for children and adults, and more. She is in private practice as a community health consultant and practitioner and has worked with many businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and families in the New York State area.

Amy Kelley

Ex Officio Member

Sarita Mohanty

Ex Officio Member

Sarita A. Mohanty, MD, MPH, MBA, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The SCAN Foundation. The SCAN Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the United States focused on improving the quality of health and life for older adults. Its mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. Previously, Sarita served as the Vice President of Care Coordination for Medicaid and Vulnerable Populations at Kaiser Permanente. Sarita was previously Assistant Professor of Medicine at USC; Chief Medical Officer of COPE Health Solutions, a health care management consulting company; and Senior Medical Director at L.A. Care, the largest U.S. public health plan. Sarita completed her Internal Medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and research fellowship at Harvard Medical School. She earned her MD from Boston University, MPH from Harvard University, and MBA from UCLA. She completed undergraduate work at UC Berkeley. She currently is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine and is a practicing internal medicine physician with Kaiser Permanente. Sarita enjoys international travel, tennis, and spending time with her husband and three children.

Katie Smith Sloan

Ex Officio Member

Katie Smith Sloan is president and CEO of LeadingAge. Guided by the mission to be the trusted voice for aging, Sloan advances the organization's strategic priorities to increase impact through advocacy, enhanced member value and generates ideas to improve our current system of services and supports. As LeadingAge's President and CEO, Katie Smith Sloan seeks common ground with other stakeholders to address ageism and to promote innovation. Sloan also serves as the executive director of the Global Ageing Network, an organization with a presence in over 50 countries committed to improving the quality of life for people as they age throughout the world. Sloan serves on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) based in Toronto, HelpAge USA, the Long Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) and ValueFirst, a group purchasing company serving the aging services field. She is also co-chair of Dementia Friendly America, a multi-sector national collaborative with a mission to foster dementia friendly communities. Sloan has a master's degree from the George Washington University and a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College.

Rani Snyder

Ex Officio Member

Erwin Tan

Ex Officio Member

Erwin J. Tan, MD is the Director of Thought Leadership – Health at AARP and a board certified internist and geriatrician. Erwin previously served as the director of Senior Corps at the Corporation for National and Community Service. From 2004 to 2010, he served as an assistant professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he was an attending physician in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He was also a co-investigator in the Baltimore Experience Corps Study. From 2003-2004, Erwin was a White House Fellow serving as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Before coming to the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, Erwin was a faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, where he served as Geriatric Medicine Fellow and a Primary Care Medicine Resident. Erwin was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. He received a bachelor's from Brown University and graduated from New York University School of Medicine.