

Cohort 17 Bios August 2021

Evelyn Abayaah, MS Director, Network Development and Strategic Partnerships Massachusetts General Hospital, Cancer Center

Evelyn has over 15 years of experience in health care with expertise in hospital operations, operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, quality and safety, global business development, and strategy. In her current role, she works to establish global strategic collaborations and partnerships with health care organizations within the United States of America around the world with an aim of spreading Mass General's mission of Research, Education, and Clinical best practices. In addition, she co-chairs the Mass General Cancer Center Equity Council, as well as engages in several Diversity and Equity initiatives at the institution and her community. She previously served in several roles to improve quality and safety in the health care system. Evelyn is passionate about health care for all and works tirelessly to ensure that any programs she builds provides timely, equitable, efficient care to patients that allows them the best care for the best outcome. In addition, Evelyn is an active volunteer in her community, she serves on Acton Boxborough School Committee, member of the Acton- Boxborough Fostering Racial Justice Group, co-leads the Acton-Boxborough Parents of Color Advisory Group. She serves on several non-profit boards, Vice President of the Ghana Association of Greater Boston, and Vice President of the Clover Foundation.

Evelyn has a BA in Journalism from the Ghana Institute of Journalism, BS in Health Education, and MS in Health Policy and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She has undertaken several leadership development trainings through the Mass General Leadership Academy, Partnership Inc, YW Boston LeadBoston. Evelyn lives in Massachusetts with her spouse and two girls. She loves to read, hike, travel and volunteer.

Angie Bannerman Ankoma, MPH, MSW Vice President, Executive Director Rhode Island Foundation

Angela is the Vice President, Executive Director of Equity Leadership at the Rhode Island Foundation which she oversees the professional development of leaders of color in RI. She previously served as the Executive Vice President, Director of Community Investment at United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI). Angela directed UWRI's grant-making, public policy, government relations, research and evaluation and 2-1-1/The Point. Prior to her role at UWRI, Angela worked at RI Department of Health (RIDOH) as the founding Co-Director of the Health Equity Institute where she oversaw the implementation of RIDOH's leading priorities on health equity. In addition, she is actively engaged in local community investment efforts. Angela serves on the board of *West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation* (WEHDC) in Providence's West End neighborhood; a community she has lived in for nearly 40 years. Angela is one of the founding members of WEHDC's nationally recognized *Sankofa Initiative*. The Sankofa Initiative is a multimillion-dollar project that combines housing, a world market and farm to improve health outcomes among Providences' growing immigrant community. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Latino Policy Institute and Amos House.

Angela has master's degrees in both Public Health (MPH) and Social Work (MSW) from Columbia University. She and her husband, have 4 children and are the owners of Copa Menswear and Copa Xclusive Cuts businesses in Providence, RI.

Pierre R. Berastain, MDiv
Deputy Director
District Alliance for Safe Housing
Washington, DC

Pierre is the Deputy Director at the DC nonprofit the District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH), the region's largest provider of safe housing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Prior to DASH, Pierre was the Director of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (OSAPR) at Harvard University where he led and provided oversight of advocacy, education, and prevention services as well as University-wide coordination to address the needs of people who experienced interpersonal harm. Before Harvard, Pierre served as the Assistant Director of Innovation and Engagement at the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities (NLN), the federally funded, Latino specific resource center for gender-based violence in the United States. He has worked with federal agencies, college campuses and universities, domestic and sexual violence state coalitions, shelters, and community programs to infuse cultural competency on violence intervention and prevention initiatives. He is the co-founder and Executive Board Member of [Latinos United for Peace and Equity](#), an Atlanta-based organization that provides culturally specific services to Latino survivors of domestic and sexual violence and which works nationally to change the social conditions that give rise to violence. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors for [Transition House](#), a domestic violence shelter and social justice organization in Cambridge, MA, and previously served on the board of [MERGE for Equality](#), an organization that works to engage men around violence prevention. He is the author of 40+ articles and contributor to several books. In 2019, Pierre was named Top 25 Most Influential LGBTQ People of Color in Boston.

Pierre graduated from Harvard College with a Bachelor's in Social Anthropology and from Harvard Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity. Originally from Peru, Pierre immigrated to the United States with his family in 1998 and remained an undocumented immigrant for 14 years until he received DACA in 2012. He lives with his partner, Paul, in Washington DC and New York City.

Charity Chenge, MPH
Senior Program Officer, Global Development
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Abuja, Nigeria

Charity is a Senior Program Officer, Global Development with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her public health experience spans international, national and sub national roles across a range of Reproductive, Maternal & Child Health; HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment; and Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Programs. Part of her multifaceted responsibilities at the Gates Foundation includes overseeing the Foundation's work in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) as well as in health commodities supply chain investments in Nigeria. She is the Foundation's State-lead for Kaduna and Gombe States and manages a ≈\$42M partnership/investment portfolio in Nigeria. Previously, she worked at the Geneva headquarters of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and at the Global AIDS Program of the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) where she co-led Nigeria's successful pilot and rollout of the Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) of HIV resulting in earlier access to care for thousands of HIV exposed infants across Nigeria. Charity received an award in recognition of her role in this transformative initiative. She's also worked at the Catholic Relief Services, an

International Development & Relief Agency, where she was the pioneer team leader of their Nigeria Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program. She also leads a multi-state adoption of Group Antenatal Care (G ANC) in Nigeria and oversees the establishment of BMGF Nigeria's Technical Assistance Hub. Charity serves as a trustee to three non-profits, she's co-founder of the Centre for Health Systems Support, and founder of 'The Next Hundred'. Both initiatives aim to bring transformative change to the health and productivity of underserved Nigerian communities.

Charity received her medical training at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos. She holds a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from the same institution and holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics (LSE) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), both of the University of London. Charity considers herself an incurable optimist! She loves gardening, reading, and dancing. Though a global citizen with a global family, home for her, her husband and children is Abuja, Nigeria.

Dustin Fristed, MPH, RD, CSR
Head, Clinical and Outpatient Nutrition Services
Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
Oceanside, California

Dustin is the head of clinical and outpatient nutrition services at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. He leads a team of registered dietitians and develops nutrition and health promotion programs in support of our nations' active-duty service members, dependents, and veterans. Dustin is a registered dietitian, board-certified specialist in renal nutrition, and United States Navy veteran. As an active-duty Medical Service Corps officer, he served as division officer of clinical and outpatient services, food service management, and clinical nutrition support aboard USNS MERCY. Dustin deployed overseas as a nutrition subject matter expert in support of the tri-service humanitarian mission Pacific Partnership 2018 and provided training and education in the areas of medical nutrition therapy, food security, food safety and sanitation, and health promotion at more than twenty subject matter and global health engagements.

Dustin holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics from California State University, Long Beach and earned his MPH with a focus in nutrition and community health from Liberty University while serving as an active-duty officer stationed state-side and abroad.

Amy Garrett, MA
Senior Clinical Research Scientist
ICON, on assignment with Merck
Chapel Hill, NC

Amy Garrett is an organizational behavior and public health leader with more than 20 years of progressive experience leading cancer research, bioethical policy development, health education, and health care improvement initiatives in cancer, family, and community health. In her current role, Amy is a Senior Clinical Research Scientist with ICON, a global provider of clinical research services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, government, and public health organizations. She is currently on assignment with the External Collaborations team at Merck working to develop breakthrough innovations in cancer prevention and treatments worldwide. Previously, Amy served as Director of the Office of Clinical and Translational Research (OCTR) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and simultaneously also served as the Director of the UNC Lineberger Tissue Procurement Facility. During her tenure at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Amy expanded the OCTR from a three-person staff working in one cancer type to a 40+

member enterprise dedicated to conducting innovative cancer research across all cancer types. Prior to UNC, Amy led the National Lung Screening Trial at Georgetown University, and contributed to landmark changes in the standard of care for the detection of lung cancer.

Amy earned her Master of Arts in Organizational Sciences and Management from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Missouri. Amy has rural Midwestern roots and is a proud first-generation college graduate with a passion for advancing access to quality health care to underserved populations. Amy lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, and they are proud parents to Greyson, Ella, and their Australian Labradoodle, Boone. She enjoys traveling, camping, exercising, and collecting more books than she has time to read.

Chris L. Hardesty, MBA

Director

KPMG Global Healthcare & Life Sciences Centre of Excellence

Singapore

Chris L. Hardesty is the Director of KPMG's Global Healthcare & Life Sciences Centre of Excellence, presently based in Singapore. There, he looks after affairs in the Asia-Pacific region. His primary focus is on the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #3 for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) schemes, including related efforts such as the WHO's Decade of Healthy Ageing program. Chris' passion is on fostering public-private collaborations in order to achieve economically-viable health-for-all, and he is leading the World Economic Forum's sustainable health system design work for the region. Chris is also involved in creating capacity for bringing novel health, medical, and biotech innovations to market across a range of care pathways including vaccines, neuroscience, diabetes, cancer, rare disease, respiratory, among others. In addition to his KPMG role, Chris serves as adjunct lecturer, industry consortia advisor, investor, and start-up board member within the Singapore ecosystem and beyond. Before Singapore, Chris has had prior postings in the UK and Brazil, and calls the US (Texas) home.

Chris has an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona, and a bachelors in business administration from University of Texas in Austin. He is married with two daughters, ages 7 and 5.

Brian Holler, MPH

Senior Health Advisor

USAID-Kyrgyz Republic

Washington DC/Bishkek,

Kyrgyzstan

Brian has over twelve years of experience exploring the intersections of infectious disease, behavioral health, and health systems management. He is currently Senior Health Advisor for USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic. Over the past year, he has co-led the US' COVID-19 planning and response and empowered local organizations to secure international funding to encourage locally-driven programming. Previously, he served as Infectious Diseases Advisor for USAID in India, advocating for the adoption of rigorous program evaluation, social-behavioral change models of health communication, and a participatory approach that continuously holds a program accountable to its target populations. He began his career working as a patient advocate in Baltimore's leading trauma center, assisting patients and their families in navigating complex health systems in times of crisis. During and after his graduate education, he focused on the use of quality improvement mechanisms and human-centered design to improve HIV and TB testing protocols in Orleans Parish prisons, childhood and maternal health in rural Turkmenistan

(as a Peace Corps volunteer), and HIV testing and treatment adherence in Maryland local health departments. He also championed the integration of peer recovery specialists into emergency departments to provide immediate substance use treatment support, naloxone training and distribution, and harm reduction education to overdose survivors - a model that is now used throughout most public hospitals in Maryland.

Brian received his MPH at Tulane, and his BA at the University of Maryland, College Park. He lives in Bishkek with his spouse and two young children. He enjoys reading, playing, and watching sports, and *starting* hobbies and household projects.

Rod Jenkins, MHA

Local Health Director

Durham County Department of Public Health

Durham, NC

Rod is the Public Health Director for the Durham County Department of Public Health. He has held many managerial positions throughout his career. He worked for Wachovia Bank for eleven years. After a brief stint with Southeastern Health, he entered public service as Director of Financial Aid & Veteran's Affairs at Robeson Community College in Lumberton. Rod's interest in Public Health was advanced while he served three years as the Assistant County Manager for Robeson County. Rod fulfilled his desire to enter public health and served 9 years as the Deputy Public Health Director for the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, before becoming the director of the Durham County Department of Public Health. With partnerships that are bountiful and a staff that is dedicated to community service, he is focused on advancing health equity across all spectrums of public health.

A Charleston, South Carolina native, Rod Jenkins is a 1997 graduate of The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, and was later awarded a Master of Health Administration Degree in 2005 from the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. Rod Jenkins served eight years in the South Carolina Army National Guard and is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. When he is not working, Rod spends quality time with his family. He is married to Shereta McIver Jenkins, a native of Lumberton. They are the proud parents of their heartbeats--ten-year-old, Rodney Ellis Jenkins, Jr., better known as "Roddy" and three-year-old, Isabella Larue Jenkins affectionately known as Bella. He is passionate about health and fitness and can be found lifting weights or running outdoors.

Zoey J. Kernodle, MTS

Director, UNC Center for the Business of Health

Chapel Hill, NC

Zoey Kernodle is the Director of the UNC Center for the Business of Health in Chapel Hill, NC. As the inaugural Director, Zoey has worked to build the center from the ground up into an entity that serves students, faculty, alumni, and the broader community within NC and beyond. In this role, she oversees all of the Center's strategy, operations, fundraising, programming, and corporate partnerships. Prior to joining UNC and the Center for the Business of Health, Zoey worked in healthcare philanthropy research at the Advisory Board Company in Washington, D.C. She led and produced best practice research for hospital foundations at academic medical centers, children's hospitals, and community hospitals. With a background in fundraising and program management at large academic institutions and a national non-profit, she has extensive industry experience with corporate engagement, board management, strategy, and constituent engagement.

Zoey earned her Master of Theological Studies from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She attended NC State University for undergraduate with a BA in Religious Studies. Zoey serves on the board at Candler School of Theology and volunteers with the United Methodist Church to advocate and develop legislation related to LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church. Most of her interests' center on how diverse communities can use their experiences, knowledge, and resources to promote more just societies and the common good, particularly as it relates to improving health and well-being. Zoey and her husband George (a double Tar Heel and Gillings alum) live in Carrboro, NC and are expecting their first child in 2021. She enjoys playing tennis, cooking, reading (fiction and non-fiction), pulling for the Washington Nationals and Duke Basketball, and hanging out with her mini aussiedoodle, Moira.

Kendall LaSane, MPH

Quality Assurance Specialist

Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

New York, NY

Kendall is currently a Quality Assurance Specialist in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment (BADUPCT) in the Division of Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH). He is responsible for improving data quality and supporting the overall performance of Relay, a non-fatal opioid overdose response system that operates in fifteen emergency departments across NYC. In addition to this role, Kendall builds capacity among agency staff to operationalize racial and gender equity through advancing data equity and promoting a more equitable organizational culture. From May-July 2021, he served as the Equity Taskforce Specialist and Equity Unit Lead for the Integrated Data Team for DOHMH's COVID-19 response. He developed a passion for advancing racial equity and community engagement while working at Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, where he collaborated with hospital leadership on quality improvement initiatives and LGBTQ patient-centered care. Additionally, he worked as a case manager at Bellevue for people living with HIV and during AmeriCorps service with court-involved youth at the Red Hook Justice Center. An active member in his community, Kendall serves on the Equity Task Force and the Corporation for the Winsor School in his hometown, Boston, MA. He also serves on the Junior Board for the New York Foundling and the New York Transgender Advocacy Group.

Kendall has an MPH in Sociomedical Sciences with a certificate in Social Determinants of Health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and a BA in Anthropology from Wellesley College. He lives in New York City, NY with his wife and son. He enjoys traveling, going to Broadway shows and eating his way through all of NYC's restaurants.

Kiti Kajana Phillips, MPH

Senior Program Officer

Open Society Foundations

New York, NY

Kiti is a senior program officer working on Access to Medicines and Innovation and Climate Justice for the Open Society Foundations Public Health Program. Kiti leads a portfolio that supports civil society in strengthening governments' resolve to challenge corporate power. Prior to joining Open Society in 2014, Kiti served as director of Global Health Strategies, where she advanced clients' advocacy and communications strategies. Kiti previously served as a program manager for the American Cancer Society, and oversaw a capacity-building program that trained more than 900 scholars in over 88 countries. During her tenure, she held a joint position with Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and was seconded to the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance (NCDA) to serve as their advocacy

manager. In the lead-up to the 2011 UN High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases, Kiti served as a bridge between civil society organizations and UN Missions and agencies.

Kiti holds a BSc in biology and a BA in Spanish from the University of South Carolina, and an MPH with a focus on global health from Emory University. Kiti is originally from Tirana, Albania and currently lives with her husband and five-year-old daughter in Brooklyn, NY.

Alyssa Schatz, MSW
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Philadelphia, PA

Alyssa serves as the Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, a not for profit alliance of the nation's leading academic cancer centers working to improve and facilitate quality, effective, efficient, and accessible cancer care so patients can live better lives. At NCCN, Alyssa is responsible for oversight of the Policy and Advocacy department and is the primary point of contact for policymakers and regulators. The Policy and Advocacy team works to advance NCCN's mission in health policy realms through legislative and regulatory engagement at the state, federal, and global levels, a tri-annual policy summit series, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships, and oversight of a policy fellowship program for emerging health policy leaders. Prior to joining NCCN, Alyssa spent more than a decade in behavioral health and disability rights advocacy, most recently serving as Vice President of Advocacy and Policy at Mental Health Partnerships and as Associate Director of the Alliance of Community Service Providers. She was involved in securing Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania and the implementation of behavioral health parity rights.

Alyssa received a Master of Social Work with a concentration in Macro Practice from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the Eastern Connecticut State University School of Social Work. When not advocating for evidence-based cancer policy, she volunteers for organizations working toward greater equity and integration in Philadelphia's public schools, enjoys hiking, and spends time with her kids, William (5), and Rebecca (2), her cats Lilly and Darwin, her dog Lincoln, and her husband Jeff.

Jessica Wallace, MPH, MSHS, PA-C
Physician Assistant, Family Medicine
Director, Healthy World Programs
Denver Health
Denver, Colorado

Jessica has been a Family Medicine PA for the past 15 years. Her clinical practice has taken her from rural North Carolina to Washington, DC and now to Denver, Colorado for the past 8 years. She believes passionately in working with historically underserved communities, and views clinical work as a privilege and a tool for accompaniment and solidarity. Now no longer a full-time provider, she utilizes her MPH as the Director of a collection of programs called "Healthy World", a comprehensive approach to weight management across the lifespan. She also has an intense interest in provider burnout and seeks ways to create a more humane approach to the practice of medicine to the benefit of all. She views leadership growth and development as essential components in that future. Jessica also has done international public health and medical work over the years, primarily in Latin America. These days a steady job and young family keep her stateside.

Jessica is fluent in Spanish and likes to dabble in learning French, Tzeltal, Arabic and Wolof. She received her Master in Public Health and her Master in Health Sciences from the George Washington University in Washington, DC. She has a wonderful partner Bryan who is a marine biologist, two children (Leander 10 and Selma 7) and two rescue dogs (Chucho and Chukai). She loves to hike, read, play guitar, and be out in nature as much as possible.

Albert L. Wright Jr., PharmD, MHA
President & CEO
West Virginia University Health System
Morgantown, WV

Albert is the president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia University Health System and West Virginia University Hospitals. Before joining the Health System in September 2014, he served in a variety of senior-level leadership positions at some of the nation's most prestigious healthcare systems and academic medical centers, including Ohio Health and UPMC in Pittsburgh. Since his appointment as CEO, Albert has led a fundamental transformation of the West Virginia University Health System, moving it from a holding company to a fully integrated healthcare financing and delivery network. Through a combination of acquisitions, management agreements, and clinical affiliations, he has grown the system to a network of 17 hospitals while significantly expanding both the tertiary and quaternary care – focused primarily in the areas of heart and vascular, cancer, and neuroscience – offered at the system's flagship 700-bed academic medical center in Morgantown, West Virginia. Under his leadership, the Health System is also building a 150-bed Children's Hospital that will open in 2021, and today, the West Virginia University Health System, which operates under the name WVU Medicine, is West Virginia's largest employer. Through its academic medical center, community hospitals, critical access hospitals, and clinics, the Health System serves a multi-state region that includes West Virginia, Western Maryland, Eastern Ohio, and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Albert obtained his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree at the University of Toledo, a Master of Health Administration at The Ohio State University, and his Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. He is involved in several charitable and civic organizations, serves on several boards, and is a soccer coach on the weekends. He and his wife, Joy, have four children.