



UNC Executive DrPH in Health Leadership Cohort 18 Biosketches

Current as of May 2022 (Updated August 2023)

(Wingdie) Didi Bertrand, MA, DEA, DESS

Director of Global Programs

University of Miami, Global Institute at the Miller School of Medicine

Miami, FL

(Wingdie) Didi Bertrand is director of Global Programs for the University of Miami's Global Institute at the Miller School of Medicine. She establishes and maintains local and global health partnership projects and initiatives in the US, Haiti, Bahamas, Grenada and beyond with a focus on implementing strategic priorities that foster bilateral partnerships between the University and country partners.

Born in Port-Au-Prince Haiti, Mrs. Bertrand holds two master's degrees in Social Sciences and two advanced degrees in Health System Management and Community Health and Social Development from universities in Haiti and in France. As a medical anthropologist and community health specialist, Mrs. Bertrand Farmer has worked in Haiti, Rwanda, Malawi, Lesotho, France, and the Bahamas. For the past 15 years, she has served as program developer and implementer, community organizer, activist for women and girls' rights, and researcher. In 2005, she was director of Community Health and head of the Biosocial Research and Social Development Programs for Partners In Health (PIH) in Rwanda, supporting the Rwandan Ministry of Health and two other PIH sites in the African continent. She joined the University of Miami's Global Institute in 2019 serving as managing director for the Institute's new public-private initiative with the Bahamian Ministry of Health launched in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

Mrs. Bertrand has been principal investigator on multiple studies including on reproductive health and traditional healing in rural Rwanda. She also served as the chair of the Haiti-Rwanda Commission, initiated after the 2010 earthquake to promote South-South cooperation and exchanges between Haiti and Rwanda. She currently serves as PIH senior advisor on Community Health programming and Strategist for adolescent health, gender, and development. She is also the founder of the Women and Girls Initiative, a global leadership movement advancing the human rights of marginalized adolescent girls and young women.

She is the mother of three wonderful children.

Eva de Weever-Lista, MS

**Department Head, Collective Prevention Services
Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labour
Sint Maarten**

Eva de Weever-Lista currently heads the Department of Collective Prevention Services—a branch within the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labour on the Dutch island of Sint Maarten. Since assuming the position in February 2020, she has led a multidisciplinary team responsible for executing public health policies and programs in infectious disease surveillance, health promotion, immunizations, oral health, and vector control strategies. Eva is also the Minister’s strategic partner, providing guidance on community health issues and best practices to mitigate risk.

With more than thirteen years of experience, Eva started her career in public health as an infectious disease epidemiologist and gained experience in outbreak preparedness and response during H1N1 and Dengue outbreaks in California and Sint Maarten respectively.

Eva is a known thought leader in the areas of infectious diseases, prevention, and control. This expertise has been applied in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating public health policies, programs, and strategies. Eva has also leveraged her knowledge to improve health care systems and governance structures for various government agencies in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

Eva received her master’s degree in Public Health Microbiology and Emerging Infectious Diseases from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. and bachelor’s degree in Medical Technology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Eva and her husband Adrian reside in Sint Maarten and have a daughter and twin boys. They enjoy spending weekends at the beach!

Gwendolyn Gilbert

**Chief Behavioral Health Officer and Program Director
Metropolitan Community Health Services
Washington, NC**

Ms. Gwendolyn Gilbert is the Chief Behavioral Health Officer and Program Director for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) at Metropolitan Community Health Services dba Agape Health Services, a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in rural eastern North Carolina. Funded by SAMHSA in 2020, Agape Health Services (Agape) was one of four CCBHC’s awarded a two-year \$4 million grant to provide vital services for people with serious mental illness and substance use disorders in Eastern North Carolina and the only FQHC in Eastern North Carolina to be funded.

Gwendolyn provides daily oversight and supervision of all aspects of the CCBHC; assists in new staff supervision, training, and development; works with the Advisory Committee to help monitor progression of the program and ensure sustainability while simultaneously overseeing the certification process by crafting workflow and policy development. In addition, Gwendolyn also works closely with several community consortiums to bring health care access to marginalized populations throughout Eastern North Carolina. Prior to joining Agape, Gwendolyn spent more than a decade in behavioral health and family services as a licensed clinician and clinical supervisor. She believes passionately in working with minority populations on access to primary and mental health care.

Gwendolyn received a Master of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Alcohol and Drug Studies in 2006 and a Master of Science in Substance Use and Clinical Counseling in 2011, both from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. She lives in Washington, NC with her children and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, a public service organization committed to constructive development of its members and public service with a primary focus on the Black community.

Kimberly Konkell, MSW

Senior Public Health Advisor

Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Washington, DC

Kimberly Konkell is a senior public health advisor for the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an operating division of the Department of Health and Human Services. She leads programming on homelessness and CMHS' HIV/AIDS portfolio.

For 17 years, Kimberly served as deputy director of the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships (Partnership Center), where she worked to marry the intelligence of science with the wisdom of communities. During her tenure at the Partnership Center, she focused on translating science to practice, with a particular interest in deploying community-based/socio-cultural interventions. She recognizes faith and community leaders as trusted messengers, first responders, and cultural key holders.

Kimberly received her BS in psychology and her MSW from Brigham Young University. She began her work in the U.S. government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Justice. She currently splits her time between High Jinks Ranch, AZ and Washington, D.C., where she works on all sorts of botanical and zoological experiments and rehabilitating wild spaces.

Kimberly is excited to return to school and gain proficiency in systems thinking, hone her research skills, with the goal of developing community training tools that lay the foundation of self-healing community.

Megan C. Lindley, MPH

Acting Lead, Adult Immunization Team, Immunization Services Division

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Atlanta, GA

Megan is the acting lead for the Applied Research, Implementation Science, and Evaluation branch's Adult Immunization Team in CDC's Immunization Services Division. Her team is charged with designing and conducting health services research and evaluation projects to increase uptake of recommended vaccines and reduce inequities in vaccination coverage among U.S. adults, as well as providing research and evaluation support to adult immunization program activities across the division.

Prior to this role, she was the division's senior advisor for adult immunization, providing consultation on the integration of adult vaccination work across the division, guidance to staff managing a portfolio of over \$300 million in funded partnerships, and assistance with strategic planning related to policy

initiatives in support of adult vaccination. Previously, Megan spent a year as acting associate director for science in the division, providing scientific consultation and expert review of scientific information products for over 150 staff and serving as a member of the division leadership team. She also spent eight total months deployed to CDC's COVID-19 response working on a variety of projects that directly informed agency guidance and public-facing communications on recommendations for people fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Megan also has 16 years experience as a health scientist conducting research on immunization law and policy, immunization quality measurement, and healthcare personnel vaccination. During this time, she led the multidisciplinary cross-agency team that received the 2012 CDC/ATSDR Honor Award for Excellence in Quantitative Sciences for developing, testing, and implementing the first nationally accepted standardized measure of healthcare personnel influenza vaccination which is currently used in over 6,000 healthcare facilities nationally.

Megan received her master's degree in Public Health Policy and Administration from the Yale University School of Public Health and her bachelor's degree in Anthropology and French Studies from Smith College. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband Mike and two very energetic kids – son Duncan (8 years) and daughter Dylan (5 years). Her 'want to read' list on Goodreads currently stands at 282 books and growing, but she's confident she'll get through it someday.

Beth Lowder, MSW

Innovation Program Manager

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

Chapel Hill, NC

Beth is a creative strategy and operations professional who is passionate about community engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and systems change initiatives. Beth serves as the innovation program manager at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Her work focuses on poverty alleviation and addressing social determinants of health and wellbeing. At the School, she has led the design, creation, and launch of the Community Aspirations Hub, bringing the global Poverty Stoplight methodology to community organizations across North Carolina. She also provides operations, strategic development, and project management support to an array of community engaged programs at the school, including the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SIE) Lab, the Family and Children's Resource Program, and the Center for Aging and Adult Research and Educational Services. Beth has a particular interest in working with startups and social enterprises. At UNC, Beth helped develop and launch the SIE Lab, which serves students, faculty, and community organizations who want to use innovation and entrepreneurial skills to improve their social work practice.

Beth received her Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in community, management, and policy practice and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from UNC Chapel Hill. She lives with her partner in Greensboro, North Carolina. When not working, Beth enjoys reading, solving puzzles, and tackling small home improvement projects with the assistance of YouTube tutorials.

Fatima Mamman-Daura, MSc

Acting Director Internally Displaced Persons

National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons

Abuja, Nigeria

Fatima is currently the head of Internal Displacement at the Nigerian National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and is responsible for coordinating national action for the protection, assistance and provision of durable solutions for Nigeria's nearly 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). A public health professional and humanitarian worker, Fatima has twenty years of progressive professional experience in humanitarian programming, research for development, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building and programme management. Her expertise is in sexual reproductive and maternal health with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS, family planning, obstetric fistula and working with adolescents and young people. Fatima is also a specialist in providing protection services for forcibly displaced populations.

Between 2016 and 2017, Fatima led the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) reproductive and maternal health humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria leading to the expansion of access to life-saving reproductive health services to hundreds of thousands of IDPs in camps and within host communities and to other vulnerable populations in inaccessible communities. Before joining NCFRMI, Fatima worked in various capacities at the Kaduna State School of Health Technology as a communicable diseases teacher, at the Society for Family Health – the local affiliate of Population Services International (PSI) as a research officer and at Pathfinder International/Nigeria as a monitoring and evaluation specialist and most recently at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a reproductive health specialist.

Fatima has a master's degree in the Control of Infectious Diseases from the University of London (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science from the University of Portsmouth. She also has certifications in Research Methods in Reproductive Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and in Internal Displacement from The International Institute for Humanitarian Law, Sanremo.

Fatima is an avid reader and in her spare time she writes. She also loves to travel. She lives in Abuja with her husband and 3 daughters aged 16, 12 and 5.

Mónica Rojas, MD, MPH

Oncology Director for Latin America

Center for Observational and Real-World Evidence (CORE)

Merck

Bogotá, Colombia

Mónica is the Oncology Director for Latin America at the Center for Observational and real World Evidence (CORE) in Merck. Her primary role involves planning and managing outcomes research studies on oncology, with a focus on gastrointestinal, lung, hematology, and head and neck indications. In this capacity, she oversees all phases of outcomes research and real-world evidence, including the design and implementation of retrospective database studies, epidemiological studies, and economic modeling in the region. Previously, she served as the medical manager for vaccines in Colombia and Ecuador. Her key responsibilities included developing the medical strategy for the vaccines area, collaborating with scientific leaders and stakeholders to support informed health decisions, raising disease awareness, and

accurately communicating the results of the company's developed molecules. Additionally, Mónica played a key role in identifying local gaps and implementing medical education strategies. Before that, she worked as an outcomes research specialist for Merck's entire portfolio, leading the development of pharmaco-economic and local data generation studies. Collaborating with key departments such as market access, she also provided technical support in policy research development.

She was granted Merck's Fellowship for Global Health, a pro bono program that strengthens the capacity of nonprofit organizations and leverages the professional development of its employees. She was the only Latin American participant accepted into the cohort and the first Colombian in the program. The project focused on reducing maternal mortality rates in India by facilitating quality improvement across private health care institutions with the NGO JHPIEGO. Her group designed a sustainable business model to ensure scalability of the program and strengthened an IT platform to optimize costs.

Before joining Merck, she worked as an epidemiologist in a local health maintenance organization (HMO) and was a general practitioner for approximately five years in both rural and urban areas of Colombia. Along with it, she worked as the administrative director of the "Revista Colombiana de Cardiología" (Colombian Journal of Cardiology), a local peer-review journal.

Monica received her medical training at the Universidad Industrial de Santander, she holds a postgraduate degree in Epidemiology from the Universidad Colegio Mayor del Rosario and holds a master's degree in Public Health from the Universidad de Los Andes. Mónica lives in Bogotá, she loves reading, dancing, and traveling. She has a dog named Manolo and enjoys spending time with him and her family.

Alonzo South, MBA

Assistant Vice President, Community Impact

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA

Alonzo is the assistant vice president of community impact at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). In this role, he oversees the Office of Community Impact, which manages community health initiatives, employee community volunteering, and community benefit reporting. Alonzo leads the Healthier Together Initiative, which aims to improve child and community health by addressing social determinants of health in West and Southwest Philadelphia. He also advances the hospital's anchor institution strategy that purposefully leverages hospital resources to elevate the health and wellbeing of children, families, and neighborhoods harmed by historic and ongoing structural racism and economic inequality. Alonzo previously worked in CHOP's Strategy and Business Development office and supported the development of enterprise, department, and division strategic plans.

Prior to joining CHOP, Alonzo was a Strategy Consultant with Accenture, where he specialized in healthcare and mergers and acquisitions. He also worked for IMI plc in a variety of internal strategy roles in China, India, England, and the United States.

Alonzo holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a BS from Rutgers University (majors in Spanish and Marketing). He resides in Philadelphia with his wife and three children. Alonzo is a dual citizen of Jamaica and the United States.

Frank Tianyi, MD, MSc (Oxon)

Clinical Epidemiologist

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

United Kingdom

Frank Tianyi is a clinical epidemiologist at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). He leads clinical and public health research activities at the Centre for Snakebite Research and Intervention and is involved in the design, conduct and analysis of studies on snakebite victims in Kenya, Nigeria and Eswatini.

Prior to joining LSTM, Frank was director of a 25-bed sub-divisional hospital in Cameroon, supervising a team of 12 healthcare workers and 25 community healthcare workers, with a catchment area of 30,000 people. Under his leadership, there was an increase in the range and quality of services offered, doubling of the bed-capacity, and quadrupling of the patient turnout.

Frank is passionate about universal and effective health coverage, especially for the bottom billion mostly affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) which maintain a vicious cycle of poverty and ill-health.

Frank has an MD from the University of Buea, Cameroon, and an MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology from the University of Oxford, UK. He enjoys playing tennis, running, and hiking. He has ascended Mount Cameroon multiple times and has his sight on Mount Kilimanjaro sometime next year.

Etobssie Wako, MPH (she/her)

Project Director

The Leaders Trust

Atlanta, GA

Etobssie is a feminist researcher, grantmaker, and storyteller committed to racial and gender justice. Over the years, she has worked with grassroots, national, and international organizations in advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice.

She is currently a Project Director at The Leaders Trust, where she co-creates organizational transformation strategies with the next generation of reproductive justice leaders. Previously, Etobssie was the Georgia State Advisor for the Susan T. Buffet Foundation; led learning and evaluation for CARE USA's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) team; and held several positions at the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Division of Reproductive Health. As an independent consultant, she has worked with civil society organizations, government agencies, UN bodies, and foundations to support strategic planning, knowledge production, and leadership and organizational transformation.

Etobssie holds a bachelor's degree in Women's Studies from Queen's University and a Master of Public Health from Georgia State University. Etobssie believes in public health - as theory, practice, aspiration, and as a site for significant social change; and is committed to amplifying the voices and power of those most impacted by health disparities.

Katherine Wells, MPH

Director

Public Health District

Lubbock, TX

Katherine Wells, MPH currently serves as the Director of Public Health for the Lubbock Public Health District. Katherine is an advocate for local public health and has spent the last seven years rebuilding the public health system in her community. Through collaborative initiatives with community organizations and by encouraging local investment in public health, Katherine has quadrupled the size and expanded the scope of the department.

Prior to her current role, Katherine worked for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as a statistician, researcher, and manager. While at DSHS, Katherine developed the State Pharmacy Assistance Program for HIV-positive individuals, led multiple epidemiological investigations, published articles on medication adherence, and successfully developed cost-saving initiatives to enhance DSHS programs.

Katherine currently serves as the vice-president of the Texas Association of City and County Health Officials and is a board member for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Katherine has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Hood College in Maryland and a master's in Public Health from Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Katherine lives in Lubbock, TX with her husband and two school aged daughters.

Christine Werneke

President and COO

University of Vermont (UVM) Health Network - Home Health & Hospice

Richmond, VT

Christine has over 15 years of experience in health care representing a range of system perspectives including payer programs, state government, non-profit community services, and enterprise-level care delivery administration. In her payer work, she helped develop beneficiary engagement strategies for 17 US health plans establishing their first prescription drug program under Medicare when CMS added Part D to the Medicare benefit.

She was appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors in Vermont to support coordination of communication and outreach activities across state government. During her time in state government, Christine worked with the Agency of Human Services to launch Catamount Health, the state's first public health plan established prior to the ACA, with the goal of insuring 98% of Vermont residents. She also supported the expansion of VT's Blueprint for Health, a chronic conditions program, to all primary care practices in the state. Christine recently co-led the design of a value-based primary care model that calls for investment in primary care and care management resources to support high-needs patients with a high touch model. Christine has also worked relentlessly since 2011 to grow access to and utilization of palliative and hospice care in Vermont through partnerships with payers, providers, and consumer-directed educational campaigns.

Christine is currently the President and COO of Vermont's largest non-profit Home Health & Hospice agency. She is passionate about addressing health care needs for vulnerable populations, working with geriatric patient populations, and advocating for mental health services for all. She has served her community directly as an elected Selectboard member and on town committees and is currently serving on Vermont's Mental Health Integration Council.

Christine has a BS and MS in Community Development and Applied Economics from the University of Vermont. She lives in Richmond, VT with her husband and two boys. She loves the mountains, kayaking, spending time with her family and is currently learning how to identify birds by their songs.

Adam Wolk, MD

Regional Chief Medical Officer

Alignment Healthcare

Chapel Hill, NC

Adam worked for Kaiser Permanente in Portland OR, Inova Health in Fairfax VA, and at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (MGUH), where he managed hospitalist programs and led various quality and safety initiatives. He moved to North Carolina in 2014 to take a job as the state medical director for Alignment Healthcare (ALHC), a start-up population health management firm that is partnered with UNC. He is now a regional Chief Medical Officer for ALHC, which is no longer a start-up (IPO March 2021).

Adam was raised in Davis, CA, son of a law professor and local/state politician. He left home for Colby College in Waterville, Maine (class of 1997) and got his MD from UC Davis (class of 2003) and completed his residency at MGHU in 2007. He lives in Chapel Hill with his wife (Io) and four kids (Audrey, Isabel, Max, and Grace).

When he is not nursing various orthopedic injuries, Adam enjoys working out with F3 (cross-fitness program) and running long distance relay events (Blue Ridge and Great Allegheny Passage Relays). He also serves as President of the board of a regional community palliative care and hospice agency and is an active fundraiser for the Malawi Children's Initiative (a 501c3 that provides pediatric healthcare infrastructure in Malawi). He is excited to be a student again, and even more excited to meet all of you! Adam hopes this program will facilitate a career pivot toward public health leadership.