

BIOS for Disparities during the Pandemic



Dr. Neil Maniar is a Professor of Public Health Practice and the Director of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. Dr. Maniar's areas of teaching expertise include Urban Community Health Assessment, Health Education, Program Planning and Program Evaluation. Prior to this, he was the Vice President of Health Systems within the American Cancer Society's New England Division, overseeing cancer control efforts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. As the Division's Health Systems leader, he led a team of 40 staff working within and across health care systems to increase utilization of cancer prevention strategies and cancer screening tests; to reduce barriers to care for cancer patients; to help patients navigate their cancer journey; and to engage health care organizations in fighting cancer through the Society's advocacy and community initiatives. He also served on the Division's Senior Leadership Team and on national leadership teams.

Prior to joining the ACS, he was the Director of Health Equity Programs in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Community Health and Health Equity. Dr. Maniar was also the founding director of the Massachusetts Youth Violence Prevention Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He created this program through a \$200,000 CDC capacity-building grant in 2004 and directed its growth into a program with \$3,500,000 in state funding by 2008. He also founded and co-chaired the Massachusetts Coalition for Youth Violence Prevention. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the Eastern New England Region of the American Cancer Society, and UTEC. He is also a member of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley's Community Impact Council.

Dr. Maniar received his PhD from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2005 and his Masters of Public Health (MPH) with distinction from the Yale University School of Public Health in 1998. He also has a Bachelor's degree from Connecticut College with a double major in English and Zoology.



Victoria Ladd, MSN, RN
State School Nurse Consultant
Dept of Health & Environ. Control
Department of Education
South Carolina

Victoria Ladd, MSN, RN, is the State School Nurse Consultant for South Carolina, a position which is shared by two state agencies, the SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control and the SC Dept. of Education to address the professional development and support of school nursing and other school health initiatives. Vicky is an RN with an MSN in nursing administration from St. Joseph's College of Maine, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Boston College. She is the Data Coordinator for the SC Association of School Nurses (SCASN). Vicky is also the Vice President of the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC), a role which she has found to be valuable to share experiences, policy and knowledge at the national level for the betterment of our children. She is also a certified ACEs trainer, and a member of many South Carolina coalitions and taskforces focused on improving the health of school aged children. School nursing was the job Vicky thought she would do for a few years as a working mom, and it became a life's passion after meeting so many invested, caring nurses who work so hard to improve the health of children.



Brenda Lormil, MS, FNP-BC
Health Equity Nurse Practitioner
Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

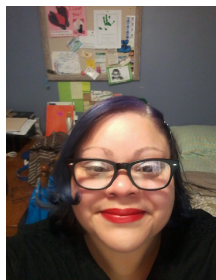
Brenda Lormil is the Founder of the Haitian American Medical Association (HAMA). She graduated with a BSN in nursing from Regis College in Weston, MA in 2011. She then returned to Regis College for her MSN degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner, graduating in 2015. During her experience as an RN and NP, she has had multiple opportunities to care for wonderful Haitian patients. However, those vial interactions allowed her to witness how the lack of basic health education can cause a lifetime of health complications that could have otherwise been detected earlier or prevented. For this reason, it is her goal for HAMA to be the premier platform for providing culturally-specific health information to Haitian American communities to improve health literacy and achieve optimal health outcomes.



Robin Cogan, MEd, RN, NCSN
School Nurse

Robin Cogan is a Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN), currently in her 19th year as a New Jersey school nurse in the Camden City School District. She serves on several national boards including The American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM), a gun violence prevention research non-profit organization and the National Board of Certification for School Nurses (NBCSN). Robin is the Legislative Chair for the New Jersey State School Nurses Association (NJSSNA). She is proud to be a Johnson & Johnson School Health Leadership Fellow and past Program Mentor. She has been recognized in her home state of New Jersey and nationally for her community-based initiative called “The Community Café:

A Conversation That Matters.” Robin is the honored recipient of multiple awards for her work in school nursing and population health. These awards include 2019 National Association of School Nurses (NASN) President’s Award; 2018 NCSN School Nurse of the Year; 2017 Johnson & Johnson School Nurse of the Year; and the New Jersey Department of Health 2017 Population Health Hero Award. Robin serves as faculty in the School Nurse Certificate Program at Rutgers University-Camden School of Nursing, where she teaches the next generation of school nurses. She was presented the 2018 Rutgers University – Camden Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award for Part-time Faculty. Robin writes a blog called The Relentless School Nurse. You can also follow her on Twitter at @RobinCogan.



Candida Rodriguez AD, “We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface, but connected in the deep” - William James.

As a Family Development Worker at Mi Casita Daycare Center in Camden, New Jersey. Candida Rodriguez’s greatest goal is to help the families she serves to realize their own ability to advocate for themselves and their children. By utilizing the strengthening families model, she and her team help support the early learning community through shared power and education. In do so, they promote the concept that the first 2,000 days of a child’s life are the most important.

Candida is a graduate of Kingsborough Community College, CUNY, with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. In addition, she holds a Family Development Credential from Rutgers University. Candida holds membership in the Parent Advisory Council of the Camden City School District and is a founding member of the Pediatric Provider/School Nurse/Community Roundtable through the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. Candida, along with her team develop and deliver trainings and workshops to parents, peers and the community at large throughout Camden City and Camden County.