
Keynote



Jyotishman Pathak

Dr. Pathak is the Frances & John L. Loeb Professor of Medical Informatics, Professor of Population Health Sciences and of Healthcare Policy and Research in Psychiatry, Chief of the Division of Health Informatics, and Vice Chair for Entrepreneurship in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University, New York.

Dr. Pathak's research focuses on analyzing electronic health records, insurance claims, and social determinants of health to study mental health service utilization and treatment outcomes for depression, substance use, and suicide. This work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the American Heart Association (AHA), and Merck Pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Pathak has authored over 275 publications, including book chapters and invited reviews, and has received multiple awards from the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), the American Heart Association (AHA), Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar for research excellence, teaching, and mentorship, and serves as an editor for the American Psychiatric Association (APA) *Psychiatric News*. He is also the co-founder of Iris OB Health Inc., a mental health startup developing digital technology for early detection of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. Dr. Pathak is a member of the National Advisory Mental Health Council at the NIH and a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics.

Originally from India, Dr. Pathak earned a B.Engg. in Computer Science and Engineering (2002) from the National Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science (2007) from Iowa State University. He began his academic career as a postdoctoral fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, in 2007, eventually becoming a Professor of Biomedical Informatics before joining Cornell University in 2015.

Effective July 1, Dr. Pathak will be the inaugural Dean of the School of Technology for Public Health at Arizona State University.

Session presenters

Ash Uss

From the Ground Up, Executive Director | ASU SIRC Research Consultant.

Originally from New York, Ash's experience working in homelessness began in Boston. In 2017, Ash joined the Core Staff at Andre House, a faith-based organization in Phoenix, Arizona that provides basic needs to people experiencing homelessness. Heavily influenced by her time in direct service and her own experiences with insecurity, Ash works diligently to elevate the voices of people with lived experience. She is passionate about disrupting structural, institutional, and cultural practices which criminalize homelessness and poverty. In 2021, Ash founded From the Ground Up whose mission is to “collaborate with individuals and organizations to propose, design and implement compassionate responses to homelessness from the ground up.” She works with a diverse portfolio of clients as a project manager, researcher, advocate, and community organizer. Ash holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts and is currently pursuing Master's degrees in both Social Work and Public Administration.



Carmen Batista

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Division Administrator

Carmen Batista has dedicated 17 years to public health, bridging administration with data and community-centered approaches. As Division Administrator for the HOPE Division at Maricopa County Department of Public Health, she leads teams focused on community health planning, priority populations, climate health, Ryan White HIV care, mental health, and substance use. Carmen's leadership experience spans both County and State health departments. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona. Passionate about championing lived experience and inspiring teams, Carmen also values clear communication—especially plain-language emails. On weekends, she, her husband Chris are living their best soccer parent lives.



Celia Nabor, MPA

Arizona Department of Health Services | Assistant Director, Prevention Services

Celia Nabor is the Assistant Director for Prevention Services at the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and a lifelong advocate for community well-being. Born and raised in Greenlee County, Arizona, she developed a deep commitment to public health and service. With over 23 years of public service experience, she has led local, state, and federal programs. She earned her bachelor's degree in Dietetics/Nutritional Sciences and holds a master's degree in public administration. She is dedicated to efforts focused on disease prevention, health promotion, maternal and child health, nutrition, physical activity, chronic disease management, and continuous quality improvement to build healthier communities.



Charles Katz

School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Arizona State University | Professor

Charles Katz is the Watts Endowed Family Chair in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Director of the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety at Arizona State University. He is the principal investigator for the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System and the Arizona State Unintentional Drug Overdose System projects. His research focuses on police transformation and strategic responses to crime. He has collaborated with the United Nations Development Program, the Eastern Caribbean's Regional Security System, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Agency for International Development to assess, diagnose, and reform issues related to violence, gangs, and community safety across the Caribbean and Central America.

Chelsi White, MS, CIC

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Senior Surveillance Epidemiologist

Chelsi White, MS, CIC is a Senior Surveillance Epidemiologist for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, leading the wastewater and syndromic surveillance programs. These programs enhance our understanding of community health and inform public health initiatives targeted towards greater health equity. As a wastewater epidemiologist, she leads data analysis and interpretation, as well as develops strategies for wastewater data utilization in public health activities. Chelsi collaborates with local, state,

lab, and utility partners to ensure program sustainability and prioritize wastewaters surveillance expansion.

Cinthia Martinez

Arizona State University, SIRC| Sr Program Manager

Cinthia V. Martinez is a Senior Program Manager at Arizona State University's Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC), where she leads the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to advance minority health and health disparities research. With over a decade of experience leading drug prevention and mental health programs in the nonprofit, government, and educational sectors, she possesses expertise in managing large-scale, trauma-informed initiatives for diverse youth, guardians, and professionals, as well as in building strategic partnerships. Fluent in English and Spanish, Cinthia has successfully led impactful projects at notMYkid, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF), and the Tempe Union High School District.

Crystal M. Hepp Ph.D

Translational Genomics Research Institute and Northern Arizona University | Associate Professor

Crystal Hepp received her doctorate in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a concentration in Computational Biology at Arizona State University, followed by a postdoctoral position with the Pathogen and Microbiome Institute at Northern Arizona University. She has two active positions, as the Associate Director of the Pathogen and Microbiome Division of TGen and Associate Director of Research in the School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Hepp's research team specializes in understanding how viruses of public health importance move over time and space, with a particular focus on Arizona populations. She has worked with state, county, city, and other local public health partners to characterize risks through wastewater and other surveillance



Deanna Lewis, DrPH, MBA, PA-C

Forward Moving Concepts, llc | Consultant

Deanna Lewis is a distinguished public health expert, educator, and healthcare provider. A trailblazer as the first woman firefighter with the Tucson Fire Department, Dr. Lewis blends practical experience with academic expertise. She holds a Doctor of Public Health degree, an MBA from the University of Arizona, and a physician assistant degree from Stanford University. With over two decades of experience in clinical practice and higher education, she is dedicated to improving health outcomes for underserved populations. Dr. Lewis uses transdisciplinary approaches to design transformative training programs, lead diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice initiatives, and develop sustainable solutions to public health challenges. In her spare time, she mountain bikes, hikes, and makes soap.



Diana Kinsfather MS, RDN

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Applied Professional Experiences Supervisor (APEX)

Diana received her Bachelor of Science degree and her Master of Science degree from Arizona State University. She completed her dietetic internship, also through Arizona State University, and obtained the

Registered Dietitian credential in 2013.

Diana has been with MCDPH since 2018 and transitioned into the role of APEX Supervisor in 2023. She also teaches nutrition classes at various Maricopa Community Colleges. Passionate about supporting emerging professionals, Diana is fueled by the energy and dedication of interns and fellows as they navigate their professional journeys. She is the co-chair of the Arizona Dietetic Practicum Advisory Committee (AzDPAC) and serves as President-Elect for the Arizona Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Elizabeth Da Costa

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System | Director of Housing

Elizabeth serves as the Director of Housing for AHCCCS. In this role she oversees the AHCCCS Housing Program which provides rental subsidies to 2,500 members across the State. She provides oversight of the SMI Housing Trust Fund, distributing capital dollars to

support housing developments designed to serve members with a Serious Mental Illness. Elizabeth oversees the implementation of the AHCCCS 1115 waiver program, H2O, this new innovative program allows Medicaid to cover certain health related social needs interventions for eligible members, including short-term rental assistance. Elizabeth came to AHCCCS in October of 2022 having worked for a non-profit for 13 years. In her prior role she was the Senior Director of Housing and Community Integration and has experience overseeing multiple grants that span across the housing continuum. Elizabeth has lived experience with poverty, homelessness, and addiction, she uses her recovery and work experience to drive system improvements for our members.

Ernestine Nasingoetewa

American Indian Health - Area Health Education Center | Grants Program Coordinator

Ernestine is White Mountain Apache and Laguna Pueblo. With over a decade of experience in healthcare and five years in behavioral health. Currently, serves as the Grants Program Coordinator for the American Indian Area Health Education Center, where she works to support initiatives to improve healthcare access and workforce development in Indigenous communities.



Jordan Batchelor

Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona State University | Research Analyst

Jordan Batchelor is a Research Analyst in the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety at Arizona State University. He serves as the primary analyst for the Arizona State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System and the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System, for which he developed a public facing dashboard. He conducts research in public health, with interests including violent deaths and quantitative research methods, and holds a PhD in applied linguistics with a background in computer assisted text analysis.



Kelli Kostizak, MPH

City of Phoenix | Special Projects Administrator

Kelli currently oversees public health initiatives around substance use at the City of Phoenix's Office of Public Health. She has a background in qualitative and quantitative research mainly focused on knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and social norms within a variety of health topics, as well as identifying best practices to create more effective public health programs. She also has program management and administration experience in a variety of areas including COVID-19, nutrition, and refugee health and wellness.

Kristen Pogreba-Brown

University of Arizona | Associate Professor

Dr. Pogreba-Brown is epidemiologist with the Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She is the director of the Student Aid for Field Epidemiology Response (SAFER) team and the faculty lead for the MPH One Health program. Her research projects are focused on food-borne diseases and improving methodology to respond to outbreak investigations.



Kristin Ferguson

Arizona State University School of Social Work | Professor

Kristin Ferguson is a professor at the Arizona State University's School of Social Work and director of the Arizona Housing Analytics Collaborative (AzHAC), a tri-university collaborative among Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and University of Arizona. In partnership with community leaders and stakeholders, AzHAC is doing extensive work in data analytics, predictive modeling, and qualitative inquiry around homelessness and housing to inform decision-making and care coordination. Dr. Ferguson's research focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of vocational interventions for homeless and opportunity youth that integrate employment and clinical services, including supported employment and social enterprises.



Laura Lightfoot

School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Arizona State University |
Doctoral student

Laura Lightfoot is a third-year doctoral student in criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University, where she serves as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety. Her research examines drug policy, harm reduction, incarceration, and reentry, with a particular focus on how these issues intersect with public health outcomes and impact vulnerable populations. Laura has experience working in mental health crisis facilities and has collaborated with both county and federal-level entities on substance use and overdose prevention research. Her most recent internship with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provided valuable insights into the State Opioid Response program.

Lisa Polovin

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Fellowship Coordinator

Lisa joined the inaugural cohort of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Fellowship in 2022, bringing a master's degree in counseling and a passion for supporting emerging professionals. With extensive experience in crisis lines, program development, and community education, she has managed internship and volunteer programs at state and national levels.

Lisa leads the fellowship program by fostering hands-on experiences, skills development, and mentorship. As a parent of four closely spaced children, she excels at managing chaos, multitasking, and inspiring big dreams—qualities she brings to her work with Public Health Fellows as she helps them envision and design their futures.

Lisa Clarke, MS, RD, CNSC

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Dietetic Internship Coordinator

Lisa Clarke has been a Registered Dietitian (RD) since 2015, with a diverse and well-rounded skill set developed through her roles as a clinical dietitian at Banner Health and a formulary specialist at Abbott Nutrition. She holds the Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC) credential and earned a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Arizona State University.

Since 2020, Lisa has been with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, where she initially served as the Dietetic Internship Coordinator. In 2023, her role expanded to include

program director for the ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship Program, where she oversees the development and success of future dietitians.

Mark Person

Pima Public Health Department | Sr. Program Manager

Mark Person is a Senior Program Manager in the Community Mental Health and Addiction Division of the Pima County Health Department. In his role, Mark oversees the Office of Injury and Violence Prevention. He also oversees fatality reviews for the department. Mark has played a critical role in the department addressing the opioid pandemic.



Matt Miller, PhD

ASU's REACH Institute & SATRN | Postdoctoral Fellow

Matt L. Miller is a postdoctoral fellow at REACH Institute at Arizona State University and works with the university's Substance use and Addiction Translational Research Network. His research focuses on the application of data analytic methods in the social sciences with a focus on primary prevention and harm reduction. Dr. Miller received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California at Davis and previously worked as a senior research associate at the University of Geneva.



Matt Martin, PhD, LMFT, CSSBB

Arizona State University | Clinical and Research Associate Professor

Matt Martin, PhD, LMFT, CSSBB is Clinical and Research Associate Professor in the College of Health Solutions and Associate Director of the Safety Net Advancement Center (SNAC) at Arizona State University. His projects focus on increasing healthcare equity and quality through research, practice transformation, and workforce development. Matt has worked with numerous healthcare organizations in Arizona to improve and evaluate their clinical processes. His projects have been funded by federal and state agencies and private foundations. Prior to ASU, he served as Director of Behavioral Medicine at the Duke family medicine residency program in North Carolina. Matt has 10 years of clinical experience including several years of practicing and managing integrated behavioral health services.

Megan Jehn

ASU | Professor

Megan Jehn is an epidemiologist and member of the global health faculty in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. Her 20 years of scholarship and community-based fieldwork broadly focus on the resilience of social-ecological systems to disasters. She brings together large, diverse teams to address current public health challenges such as vaccine hesitancy, food insecurity, clean indoor air, and infectious disease outbreaks. She is the founder and director of the ASU Student Outbreak Response Team, a large public health training program that provides public health surge capacity for state, local, and tribal public health partners.



Mellena Burnside, MScBMI, CPhT

Arizona State University | School of Life Sciences | Brain, Epigenetics, and Altered States Research Lab | Research/Lab Assistant

Mellena Burnside, MScBMI, CPhT, has 16 years in the medical field at Banner Medical Center and Cigna. She recently completed projects on data visualization for women's depression care at Valleywise Health, developing a dashboard for sterile IV room trends at Banner University Medical Center, and participating in Mayo Clinic's Hackathon, where she helped design a wearable device for delirium treatment. Currently, as a research assistant at the BEAR Lab, she specializes in data analysis of brain epigenetics, altered states, and DNA methylation, using bioinformatics and statistical methods to explore how epigenetic modifications impact cognitive function and behavior.

Nathanial Meitl

Arizona State University College of Health Solutions | Undergraduate Researcher

Nathanial Meitl is an undergraduate researcher at Arizona State University working under the guidance of Dr. Matthew Martin as part of the College of Health Solutions. His research integrates both geospatial and thematic analysis to examine provider shortages, workforce challenges, and disparities in service availability present in Arizona's municipal regions. By leveraging spatial mapping and qualitative insights from mental health professionals currently providing care in Arizona, his work seeks to provide data-driven recommendations that inform policy decisions and workforce planning. His research seeks to offer actionable insights that support equitable and effective telehealth integration across Arizona.



Nick Shively

City of Phoenix | Business Analyst

Nick Shively is a Business Analyst for the City of Phoenix Business Intelligence and Data Integration team currently supporting the Office of Public Health in the development and analysis of the Phoenix Substance Use & Overdose Dashboard. Previously, he worked as a business insights manager and military intelligence analyst supporting multiple overseas operations.



Nicole De Witt

Arizona Department of Health Services | Assistant Director of Public Health Preparedness

Nicole Dupuis-Witt is the Assistant Director of Public Health Preparedness at the Arizona Department of Health Services, a role she assumed in July 2024. In this capacity, she oversees critical areas including the Arizona State Lab and the Bureau's of Immunization, Infectious Disease, Operational Readiness and Response, and EMS and Trauma Systems.

With over 15 years of experience in public health leadership, Nicole has led interdisciplinary teams in urban and rural districts across three countries—spanning local government, public health, and the non-profit sector. Nicole has also spearheaded system-wide initiatives to address complex health challenges such as the opioid crisis, food insecurity, access to oral health services, outbreak management, and mental health, earning a reputation for collaboration across sectors. Prior to joining ADHS, Nicole served in various public health leadership roles at the local level spanning health protection and health promotion including Public Health Advisor for the City of Phoenix and CEO of the Windsor-Essex County Health Department in Ontario Canada.

A native of Ontario, Canada, Nicole holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina, an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from Arizona State University, and additional certifications in evaluation, organizational design, population health surveillance, and epidemiology.



Nina Lindsey

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Grant Unit Manager

Over the last 16 years, Nina Lindsey has managed funds from both private foundations to large government grants, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of diverse funding landscapes and regulatory frameworks. Her track record reflects a consistent ability to secure, administer and steward grants to drive impactful outcomes across a spectrum of community initiatives.



Prabhneet Girn, MPH

Arize Care Consulting | Founder & CEO

Prabhneet Girn, MPH, is a public health consultant, global health strategist, and Founder & CEO of Arize Care Consulting, specializing in AI-driven healthcare strategies, resource development, and health equity. With experience in academia, FQHCs, ACOs, and social impact investment, she bridges global insights with local implementation to

create innovative, data-driven solutions.

Having traveled to 35+ countries, Prabhneet integrates cross-cultural perspectives to ensure public health interventions are community-responsive. She advises organizations on the responsible use of AI and emerging technologies in underserved communities, emphasizing mindfulness, ethical innovation, and cultural sustainability. Her interdisciplinary approach supports equitable AI adoption in public health.

Rachael Hinkel, MPH

Pima County Health Department | Epidemiologist

Rachael is an Epidemiologist with the Pima County Health Department. She currently supports the work of the Community Mental Health and Addiction division and the Office of Injury and Violence analyzing data and supporting fatality reviews. She holds an MPH from the University of Arizona and a bachelor’s degree from Occidental College. Her passion for public health began during her time in Los Angeles, where she volunteered as a Health Educator with Peer Health Exchange, and deepened during her two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa. There, she worked with local partners on malaria prevention, maternal and child health, and sexual health education, shaping her commitment to community health and prevention. Since starting at the Pima County Health Department,

she has enjoyed adapting her skills to tailor to the environmental and political climates that shape the trends of injury and violence in Southern Arizona.



Rachel Beard, MS

College of Health Solutions | Arizona State University | Data Analyst

Rachel Beard, MS, is a data analyst specializing in biomedical informatics, health equity, and data-driven decision-making. At Arizona State University's College of Health Solutions, she supports research projects through advanced analytics, program evaluation, and data visualization. Her expertise includes integrating complex datasets, developing performance metrics, and leveraging geographic information systems (GIS) to assess and address disparities in access to public health services. Her work focuses on translating data into actionable insights to improve program outcomes and inform policy recommendations.

Sarah Avalle, MS

Arizona Department of Health Services | Wastewater Surveillance Epidemiologist

Sarah Avalle is the Wastewater Surveillance Epidemiologist for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). She has three years of experience in laboratory science along with two years in public health. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology and her Masters in Biological Data Science from Arizona State University. As the Wastewater Epidemiologist, she collaborates with state, county, and local partners to analyze and interpret Arizona's wastewater data. During her time at ADHS, she has employed various problem-solving strategies to find solutions for wastewater's unique problems and developed innovative project ideas to grow the program in Arizona.



Sue Damiata

Pinal County Public Health | Workforce Development Program Manager

As a Public Health employee with 11 years of experience, I have developed a deep understanding of the workforce needs within our organization. I have worked in and advanced through various departments, which has allowed me to manage multiple grants. During my time in public health, I have not only managed several grants but also served as the Public Information Officer (PIO), where I was responsible for managing our public health website and overseeing social media communications during the pandemic. Currently, I am serving as the Workforce Program Manager, collaborating with the leadership team, our county human resources department, and other community partners to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts for our workforce.

Tatiana Gleason, MPA

Maricopa County Department of Public Health | Public Health Internship Coordinator

Tatiana Gleason is the Public Health Internship Coordinator for Maricopa County Department of Public Health. She works with the department to head the new version of the Public Health Leadership Academy, dedicated to introduce interns to public health and support them with their long term goals. With over 10 years experience in higher education, Tatiana is now dedicated to supporting the next generation of the public health workforce.



Victoria Tewa MS, LPC

The Alliance ACO/ NARBHA Institute | Director of Clinical Advancement

Victoria Tewa MS, LPC, serves as the Director of Clinical Advancement for the Alliance ACO, a behavioral health accountable care organization primarily serving rural northern Arizona. In this role, Victoria focuses on identifying barriers within the behavioral health system that limit providers' ability to serve their members and advocates for change at both the provider and system levels. Victoria is an independently licensed clinician in Arizona and New Mexico, where she worked

in educational and clinical settings as a child and adolescent therapist specializing in trauma and substance abuse for 14 years. For 8 years, she served as the Director of Children's Behavioral Health Services for BCBSAZ Health Choice, where she worked to improve behavioral health policy and support providers.



Yanitza Soto, MPH

City of Pheonix | Public Health Advisor

Yanitza Soto serves the City of Phoenix as the Interim Public Health Advisor. She brings several years of experience working as a Public Health Practitioner in local, nonprofit, and state government sectors. Yanitza started her career as a Community Health Worker understanding firsthand the needs and importance of community voice and action.