

Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review

IMPACT REPORT 2020-2022

Rebekah Rollston, MD, MPH, Editor-in-Chief

Stanton (Daisy) Duddy, BA, Managing Editor &
Creative Director



Our Team



Rebekah L. Rollston, MD, MPH, is the **Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review***, Family Medicine Physician at Cambridge Health Alliance, Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and Faculty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Rural Health Leadership Fellowship (in partnership with the Indian Health Service Rosebud Hospital). She earned her Medical Degree from East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine (in the Rural Primary Care Track) and her Master of Public Health (MPH) from The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She completed her residency at Tufts University Family Medicine Residency at Cambridge Health Alliance, with specialized training in family planning and addiction medicine.



Stanton (Daisy) Duddy, BA, is the **Managing Editor and Creative Director of the *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review***. As Creative Director, Daisy led the online renovation of the publication and co-established the *Review's* Editorial Board. She oversees the writing, publishing, and editing processes. Daisy also served as the Faculty and Communications Coordinator at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care. In this role, she worked across teams to produce and facilitate Center communications both internally and externally. Daisy is currently an MBA Candidate at the Questrom School of Business at Boston University (Class of 2024).

Our Background

- Initially started as a blog in April 2020
- Based at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care
- Articles are intended for the general population, including, but not limited to, medical and public health professionals
- Total # publications under the editorship of Rebekah Rollston & Daisy Duddy: 182
 - Average 1-2 publications per week
- Readership:
 - Total raw views: 230,224
 - Average raw views per article: 1,265
 - Average time per page view: 6.2 minutes

Our Background

- Contributors have included:
 - Dean George Q. Daley (HMS)
 - Dean Michelle Williams (Harvard T.H. Chan SPH)
 - Dean Sandro Galea (Boston University SPH)
 - Camara Phyllis Jones (Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University)
 - Paul Reville (Harvard Education Redesign Lab, former MA Secretary of Education)
 - Don Berwick (Institute for Healthcare Improvement)
 - Daniel Dawes (Satcher Health Leadership Institute)
 - Jim O'Connell (Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program)
 - And lots of others, including many community members!
- Transitioned from blog to *Primary Care Review* in Fall 2021
 - Onboarded Advisory Board along with this transition

Our Advisory Board

Composed of a diverse group of folks with professional and/or personal expertise related to social determinants of health, community health, and health equity.









Our Mission:
Sharing stories to amplify the voices of health
everywhere



Why is this important?



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

The *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review* is a key Harvard-affiliated publication where community members serve as the first authors of their own personal narratives related to health, social influencers, and health equity. This concept is unique and critically important, as within academics, scholars have published (and continue to publish) a wealth of literature on the social determinants of health and health equity. While this research is undeniably illuminating, it often speaks about and for underserved communities. The accessibility of such scholarly literature is oftentimes limited and typically comes with a monetary cost. Moreover, the advanced medical rhetoric of these articles restricts readability.



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Ultimately, the very communities about whom this literature examines are often spoken for and excluded from directly engaging in the conversation. In contrast, the *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review* is written by and for community members, patients, medical and public health professionals, and researchers alike. This boundary-spanning publication offers an empowering platform for those with a tale of narrative health.

Our Approach



COMMUNITY
NAVIGATORS



TRAINED INTERVIEWERS



PARTNERSHIPS

Why now?

Over the last few years, a litany of American human rights failings have been exposed. From the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, to the stunning inequities revealed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for structural justice and health equity has never been louder. The work of the *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review* not only aligns with the HMS commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, but it upholds the pledge of its intentionally crafted mission statement.

HMS Mission

To nurture a diverse, inclusive community dedicated to alleviating suffering and improving health and well-being for all through excellence in teaching and learning, discovery and scholarship, and service and leadership.

Reference:

<https://hms.harvard.edu/about-hms/campus-culture/mission-community-values-diversity-statement>

A stack of old, handwritten letters with postage stamps, resting on a wooden crate. The letters are aged and feature various postage stamps, including a prominent one penny stamp with a profile of a man. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat faded. The background is a wooden crate with a grid-like structure.

Stories to Remember

Food Access via Small Stores on Navajo Nation: COVID-19 and Beyond

It's a calm sunny day as I sit with John McCulloch in front of his store in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. The store has served his community since 1905. The English name Teec Nos Pos is derived from the Navajo *T'iisnasbas*, a name inspired by a grove of trees growing in a circle in the area. As we sit and talk, community members file in and out of the store. They're greeted with large florescent posters asking customers to wear a mask while in the store, to stay home if they feel sick, and to respect the maximum occupancy level of eight people in the store at one time.

"Do you feel the community is thankful for the availability of fruits and vegetables provided here?" I ask.

"Oh yeah, big time! Big time! We sell more groceries now than we've ever sold," exclaims McCulloch.

The Teec Nos Pos Trading Post, located in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, is one of 34 stores on the Navajo Nation currently participating in the Healthy Navajo Store Initiative program through Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment (COPE), a Native-led non-profit based in Gallup, New Mexico. COPE has been working with the Navajo Nation to strengthen food sovereignty and promote a return to healthy eating through collaborations with local clinics, growers, schools, and small stores. An important aim of the Healthy Navajo Store Initiative is to assist stores in increasing availability of fresh fruits and vegetables—a need that has only deepened throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Promoting Health Equity through Voter Registration and Mobilization

It's a warm September day. I neatly arrange my voter registration materials at a small table outside of the Somerville Urgent Care entrance. Sitting on a cool granite bench, I watch as a young girl and her mother approach. They are linked arm-in-arm, speaking Portuguese. "Hello! Are you registered to vote?!" They can't see it, but I'm smiling behind my mask.

The young girl's face lights up, and, like many who visited my table before her, she begins to share her story. In just five days, she'll turn 18. She's *finally* old enough to vote in her first election. Her mother immigrated to the U.S. from Brazil decades ago and is still waiting for her citizenship—she has never had the opportunity to vote in the country that she has called home for nearly 30 years. As her daughter signs and dates the registration form, she looks on with pride. The young girl puts the pen down with authority as her gaze meets mine:

"Now I'm ready to vote for me *and* my family."



My Patient Anna, and Millions of Others Like Her, Are on the Ballot in November

Meet Anna. She's a 47-year-old woman with diabetes and high blood pressure—that is, hypertension. When I first met Anna three years ago, she'd recently moved to Massachusetts and obtained health insurance for the first time in two decades.

During her first clinic visit, Anna's blood sugar was wildly uncontrolled—a clear indication of diabetes. She felt dizzy and fatigued, but this was her baseline. We spent over an hour, during a visit scheduled for 20 minutes, working with the pharmacist and health insurance company to find an insulin prescription for which she could afford the copay.

Two weeks later... same story, different day. And again and again and again.

We eventually got her blood sugar and hypertension under control, but the years without health insurance had already wreaked havoc on her body.

Now, three years later, Anna has heart failure, cirrhosis, and end-stage kidney disease. I call her each morning on her dialysis days. Her complex care manager organizes her transportation. She's hospitalized often, and her life expectancy is short.



Evolving Concepts of Justice and Safety

Rachel stayed. She stayed to survive, and for that the criminal legal system labeled her a “frequent flyer.” When she called 911, she was lucky if she got a couple hours reprieve from her long-time partner’s life-threatening abuse before he returned home. He would often return home bragging about the arresting officer making a pit stop for him at a nearby ATM to make his bond—a common practice to swiftly book and release domestic violence offenders from the county jail.

When she called for help, she was often drunk, scared, and angry, which resulted in her being subjected to coercive police interviews that included threats to have her kids taken away. Calling 911 was a game of roulette leaving Rachel to wonder which of them would be arrested that time or if the responding officer would not discern the predominant aggressor and just arrest them both, which was a police department practice for the “frequent flyers” after all. Rachel did not care. She was okay with the risk of being criminally charged because she would at least be alive in jail for the night.



Trauma-Informed, Holistic Health Care: A Journey from Patient to Advocate

I am a woman. An Afro-Caribbean immigrant. A mother, sister, aunt, and friend. When I look into the mirror, I see all of these women in me. I've experienced being all of the above. Throughout the years I've been labeled as strong in each role, at some time or another, and to be honest, I kind of like being labeled with such a powerful adjective. Immigrant, Alien, Victim, Survivor, Patient—all of these labels are also true. I've had some adversities and a few hurdles—I still do—but I try to not let them define me.

I met Anita during an incredibly difficult time in my life. I was facing several challenges with my health, navigating various systems as an undocumented immigrant, all while in a toxic marriage. The stars aligned one day while I was at legal aid. My lawyer asked me about my most immediate need, and I said that I had urgent health issues that I needed to address. She gave me the number to PurpLE Clinic, and to my shock, the clinic's doctor, Anita, actually answered the phone when I called. We set up an appointment, and that was the beginning of our story.



Our Right to Basic Public Health Amenities

I was born and raised in Mebane—a small town in North Carolina that is now primarily white with a large percentage of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx individuals today. My childhood was spent between my father, Jesse's, side of the family in the West End Community of Mebane and the Hawfields community of dairy farms where most of my mother, Mary's, side of the family lived. My father worked on dairy farms after his left arm was cut off in a Mebane sawmill accident, while my mother worked in textile mills that caused carpal tunnel syndrome and mini-strokes. Outhouse toilets were the norm during our early years.

I attended Mebane's segregated West End Elementary School from 1956 to 1964 with Black, Indigenous, and mixed-race students. From 1964 to 1968, I attended the newly constructed, segregated Center High School in Graham, North Carolina, where a Confederate monument stood in front of the county courthouse. I met my wife Brenda Crosby (from Philadelphia) while in undergraduate school at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. We were then both recruited on full scholarships to help integrate the graduate school program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.



Our Right to Basic Public Health Amenities (cont'd)

In 1987, we returned to Mebane to raise our three sons. I worked as a certified insurance broker, selling health and life insurance to Black and Brown folks in Mebane, while Brenda taught elementary children with disabilities in Orange County, North Carolina. As a boy who grew up in the Mebane area and now as a busy insurance broker, many Mebane residents would approach me with issues, like “My yard is underwater from a recent rainstorm, and now there’s sewage backing up on my lawn from a failed septic tank.”

And other times, questions like, “My road has never been paved, and we have dust and stormwater problems with no ditches. Can you help to get our roads paved?” At the time, Brenda and I served as the primary caretakers for both sets of our parents, while also raising our three sons... we weren’t looking for additional responsibilities. Yet, folks were asking, “Can you help solve some of this stuff?”

The elderly individuals in Mebane said to me, “We’ve been living like this for way too long. The city doesn’t listen to us.” As a child, I saw these conditions as a way of life. But as an adult, I looked at it with a different eye. So finally, I said YES. It’s with that that my wife Brenda, cousin Marilyn Holt-Snipes, neighbors, and I co-founded the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in 1994.



How is this primary care?

According to the World Health Organization:

Primary care addresses the majority of a person's health needs throughout their lifetime. This includes physical, mental and social well-being and it is people-centred rather than disease-centred. Primary care is a whole-of-society approach that includes health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. A primary care approach includes three components:

Meeting people's health needs throughout their lives;

Addressing the broader determinants of health through multisectoral policy and action; and

Empowering individuals, families and communities to take charge of their own health.

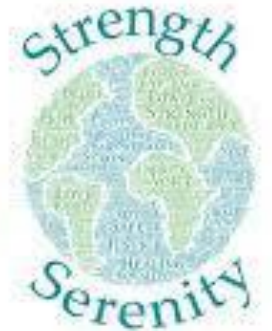
By providing care *in* the community as well as care *through* the community, primary care addresses not only individual and family health needs, but also the broader issue of public health and the needs of defined populations.

**A special thank you to
our Harvard-affiliated
partner:**



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO END
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE





Thank You!

Please visit the *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review*
to read more:

<https://info.primarycare.hms.harvard.edu/Review>



Annex





Schuyler Bailar, BA

Schuyler Bailar (he/him), BA, is a Korean American man from Washington, DC. He is also the first transgender athlete to compete in any sport on an NCAA Division 1 men's team. His story has appeared in hundreds of media outlets from 60 Minutes to The Washington Post to the Olympic Channel. Since coming out in 2015, Schuyler has been a tireless advocate for inclusion and acceptance. His advocacy has earned him numerous honors including LGBTQ Nation's Instagram Advocate for 2020 and the Harvard Director's Award. He currently works as a DEI consultant and speaker, life coach, and author. His clients include the Eating Disorder Coalition, USA Swimming, Monte Nido & Affiliates, Under Armor, and many more. He also is a part of two Harvard labs, the Evolutionary Psychology Lab with Max Krasnow and the Valera Lab with Eve Valera, advancing gender-informed and trans-competent research. Schuyler is also critically acclaimed author as a contributing author to Fresh Ink and the author of *Obie Is Man Enough*.



Reid Blackwelder, MD, FAAFP

Reid B. Blackwelder (he/him), MD, FAAFP, is the son of two amazing teachers, and is married to a remarkable person with whom he shares 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 dogs and a cat! His passion is teaching, which he has done all his career, and still does.

Professionally, he is Professor and Chair of Family Medicine at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. He previously served as Program Director of the Kingsport Family Medicine Residency Program of ETSU for more than 13 years and regularly precepts residents and students, including interprofessional learners, in all three of ETSU's Family Medicine Residencies.

He is a Past President of the American Academy of Family Physicians. During his 6 years on the Board of Directors and as an officer, he advocated on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system, specifically to implement effective team-based patient-centered care.

He graduated from Emory Medical School cum laude, and as member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He did his residency and a teaching fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia. He then was a small town rural physician in Trenton, GA, at a National Health Service Corps clinic.

He is blessed to still be invited to do presentations and events at AAFP state chapters all over the country. His greatest joy is being able to work with Quillen College of Medicine students from day one of their first year through the last day of their senior year.



Daniel Dawes, JD

Daniel E. Dawes (he/him), JD, a widely respected lawyer, author, scholar, educator, and leader in the health equity, health reform, and mental health movements, is Director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and a professor of health law, policy and management. He is also the Co-Founder of the Health Equity Leadership and Exchange Network (HELEN), which is a nationwide network of over 2000 governmental and non-governmental leaders and scholars focused on bolstering leadership and the exchange of research, information, and solutions to advance evidence-based health equity-focused policies and programs.

Dawes's research focuses on the drivers of health inequities among under-resourced, vulnerable, and marginalized communities and is the pioneer of a new approach to examining inequities, the political determinants of health. He brings a forward-thinking, inclusive, and multidisciplinary approach to health policy, authoring two groundbreaking books, *150 Years of ObamaCare* and *The Political Determinants of Health*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, which have received critical acclaim and rave reviews.

Dawes is an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and serves or served on several boards, commissions, and councils focused on improving health outcomes and elevating health equity in the United States and around the world, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Federal Advisory Committee on Health Disparities, National Center for Civil and Human Rights - Health and Human Rights Institute Advisory Committee, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Policies for Action National Advisory Committee, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health National Advisory Council, the Healthcare Georgia Foundation Board of Directors, the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities Board of Directors, the National League of Cities National Advisory Board, and the Children's Mental Health Network National Advisory Council.

He is the recipient of several national awards and recognition, including the American Public Health Association's Award for Significant Contribution to Public Health, the American Psychological Association's Exceptional Leadership in Advocacy Award, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Health Equity Champion Award, the National Medical Association's Louis Stokes Health Advocacy Award, Families USA Health Equity Advocate Award, and the NMQF Health Leader Award.



Megan Lenneman, MS

Megan Lenneman (she/her), MS, is the Assistant Director of Education at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care. In this role, Megan supports the Center's education initiatives and works closely with students and faculty on initiatives including Scaling Community Outreach in Primary Care Education (S.C.O.P.E.), the Camden Coalition's Interprofessional Student Hotspotting Learning Collaborative, and the Harvard Home for Family Medicine. She also advises the Student Leadership Committee, providing mentorship and guidance on projects, including leadership coaching. Megan also serves on the Harvard Medical School Joint Committee on the Status of Women and is an undergraduate student adviser for Harvard College's Board of First-Year Advisers. Megan holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration and Policy from Northwestern University; her thesis work examined ways to combat attrition in women in science and medicine. Prior to her current role, Megan worked at the Women's Health Research Institute at the Feinberg School of Medicine where she contributed to research and publications on oncofertility and reproductive science education. Professionally, Megan has worked in a variety of academic settings in roles involving student advising, medical education, curriculum development, research implementation, writing, admissions, and student affairs.



Katherine Miller, MD

Kathe Miller (she/her), MD, is a family physician at the Windsor Street Health Center in Cambridge, where she is doctor to multiple generations of the families under her care. She works with a multicultural patient population with whom she speaks Spanish and Portuguese, and she is learning Haitian Kreyol. She sees patients of all ages including newborns and pregnant women and provides intrapartum and newborn care at the Cambridge Hospital. Dr. Miller hosts many students from all years of medical training, to introduce them to the delight of community based longitudinal primary care.

Dr. Miller is originally from Tucson, Arizona where she completed medical school and residency training. She moved to Massachusetts in 2000 after completing a six-month Fulbright project teaching medical education in Argentina. Since her arrival in Boston, Dr. Miller spent 17 years on the faculty of the Tufts/Cambridge Health Alliance family medicine residency and spent three years as the Family Medicine predoctoral director for Tufts medical school. She has been the Family Medicine advisor at Harvard Medical School for more than 10 years, where she is an Assistant Professor of Medicine. She is the inaugural director of the HMS Home for Family Medicine since its creation in 2017. In addition to the above, Dr. Miller spent 3 years directing the Foundational Continuity Clinic, a required first-year course within the Practice of Medicine course and as of AY22 will assume directorship of the Introduction to the Profession course at Harvard Medical School. She continues as site director and teacher in the Foundational Continuity Clinic and is a 15-year veteran teacher for the Primary Care Clerkship at HMS. She directs the Shiprock New Mexico elective with the Indian Health Service, both of the HMS Boston-based electives in Family Medicine, and is a member of the HMS admissions committee.

In 2011 Dr. Miller was named Preceptor of the Year by the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians and in 2012 was named Family Physician of the Year by the same organization. Dr. Miller was also honored by the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care in 2012, receiving the Excellence in Primary Care Teaching award and in 2020 was awarded an A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring award by Harvard Medical School.



LaShyra Nolen, MD Candidate

Born and raised in Southern California, LaShyra “Lash” Nolen (she/her) experienced the many ways social injustice impacted her community and became deeply passionate about doing the work of health equity. She graduated with honors from Loyola Marymount University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Sciences where she served as student body president, was a member of Belles Service Organization, a Gilman scholar, and the recipient of the Robert Graham, S.J. Award, LMU Student Affairs’ highest honor for graduating seniors. Following her graduation, Lash traveled to Spain as a Fulbright Scholar where she educated Spanish youth about social justice and health equity in addition to her research on the perception of obesity and diabetes in La Coruña, Spain. After her year in Spain, she completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps member, where she served as a health educator at Heartland Health Centers in Chicago, IL.

Currently, she is a third-year medical student at Harvard Medical School (HMS) where she is serving as the university’s student council president for the Class of 2023, the first documented Black woman to hold this leadership position. As a leader, Lash has led numerous advocacy initiatives at HMS and beyond, including a nationwide campaign to secure funding for the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) in 2019. She is a published author and fervent advocate for social justice whose commentary has been published in the *Boston Globe*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, and *HuffPost*, among others. Lash is also a Foster Scholar in Health Policy, Advocacy, and Media at the MGH Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation and a co-host for the Clinical Problem Solvers Anti-Racism in Medicine podcast.

She is a nationally renowned public speaker and leader of anti-racism in medicine workshops where she has led discussions for prominent organizations such as WebMD and Chemonics International and served on panels with Chelsea Clinton and Former Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher. Most recently, she founded We Got Us, a grassroots community empowerment project with the goal of bringing vaccine education and access to Black communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, garnering support and funding from major corporations such as the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Her work has earned her the honor of being named the 2020 National Minority Quality Forum’s youngest “40 under 40 Leader in Minority Health”, a “2020 Young Futurist” by *The Root Magazine*, a 2021 Boston Celtics “Hero Among Us” Honoree, and the 2021 recipient of the American Medical Student Association’s Racial Justice in Medicine Award. In the fall of 2022, Lash will pursue a Master of Public Policy (MPP) in hopes to use policy to impact the health of her future patients as a physician activist.



Ángel Ortiz-Siberón, BA

Ángel Ortiz-Siberón (he/him), BA, is the Vice President of Research and Strategic Initiatives at Nueva Esperanza, Inc., a national community development corporation headquartered in Philadelphia committed to increasing prosperity among black and brown communities. In this role, Ángel works closely with the President and CEO on the development and execution of key initiatives to ensure strategic alignment with organizational goals. Ángel also supports the organization's research and evaluation efforts with a focus on capacity building.

Prior to joining Esperanza, Ángel was a Health Policy Research Fellow at the Weitzman Institute, a research and education organization embedded within one of the nation's largest federally qualified health care centers, Community Health Center, Inc. During his time at Weitzman, he was tasked with the expansion of the institute as a national thought leader in health policy and helped launch a policy division based in Washington, D.C. He also conducted community-based participatory research centered on the health and health-related social needs of youth experiencing housing insecurity. Ángel's previous research has focused on minority homeownership, homelessness, prisoner reentry, and racial/ethnic inequality in social policy, using quantitative and qualitative approaches. His work has been published in peer-reviewed academic journals and featured in NBC and El Nuevo Día, one of the major newspapers in Puerto Rico. He also has presented at academic conferences such as the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Furthermore, he has briefed nonprofit leaders, mayors, and members of Congress on the needs of Latinx people and limited English proficient individuals experiencing homelessness.

Ángel currently serves as Chair of the Ceiba Homeless Advisory Board, and the Underrepresented Communities Representative for the Philadelphia Continuum of Care Board. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was named a Mellon Mays Fellow and a Harry S. Truman Scholar in 2019. Outside of the office, Ángel enjoys playing Latin percussion in various Philadelphia-based Puerto Rican music groups and educating youth about Afro-Caribbean rhythms.



Daniel Palazuelos, MD, MPH

Daniel Palazuelos (he/him), MD, MPH, is a global health implementer-educator who holds positions at Harvard Medical School (HMS), the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), and Partners In Health (PIH). He started his career in global health equity by living and working with community health workers (CHWs) in impoverished communities in Chiapas, Mexico, and these grassroots experiences have deeply influenced his approach to addressing the biggest challenges in global health. Over the last decade, he helped to launch Compañeros En Salud - México (PIH's program in Mexico), the Financing Alliance for Health (which helps governments design and fund ambitious, affordable, and at-scale community health programs), and the Community Health Impact Coalition (a five-year quality initiative by some of the field's most innovative implementers to catalyze the adoption of high-impact community health systems design). During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as the Technical Lead for the PIH-US Public Health Accompaniment Unit's work supporting migrant workers in Immokalee, Florida.

Now as a clinician-educator at BWH in Boston, the Director of Community Health Systems at PIH, a strategist for the PIH project in Mexico, a mentor and course director at HMS, and a residency assistant program director at BWH, his unified goal is to assure that our finest clinicians are trained to understand the community perspective, and our health care system strengthening efforts are aligned to the real needs of people living in the poorest and most difficult circumstances.



Kavita Patel, MD, MS

Kavita Patel (she/her), MD, MS, is currently a primary care physician in Washington DC. She is also a nonresident Fellow at the Brookings Institution where she concentrates on a number of efforts including the national and local Covid-19 response. Dr. Patel was previously a Director of Policy for The White House under President Obama and a Deputy Staff Director to the late Senator Edward Kennedy, where she focused on pandemic preparedness and health care reform. Her prior research in healthcare quality and community approaches to mental illness have earned national recognition and she has published numerous papers and book chapters on healthcare reform and health policy. She has testified before Congress several times and she is an NBC/MSNBC Medical Contributor.



Claire-Cecile Pierre, MD, MBA

Claire-Cecile Pierre (she/her), MD, MBA, an Instructor in Medicine and Instructor in Global Health and Social Medicine, is the Associate Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Community Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a role she assumed in November 2021.

In this role, Dr. Pierre leads the Center for Community Health and Health Equity (CCHHE) and serves as the clinical and programmatic leader of Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and Brookside Community Health Center.

Trained in Internal Medicine at the Cambridge Health Alliance and Board Certified in Clinical Informatics, Dr. Pierre holds decades of experience in the use of technology to improve the quality of care in community health centers. With a career focused on health equity, Dr. Pierre seeks to encourage healthcare innovations that appropriately center and value the expertise of patients and communities. She also holds decades of experience in global health focusing on health systems strengthening after disasters. Dr. Pierre has responded to multiple outbreaks, including HIV, cholera, Zika, and COVID-19.



Somava Saha, MD, MS

Somava Saha (she/her), MD, MS (aka Soma Stout), has dedicated her career to improving health, wellbeing and equity through the development of thriving people, organizations and communities. She has worked as a primary care internist and pediatrician in the safety net and a global public health practitioner for over 20 years. She has witnessed and demonstrated sustainable transformation in human and community flourishing around the world.

Currently, Soma serves as Founder and Executive Lead of Well-being and Equity in the World (WE in the World), as well as Executive Lead of the Well Being In the Nation (WIN) Network, which work together to advance inter-generational well-being and equity. Over the last five years, as Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dr. Saha founded and led the 100 Million Healthier Lives (100MLives) initiative, which brought together 1850+ partners in 30+ countries reaching more than 500 million people to improve health, wellbeing and equity. She and her team at WE in the World continue to advance and scale the frameworks, tools, and outcomes from this initiative as a core implementation partner in 100MLives.

Previously, Dr. Saha served as Vice President of Patient Centered Medical Home Development at Cambridge Health Alliance, where she co-led a transformation that improved health outcomes for a safety net population above the national 90th percentile, improved joy and meaning of work for the workforce, and reduced medical expense by 10%. She served as the founding Medical Director of the CHA Revere Family Health Center and the Whidden Hospitalist Service, leading to substantial improvements in access, experience, quality and cost for safety net patients.

In 2012, Dr. Saha was recognized as one of ten inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Young Leaders for her contributions to improving the health of the nation. She has consulted with leaders from across the world, including Guyana, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Tunisia, Denmark and Brazil. She has appeared on a panel with the Dalai Lama, keynoted conferences around the world, and had her work featured on Sanjay Gupta, the Katie Couric Show, PBS and CNN. In 2016 she was elected as a Leading Causes of Life Global Fellow.



Sara Selig, MD, MPH

Sara Selig (she/her), MD, MPH, is an Associate Physician in the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Selig currently serves as the Associate Director for the Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment (COPE) Program, the domestic affiliate of Partners in Health.

Currently, as the Associate Director of COPE, Dr. Selig works with a variety of partners, such as tribal nations and the Indian Health Service, to improve health care delivery and health outcomes among American Indian communities, specifically among the Navajo Nation and Sicangu Nation (Rosebud Sioux Tribe). COPE was founded in 2009 with the mission to eliminate health disparities and improve the wellbeing of American Indian/Alaska Native populations. COPE was built off PIH's social justice approach to promoting health equity and health systems strengthening globally and believes the power to overturn long-standing historical health inequities lies inherently in Native communities themselves. Dr. Selig helped start COPE's cancer initiative which is patient and community led and seeks to integrate effective oncology care into primary care systems and increase support for patients and families. Among other initiatives, Dr. Selig also led the work to integrate community health representatives into interdisciplinary community health teams developing a curriculum to bridge clinic and community providers.

At the Center for Primary Care, Dr. Selig is the Faculty Advisor for the Catalyst Project— a partnership with Primary Care Progress that seeks to cultivate student leaders while addressing community health needs.

Dr. Selig received her BA from Oberlin College, her MD from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and her MPH from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She completed the Doris and Howard Hiatt Residency in Global Health Equity and Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Selig was an inaugural fellow in the George Washington University based Leaders for Health Equity Fellowship.