



Mirela Bruza-Augatis serves as the CME Chair for the Physician Assistants for Global Health (PAGH). She also is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Chair in the Department of Physician Assistant Education at Seton Hall University. Her passion lies in global health and underserved population healthcare. She participates in medical mission trips in Dominican Republics, and works clinically in the fields of endocrinology and family practice. Her professional interests include endocrinology and metabolism and underserved population healthcare.



After studying medicine at the University of Münster, Germany, Prof. Dr. Marcus Hoffmann worked as a medical officer of the German Armed Forces at the headquarters of the NATO Armed Forces in Mons/Belgium, which provided an international and inter-professional environment requiring direct patient care covering a wide range of ages and illnesses. He then worked as a research assistant in Public Health at the renowned Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Bielefeld, Germany and subsequently completed further clinical training in internal medicine and trauma surgery (Prof. Dr. Peter Habermeyer) as well as a voluntary deployment with the German Armed Forces in Afghanistan during the ISAF mission. For several years afterwards he worked for the Sanofi Pasteur and Merck joint venture in Europe eventually being responsible as Head of Marketing for the HPV vaccine from where he was recruited as personal aid to the executive medical director at Heidelberg University Hospital and Medical School (Prof. Dr. J. Rüdiger Siewert). From this position he received full professorship at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) and established Germany's first "Physician Assistant" degree program.

Prof. Dr. Hoffmann played a major role in the establishment of the Further Education Decree "Physician Assistant" of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, which grants an academic degree to successful graduates of his program and entitles to use the additional professional designation "State Approved Physician Assistant". He was also a key member of the joint working group "academic healthcare professions" of the German Medical Association and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, which developed the concept paper "Physician Assistant – A New Profession in the German Healthcare System". Prof. Dr. Hoffmann acted as subject matter expert in numerous accreditation procedures for patient-oriented academic study programs and represents his university in the German University Federation of Healthcare Professions.



Dr. Alison Thompson is a humanitarian volunteer who has run refugee camps, field hospitals and resiliency hubs around the world for the past 20 years. She has an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in the Humanities from Loyola Chicago University, and is the current Ambassador to the Haitian Ministry of Environment. She founded the organization, Third Wave Volunteers, which has over 30,000 members working in the Syrian and Venezuela refugee crisis, Haiti, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and locally in the USA with Hurricanes Matthew, Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle and the Venezuelan crisis.

Alison believes 'everyone is needed' and lectures on leadership, volunteering, sustainability, renewable energy, gender-based violence and Corporate Social Responsibility via the American Program Bureau to universities and colleges and corporations worldwide.



Raisa Miller Resides in Fabulous Florida Keys since 1970's. Presently, serves as Interim Program Director for FIU MPAS program, also is the Clinical Director and Professor for 4 years. Worked as a PA for Gastro Health for 11 years and specialized in liver diseases. Joined Genentech, Roche Pharmaceuticals as a Senior Clinical Hepatology Liaison for 4 years. Recently graduated with a Doctor of Medical Science. She also served on the Speakers Bureau for Merck, Schering and Gilead. She loves to snow ski and attend concerts especially Journey, Eagles, and Foreigner.



Dr. Ivan Gonzalez is a pediatric infectious disease specialist in Miami, Florida and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Jackson Health System-Miami and University of Miami Hospital and Clinics-UHealth Tower. Dr. Gonzalez received his medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, completed his residency at Miami Children's Hospital and Infectious Disease Fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. His area of expertise includes soft tissue infections, fevers of unknown origin, tropical infections, and immunocompromised patient populations.



Jessica B. Oliveira DMS, MSPA-C, is currently a Family Medicine Physician Assistant at FIU Herbert Wertheim's College of Medicine NeighborhoodHELP, working in a household-centered community health program addressing the social determinants of health to improve the well-being of underserved communities in Miami-Dade. Her specific interest has always been in community health development with a focus on household centered care, women's health and health literacy. Jessica Oliveira has been an advocate for women and underserved communities globally and has worked abroad as a medical volunteer with Medical Mission Group, Basic Health International and Saving Mothers. She has also served as the Director of Guatemala Programs for a non-profit called Saving Mothers since 2008 and founded the Saving Mothers School of POWHER (Providing Outreach in Women's Health and Educational Resources) for Maternal Health. Jessica is also the Medical Director and Co-founder of the Casa Materna San Juan La Laguna, a rural birthing center in the Western Highlands of Guatemala that provides free services for the local indigenous families.

She received her Doctorate in Medical Sciences at Lincoln Memorial University in 2019 and her Master of Science in Physician Assistant at Seton Hall University in 2007. Jessica received her Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Physiology at Florida International University in 2002, where she was also an athlete on their women's soccer Division 1 NCAA team from 1999-2001.



David (Dave) E. Mittman currently serves as the AAPA President. Over the last 30 years, , Mittman assumed various leadership roles, including serving in the AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) and the Association of Family Practice PAs.

Based in Boynton Beach, Fla., Mittman is currently editor-in-chief of Clinician1, an online community for PAs and NPs, which he launched in 2009.

A prolific writer on the value and practice of PAs, Mittman practiced in primary care in Brooklyn for nearly a decade before beginning his career working in medical publishing and communications as a platform to educate the healthcare industry on who PAs are and what they do. He cofounded Clinician Reviews, the first industry publication to serve both PAs and NPs, as well as seven other medical publications. Mittman is a veteran of the profession, known for the groundbreaking and formative roles he played in the PA profession's infancy. He was the first PA allowed to practice in the Air Force Reserves, was a founding student member of the New York State Society of PAs (NYSSPA) and led the march on the New Jersey State House, which ultimately resulted in establishing PA practice in the state. As the profession matured, Mittman has continued leading efforts that challenge the status quo, such as founding PAs for Tomorrow and the American College of Clinicians, which advocated for greater PA-NP collaboration. Mittman has been honored for his work with a number of awards, including AAPA's Public Education Award and both the NYSSPA and the New Jersey State Society of PAs Lifetime Achievement awards. He has also been recognized by the PA History Society.



Dr Strong is an OB/GYN sub-specialized in Maternal Fetal Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor and practices at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, New York. She is an advising Medical Board Member of Saving Mothers and has worked with the organization for the last 10 years sharing her expertise and time with the aim to improve maternal health outcomes globally.





Jennifer Coombs has been a Physician Assistant (PA) for 26 years. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Division of Physician Assistant Studies. She graduated from the University of Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP) in 1991. She obtained her Master in Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) in 2001, and her PhD in Public Health in 2010 from the University of Utah. She began her clinical practice as a PA in family practice at Northwest Community Health Centers (now Steven D. Ratcliffe). She practiced there for 14 years with a special emphasis in Vietnamese and Laotian refugees. Dr. Coombs teaching includes the Pelvic and Breast Exams and Evidenced Based Practice in the Utah PA program. She has participated in Guatemala, and Nepal International Rotations for PA students for many years.



Jose Felix completed his BA in Psychology and a minor in Sociology at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR- Cayey). He continued his graduate studies in the Graduate School of Public Health, UPR, where he earned an MS-Health Systems Research and Evaluation and a DrPH specializing in the Social Determinants of Health. Jose incorporates the use of social theory, critical medical anthropology and critical public health with ethnographic, qualitative and quantitative research techniques to explore the pathways of health risk in socially marginalize populations.



Dr. Cheryl L. Holder, Fellow in the American College of Physicians, has dedicated her medical career to serving underserved populations. She served as Medical Director of Jackson Health Systems North Dade Health Center from 1990 to 2009. As Medical Director, she developed an HIV care and treatment program with funding through the Ryan White Care Act., participated in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Health advisory and programmatic review panels for HIV treatment and vaccine research and for community based participatory research.

In September 2009, she joined Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as faculty. She focuses on teaching the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes, addressing diversity in health professions through pipeline programs, HIV prevention and health impact of climate change. Dr. Holder is Director of Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP Education and Pipeline Program.



Nicholas Torres, has over 20 years of experience in executive management. Nicholas serves in the capacity of the executive director of The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) an official non state actor of WHO. He is also Co-Founder and CEO of Social Innovations Partners which publishes the Social Innovations Journal, manages the Social Innovations Institute & Lab, and incubates and launches high impact social sector models and enterprises. He teaches Nonprofit Leadership, Social Policy, and Social Entrepreneurship at University of Pennsylvania. He serves on many regional boards including the Free Library of Philadelphia and Springboard Health National Advisory Board.

Nicholas works at the cross section between the private sector, government, and not-for-profits and aligns them toward collective social impact goals and public policy. He has led and founded multiple for-profit and not-for-profit social ventures that are driven both by social impact and financial sustainability measures. Some of his launched social ventures include charter schools, an early literacy technology platform; school-based health centers; and community-based satellite college sites.



Maria Elena Villar is Associate Dean of Strategic Communication in FIU's College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA), and associate professor of Communication. She teaches courses in communication theory, research methods, multicultural communication, and advanced seminars in strategic communications. She has dozens of publications based on her research which is focused on communication for social change, strategic messaging for diverse audiences, and understanding audiences for attitude change. She has conducted applied communication research on projects ranging from HIV and infectious diseases, domestic and sexual violence, vaccine hesitancy, and wildlife conservation.



Trenton Honda is an environmental epidemiologist and PA who studies environmental risk factors of chronic disease. His work is focused on quantification of associations of air pollution and environmental exposures and a number of clinical conditions and/or biomarkers that may represent causal intermediates between environmental exposures and clinical cardiovascular outcomes and mortality.



PA Diane Bruessow (pronounced brew-so) divides her time between academia at Yale School of Medicine PA Online Program where she is faculty, and clinical practice at Healthy Transitions - a private practice in NY and NJ that exclusively serves transgender and nonbinary patients across the lifespan. Bruessow has held appointed and elected leadership positions on several national boards, councils, and commissions including the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the LBGT PA Caucus and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index. She currently serves on the editorial board of the Transgender Health journal and is the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Academy of PAs.

Bruessow lives in New York City with her 2 Rottweilers, Schultz and Gunther. Beyond medicine, her interests include the performing arts, philanthropy, and a full night's sleep



Dr. Tiffany Troxler is Director of Science of the Sea Level Solutions Center at Florida International University, a state university center that focuses on advancing knowledge, decision making and actions toward mitigating the causes and adapting to the effects of sea-level rise. She is a research scientist with expertise in coastal and wetland ecosystem ecology. Some of her projects include collaborative research that examines the effects of saltwater inundation on Everglades coastal wetlands, monitoring adaptive management actions associated with Everglades restoration and advancing interdisciplinary nature-based solutions to extreme events in urban environments. She participated as co-editor and contributing author on two IPCC methodological reports that guide national greenhouse gas inventories on land use and land-use change and co-edited the recent Blue Carbon Primer: the State of Coastal Wetland Carbon Science, Practice and Policy.





John Stuart is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Architecture, Associate Dean for Cultural and Community Engagement in the FIU College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts, and Executive Director of the Miami Beach Urban Studios. He is a futurist, innovator, designer, researcher and registered architect. During his twenty-five-year tenure at FIU, he has led collaborative research projects funded by The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Science Foundation, The National Endowment for the Humanities, Van Alen Institute, The Knight Foundation, and The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.



Mary Showstark is a physician assistant who works as an instructor with the Yale School of Medicine Physician Assistant Online Program. Her background is in trauma surgery, emergency, urgent care, & disaster medicine. Showstark's interests include interprofessional education, disaster relief work, event & mass gathering medicine as well as technology and medicine to include AR/AI & VR. She is on the board of Physician Assistants for Global Health and Surfer's Medical Association.



Mitra Naseh is a Ph.D. candidate at the FIU, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work.

Mitra's area of scholarship focuses on wellbeing, inequality, and poverty at the household level, specifically among minorities with forced migration background. She has 15 publications in this field and is the co-author of the second edition of the Best Practices for Social Work with Refugees and Immigrants. For over seven years, Mitra worked with vulnerable populations as a staff member of international NGOs and different United Nations offices in the Middle East and South Asia before joining the FIU graduate program in 2015.