

Patients, Public, and Providers
Workgroup of the Trials Innovation
Network

Ed Napia, Co-chair

Eruera "Ed" Napia was born into the Ngapuhi Tribe from the Tai Tokerau District of Aotearoa-New Zealand but has lived in the USA for most of his life living in Hawaii, Southern California, and now Utah. Ed has worked at the University of Utah, the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake, and Sacred Circle Healthcare and currently works at the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes Nat-Su Healthcare in Tooele. He is also the community co-chair for the Patients, Public and Providers workgroup of the Trials Innovations Network with the National Institutes of Health and is an active member of the Community Faces of Utah. He is also a practicing clay artist.

Cavalry Baptist Church

Reverend France A. Davis, Pastor Emeritus

Reverend France A. Davis, pastor emeritus, of the Salt Lake City's Calvary Baptist Church, was born and reared in Gough, GA. He came to Salt Lake City in 1972 as a teaching fellow and graduate student at University of Utah. He was later appointed instructor in communication and ethnic studies until his retirement in 2014. In 1974 Reverend Davis was called to pastor the historic Calvary Baptist Church. He served his congregation as its pastor for over 45 years until 2019. He now serves as Pastor Emeritus. Currently, Reverend Davis lectures and preachers throughout the country. He enjoys a wife, two daughters, son and daughter-in-law, four grandchildren and on great grandchild.

Doriena Lee

Best of Africa



Valentine Mukudente

Valentine Mukudente was born and raised in Rwanda, and she moved to Utah in 2020. She is a mother of 2 children. She has a master's degree in Public Administration, and she is the Executive Director for Best of Africa Group, a 501(c)3 community-based non-profit organization, serving African refugees and immigrants of Utah.

Valentine spends time educating providers on how to better serve the refugee community, by promoting cultural humility and giving a voice to community members. Valentine also encourages community members to participate in activities that improve their lives such as community engagement dialogues and health related workshops. She connects community members to different resources that they can benefit from such as scholarships, housing programs, health insurance, etc.

Deanna Kepka, Ph.D, MPH

Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH, is a Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) investigator and an associate professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah. She is a member of the Cancer Control and Population Sciences (CCPS) research group. She leads the 400-member Intermountain West HPV Vaccination Coalition.

Hispanic Health Care Task Force



Area Health Education Centers

Jeannette Villalta

Jeannette was born in Guatemala and has lived in Salt Lake City for 22 years now. She works as a Community Wellness Coach for the Hispanic Healthcare Task Force, as a Community Health Worker and Outreach Specialist for Alliance Community Services and as a Community Liaison for Multicultural Counseling Center.

She studied Business Administration in Guatemala City. She is Certified Case Management and Health Coach from the University of Utah, Certified Peer Support Specialist by Utah State University, Certified Victim Assistance.

National Tongan American Society



Ivoni Nash

Univeristy of Utah

Ana Sanchez-Birkhead, Ph.D, WHNP-BC, APRN

Dr. Ana C. Sanchez-Birkhead is an associate professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah. She was born in Costa Rica and raised in Northern California. She received her PhD from the University of California, San Francisco. She is a nationally certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Sanchez-Birkhead is a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and National Cancer Institute Cancer Control Scholar. In January 2015, she received the Vice President Clinical and Translational Research Scholar career award at the University of Utah. She has served as a nurse and clinician for 20 years caring primarily for Hispanic/Latino families. She is involved in many community efforts that aim at eliminating health disparities and advocating for social justice. Her area of research focuses on the socio-cultural and psychosocial impact of health disparities and burden of disease i.e. cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease among immigrant Hispanic families. She has won several awards and has conducted and co-authored several research studies. Dr. Sanchez-Birkhead is CO- Director of the the CCTS Community Collaboration and Engagement Team, President of the Utah Hispanic Health Care Task Force, President of the Unidos en Utah Chapter of the Hispanic Nurses Association. She has served as a Chair of the Utah Cancer Action Coalition, Council member for Region VIII Health Equity Council and National Director of Communications and Outreach for the National Latina Researchers Network.

Heather Brown

Heather Brown, M.Ed., is an IRB Administrator focused on health literacy and community engagement at the University of Utah. Before her role at the IRB she was the Program Manager and Liaison for the Community Collaboration & Engagement Team (CCET) for over a decade. Ms. Brown is a co-founder of Community Faces of Utah (CFU). She has been active in the field of education for over 25 years. Her previous positions in science education and administration – which included serving as a clinical faculty member at the University of Utah – involved working with students, their families, and educators in communities and schools throughout the Salt Lake Valley. Through these experiences, Ms. Brown developed expertise in facilitating collaborations among diverse communities and academia ensuring the ethical practice of respect, beneficence, and justice are received by all. Currently, Ms. Brown is also a PhD candidate in the College of Nursing Program at the University of Utah.

Louisa Stark, Ph.D

Louisa Stark is a Professor of Human Genetics and holds a H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chair at the University of Utah. She also holds appointments as director of the Genetic Science Learning Center (GSLC) and co-director of the Community Collaboration and Engagement Team of the Utah Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Stark's community engagement work focuses on facilitating communication and collaboration between community leaders and members, patients, researchers and healthcare providers. She is a founding member of Community Faces of Utah (CFU). In her education work, she and the GSLC team strive to make science and health easy for everyone to understand, with a focus on developing engaging multimedia, videos, games, and hands-on activities. They have worked with researchers to develop several multimedia and simplified informed consent materials.

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Utah Office of the State Auditor

Whitney Phillips, State Privacy Officer

Dr. Whitney Phillips was confirmed by the Utah Senate in December 2021 as the first State Privacy Officer. Prior to serving in this role, she spent four years as the Utah State Board of Education's first Chief Privacy Office, and has held a variety of prior positions in education and government. Dr. Phillips is a Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM) and a Certified Information Privacy Professional for the U.S. (CIPP). She received her Ph.D. in Educational Inquiry, Measurement, and Evaluation from Brigham Young University, specializing in longitudinal data analysis.

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Center for Growth and Opportunity



Chris Koopman, Executive Director

Christopher Koopman is the Executive Director at the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University. He specializes in regulation, competition, and innovation. His research and commentary has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Bloomberg, and NPR. He is also a contributor at The Hill, and was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 2016 for law and policy. In 2021, Koopman was appointed by Governor Spencer Cox to serve a four year term on Utah's Personal Privacy Oversight Commission.

Prior to joining the Center for Growth and Opportunity, Koopman was a senior research fellow and director of the Technology Policy Program at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He is currently a Senior Affiliated Scholar with the Mercatus Center and a member of the IT & Emerging Technology Working Group at the Federalist Society's Regulatory Transparency Project.

Department of Psychology, University of Utah

Manuel Gutierrez Chavez, B.S.

Manuel Gutierrez Chavez is a third-year graduate student in clinical psychology at the University of Utah. He is mentored by Drs. Anu Asnaani and Katie Baucom, both licensed clinical psychologists and assistant professors. Through community-based partnerships, his research aims to ameliorate mental and physical health disparities in communities of color.

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Anu Asanaai, Ph.D

Anu Asnaani, Ph.D., is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who currently is the Principal Investigator of the Treatment Mechanisms, Community Empowerment, and Technology Innovations (TCT) laboratory and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT, USA. Her research focuses on understanding the underlying mechanisms to improve treatments for fear-based disorders such as anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder in diverse local and global community settings.

Research Participant Advocacy



Sadie Gabler, Director

After graduating from the University of Kansas, Sadie moved to Utah and began working in Clinical Research in 1997. Sadie has been in her current role since 2008. As the University of Utah's Director of Research Participant Advocacy, which includes dedicated research focused language access services, she represents and supports research participants, and community members at large by bringing their voice and perspective to research, as well as serving the research enterprise and community through education and engagement with an emphasis in ensuring equal access and opportunity to research. Through both her professional and personal life she strives to serve as a voice for others who might not otherwise be represented.

University Neighborhood Partners



Paul Kuttner, Ed.D

Paul Kuttner is Associate Director of Community Engaged Scholarship at University Neighborhood Partners, University of Utah, and co-founder of the Community Research Collaborative. Paul is a scholar and community engagement professional, whose work focuses on building partnerships between institutions of education and communities that face marginalization and oppression within our education systems.

Michelle Tuitupou

L. Michelle Tago-Tu'itupou currently works at the University of Utah as the Director of Student Success for the College of Mines and Earth Sciences and the academic advisor for the Department of Geology and Geophysics. She has been working in higher education for almost fifteen years. Her community work focuses on education and westside communities, specifically the Rose Park and Glendale areas. Michelle is also a published author writing children and middle school chapter books focusing on Pacific islander topics.

Jules Martinez, LCSW, CPSS

Jules Martinez (they/them) is the Clinical Director at Latino Behavioral Health Services (LBHS) where they work as a therapist with Latinx youth and young adults and as a supervisor to a team of therapists and peer mentors. After a decade of learning through music, art, farming, travel and other experiences, Jules received an Honors Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a minor in Integrative Human Biology from the University of Utah and a Masters of Social Work from Portland State University. They have been deeply involved in the peer movement as well as diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the behavioral health care system in Utah for a decade. In 2013 Jules helped to co-found Latino Behavioral Health Services (LBHS) and in 2019, helped to start Communities United for Racial and Ethnic Inclusion and Equity (CUREIE), a subcommittee working with the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health (OSUMH) to create a more culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health care system in Utah.

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Jennyffer Morales, M.Ed., MPhil

Jennyffer Morales is a Programs Manager and Health Educator at the Center for Health Outcomes and Population Equity (HOPE) at Huntsman Cancer Institute. She supports the implementation of evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions in Community Health Centers (CHCs) throughout Utah. Jennyffer's career includes working with youth in community-based settings, community-based research, teaching in higher education institutions, and implementing cancer prevention interventions. Outside the office, Jennyffer maintains a small business, enjoys reading comic books, climbing and outdoor activities, and, most importantly, spending quality time with her partner and their two sons.

Department of Biology, University of Utah

Nalini Nadkarni, Ph.D

Dr. Nalini Nadkarni is a Professor of Biology at the University of Utah. She carries out research on ecological interactions in rainforest canopies with support from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She has written over 140 scientific papers and three scholarly books. Nadkarni also engages people outside academia through collaborations with faith-based groups, artists, corporations, and people who are incarcerated in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers. Her work is featured in journals ranging from Science to Playboy Magazine, and in public media such as Science Friday and RadioLab. Her awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, the AAAS Award for Public Engagement, the The William Julius Wilson Award for the Advancement of Social Justice, and the Archie Carr Medal for Conservation.

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Alliance Community Services



Gabriela Portugal-Bouza, M.D., Director of Cancer Programs

Gabriela Portugal is a physician graduated from Mexico's National Autonomous University. Currently, she is directing the Cancer Programs at Alliance Community Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to help the Hispanic Community in the Salt Lake City area. She works with the emotional support group “Triunfadoras” to help Latina cancer survivors. Her role is to coordinate the monthly meetings, as well as the educational resources through guest speakers, research projects and healthcare services navigation. She also participates as part of the Mexican Consulate's Physicians Counsel and sits on the Board of Directors of the Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL), as the Community Board of Intermountain HealthCare.

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Julie Eggington, M.S., Ph.D

Julie M. Eggington, MS, PhD, is the co-founder and CEO of the independent and nonprofit Center for Genomic Interpretation (CGI). Dr. Eggington advises national and international policy makers on precision medicine, and is a member of numerous committees, working groups and forums, including the Precision Medicine Working Group for the World Economic Forum, and the CDC's Next Generation Sequencing Best Practices Forum. She also chairs CGI's ELEVATEGENETICS Standards Committee. Dr. Eggington directed clinical genetics programs at Myriad Genetics, Courtagen Life Sciences, and 23andMe prior to co-founding a genetic diagnostics consultancy company in 2016. The need for a disruptive nonprofit organization that would encourage and facilitate a higher bar of quality and accuracy in clinical genetic and genomic testing became clear through this consulting work, and Dr. Eggington therefore co-founded CGI in 2017. She was a 2019 Sego Award winner for Utah women co-founders/CEOs in Innovation in Technology. In her formal training, Dr. Eggington was a postdoctoral fellow at a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Laboratory, and received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her M.S. from the University of Utah, and her B.S. with Honors from Brigham Young University. Dr. Eggington grew up in the Outback of Australia.

Public Health Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

Ivette Lopez, Ph.D, MPH

Ivette Amelia López, PhD, MPH is a Professor of Public Health at University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. She is also the Director of the Utah Area Health Education Centers. Dr. López was born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and came to the United States mainland to pursue an advanced education. She is, and has been for over two decades, a dedicated professional in pursuit of health equity for Latinos and other disadvantaged populations in the United States. From AIDS (the epidemic that drew her to public health) to diabetes, obesity causal explanations among minority women, to Latina breast cancer survivorship, her research and service are dedicated to engage minority communities in finding solutions to their health burdens. She resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, with her husband and daughter.

Salt Lake County Mayor's Office of Refugee Services

Joseph Genda

Joseph Genda is the New American Liaison of the Salt Lake County Mayor's Office for New Americans. He came to Utah as a refugee from Sierra Leone in 2007 and got involved in a local afterschool program that he encouraged his first son who turned six years in the month they arrived to attend to socialize and learn the language. He had his Accounting Degree from the University of Sierra Leone translated and decided to study at the University of Utah in 2013. He graduated in 2015 with a BS in Economics. After his graduation, Mr. Genda began work with Promise South Salt Lake as a site coordinator for the Meadowbrook STEM Center afterschool programs in South Salt Lake City, Utah. Through these programs, he was able to work closely with immigrant and refugee communities to build bridges with community partners, city, and nonprofit leadership. He joined the Salt Lake County Mayor's Office in June 2021 eager to further those relationships and to continue the work of providing resources to New American communities throughout the county. "After working at a local government level for 6 years, I can appreciate the big picture view that Salt Lake County offers to better serve New Americans countywide. I am excited to continue working with members of my refugee communities and similar groups of New Americans and I hope to help make them successful by connecting them with resources available throughout Salt Lake County

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Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition



Jake Fitisemanu, MPH

Jake Fitisemanu Jr. was born in New Zealand and raised in Hawai'i and Utah. He co-founded the Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition and has served as Executive Director since 2011. Jake currently works for Intermountain Healthcare as a Community Health Program Manager and serves on the advisory board for Huntsman Cancer Institute, Friends for Sight, and the National Academy of Medicine. He was recently re-elected to the West Valley City Council, where he is also a convener of the Healthy West Valley initiative.

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Black Physicians of Utah



Alice Akunyili, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Noorda College

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am the lead of a research house that provides mentorship and support to over 60 medical students. My focus is primarily educational research and public health.

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Utah State University



Research
UtahStateUniversity

Abigail Sisneros-Kidd, Ph.D, HRPP Coordinator

Dr. Abby Sisneros-Kidd is a USU alum with a PhD in Environment and Society. Her academic background is in education and recreation ecology, and she has worked as both a secondary science educator and as an Assistant Professor at the University of Wyoming before embarking on her journey into research ethics. She is committed to social justice in educational settings, outdoor recreation spaces, and in research. When she's not working you can often find her recreating outside with friends and family!

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Andrea Jacobs, Graduate Student

Equality Utah



Olivia Jaramillo

Olivia is a Strategic Leadership Consultant and a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Specialist. She is currently Director for Public Outreach at Equality Utah. She was born and raised in Mexico. She's a retired United States Air Force Veteran, where she served on tours to Iraq, Europe, and humanitarian missions into Africa. In 2016 she was one of the first individuals nationwide to legally change her name and gender marker while still serving on Active Duty. She has worked in furthering DEI efforts for several companies and Organizations including the VIVINT, Qualtrics, Dominion Energy, Zions Bank, and Adobe. She is a Commissioner on the Salt Lake City Human rights Commission, a member of the YWCA's Public Policy Committee, and was a political candidate in 2020. She currently lives in Salt Lake City with her son Oliver.

Native American Historical Trauma Research
& Native American Research Institute

Maija Holsti

Dr. Maija Holsti, MD, MPH completed a BS degree in Psychology from Duke University in 1989. She earned her MD and MPH in Maternal and Child Health from University of North Carolina in 1999. She attended University of North Carolina for her Residency in Pediatrics in 2002. In 2005, she completed a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at University of Utah. She is board certified in Pediatric Emergency Medicine and General Pediatrics.

She is currently a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Utah and is in the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Primary Children's Hospital. As of 2019, Dr. Holsti is also the Howard Corneli, M.D. Endowed Chair in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. She serves as the Director of Research Education for the Department of Pediatrics. She is committed to the development of research education for undergraduate, graduate, and physicians in training. Dr. Holsti also has clinical and research interests in the area of pediatric seizure treatment.

Salt Lake County Library System



Trish Hull

Library Manager of the Kearns Branch of Salt Lake County Library

BA in Political Science from BYU MLS from Emporia State University

ALA Chapter Councilor for Utah Library Association

Elected to Planning and Budget Assembly of ALA

Chair of RUSA BRASS Business Reference in Public Libraries Committee

ChamberWest Member of Board of Director and Board of Governors

Chair of ChamberWest Women in Business

Magna City Councilperson

Mother of 6, Grandmother of 16 loves to read, ski and babysit.

Office of Health Equity, Utah Department of Health
and Human Services

Ban Naes, MPH

Ban Naes received her Master in Public Health and Bachelor's in English with a Creative Writing Emphasis at Westminster College. Through public health, she has found a way to intersect her identity as coming to this country as a refugee, and how to best help her communities and various communities in Utah. Currently, Ban works at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services Office of Health Equity as a research assistant and health equity program specialist.

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