



Rishi Manchanda, MD, MPH

Chief Executive Officer of HealthBegins; Commissioner, California Future Health Workforce Commission

Dr. Manchanda is Founder and President of HealthBegins, a social enterprise that provides training, clinic redesign, and technology to transform health care and the social determinants of health. Dr. Manchanda is a dual board-certified internist and pediatrician, a board member of the National Physicians Alliance, and a fellow in the California Health Care Foundation's Healthcare Leadership Program. He is also active with Physicians for Human Rights and Doctors for America (formerly known as Doctors for Obama). He is the lead physician for homeless primary care at the VA in Los Angeles, where he has built clinics for high-utilizer homeless veterans with complex chronic disease. Dr. Manchanda was the first Director of Social Medicine and Health Equity at a large community health center network in south Los Angeles. In 2008, he started RxDemocracy, a nonpartisan coalition that has registered over 30,000 voters in doctors' offices and hospitals nationwide. His 2013 book, "The Upstream Doctors," introduces a new model of the health care workforce that includes clinical "Upstreamists" who address social determinants of health. Dr. Manchanda traces his roots in activism to his undergraduate participation in a Peace and Justice Studies program and his days interning at the Lincoln Filene Center, where he explored concepts of civic engagement. After receiving his M.D. and M.P.H. from Tufts University, Dr. Manchanda trained at UCLA in the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency program, which specialized in community health and advocacy. During his time there, he served as chief resident and now serves on the program's advisory board. Dr. Manchanda's dedication to socially responsible medicine and effective advocacy on health issues is an inspiration to the entire medical community. His dedicated leadership inspires advocates of all backgrounds to speak out for public health.



Maria Lemus

Founding Executive Director, Visión y Compromiso

Maria Lemus is the founding Executive Director of Visión y Compromiso. An organization established in 2000, Visión y Compromiso and its Network of Promotoras and Community Health Worker are committed to supporting Promotoras and Community Health Workers (P/CHW) towards achieving healthy and dignified lives for Latinos who endure disproportionate rates of health disparities by providing leadership, capacity building, and advocacy for over 4,000 Promotores and Community Health Workers associated with clinics, hospitals, and community-based organizations in rural and urban communities. Ms. Lemus is a member of a number of national boards and advisory committees including; the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW), the Health and Human Services Promotores Advisory Committee, Latino Best Baby Initiative, National Teen Pregnancy Initiative, Hispanic/Latino Workgroup of the National Diabetes Educational Program – a diabetes education program of NIH and CDC, the National Alliance for Latino Behavioral Health Workforce Development, National Latino Infant Nutrition Initiative, the California Latino Mental Health Concilio for the Reducing Health Disparity Project, the Family Violence Prevention Fund’s Intimate Partner Violence Education Project, the California Hispanic American Cancer Society’s Hispanic Advisory Committee, March of Dimes, and the Preconception Advisory Committee in California. Prior to Visión y Compromiso, Ms. Lemus was active as a community consultant to local community organizations. Ms. Lemus has 21 years of management experience in the Rural Health Division of the California Department of Health Services, the AIDS Office in the City and County of San Francisco, and the California Department of Corrections. Ms. Lemus has received a California State Assembly Recognition Resolution, is an alum of the National Hispana Leadership Institute and the California Women’s Policy Institute of the Women’s Foundation, received the Community Latina Award by the California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, the Champions of Health Award from the California Center for Public Health, and the Siempre Award by Tiburcio Vasquez Community Clinic. She has served as a Board member of the Koshland Committee at the San Francisco Foundation, a Fellow of the Purpose Prize, Fellow of the Mexican American Solidarity Foundation, is a recipient of the Contra Costa Women’s Hall of Fame “Women Improving Healthcare,” and has served as a Faculty Advisor for the Women’s Health Leadership and as a mentor for emerging women leaders. Additionally, she has received the Outstanding PTA President Award and has been the Past President of the California Chicano Correctional Workers Association. Ms. Lemus received her B.A. degree from the University of California Riverside. She was born in San Bernardino, CA of Mexican parents, has been married for 35 years, and has two adult children.



Jessica Abraham, PharmD, Aph

Director of Population Health, University of Southern California

Dr. Jessica Abraham is Director of Population Health for the USC School of Pharmacy, where she establishes partnerships with stakeholders to develop value-based pharmacy strategies aligned with their population health priorities. Dr. Abraham directs the USC Medication Management Center (MMC), which provides medication therapy management services remotely. She oversees USC's Virtual Pharmacist Care (VPC) team, which is comprised of clinical pharmacists and technicians as well as pharmacy residents, interns and students who support the provision of clinical services using a combination of video and/or telephonic outreach. In addition, she serves as the project manager on several population health initiatives including the California Right Meds Collaborative (CRMC) which is a consortium of health plans, pharmacies, and academic and professional organizations who partner to deliver high-impact Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM) services through a sustainable, value-based payment model. Dr. Abraham completed her Doctorate of Pharmacy and PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency in ambulatory care at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Pharmacy. Previous to her current employment with USC, she worked in managed care for 5 years, where she oversaw the managed care and specialty pharmacy operations of the organization. Dr. Abraham was also one of the lead pharmacists providing care as part of USC's \$12 million CMMI grant promoting pharmacist collaboratively working with physicians to improve patient care and health outcomes while reducing costs.

Ilan Shapiro, MD, FAAP, FACHE

Medical Director, Health Education and Wellness, AltaMed



Though Dr. Ilan Shapiro has only been with AltaMed since 2016, he has already made a significant impact on the organization and the greater communities it serves. Dr. Shapiro is a tireless advocate for health care equality, with a deep affinity for innovation and public health policy, especially relating to the Latino population. Currently, Dr. Shapiro serves as AltaMed's Medical Director of Health Education and Wellness, helping to create and implement programs and services that expand access to care and improve outcomes for the community. Between 2016–2017, he also served as Medical Director for Behavioral Health, and was instrumental in strengthening the practice and expanding AltaMed's offerings. One of his biggest accomplishments at AltaMed has been the development of a dedicated AltaMed health and wellness facility. The center uses the latest technology, as well as traditional evidence-based principles and a hands-on approach, to teach members healthy habits relating to nutrition, fitness, and chronic condition management. The center, located in Santa Ana, will serve as a prototype for future sites in Los Angeles and Orange County. Dr. Shapiro's background includes award-winning public health work, often on the international stage. After graduating as Honorary Valedictorian with his medical degree, he worked for the Mexican Secretary of Health as the liaison between Mexico and the World Health Organization (WHO). He has created binational public health programs to improve the health of Hispanic communities on both sides of the border. In 2011, he was invited to join the White House Hispanic Policy Group and help educate and raise awareness for the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Shapiro is also a recent recipient of the Othli Award, an honor presented by the Consul of Mexico to recognize individuals working to improve the lives of Mexican nationals living in the United States and abroad. Prior to joining AltaMed, Dr. Shapiro held numerous health and leadership roles that focused on traditionally underserved communities. He spent five years working with migratory agricultural workers' families and the homeless in Southwest Florida and as a pediatric resident at Mount Sinai Children's Hospital in Chicago. He believes these roles sparked his passion for meaningful, community-focused work. In addition to his work at AltaMed, Dr. Shapiro serves on the Board of Governors at L.A. Care Health Plan. He currently acts as the regional director for the National Hispanic Medical Association.



Jessica Solares, MPH, MCHES

Director, Health Education and Wellness, AltaMed

Jessica Solares, MPH, MCHES, is the Director for the Health Education and Wellness program at AltaMed. Her passions lie in influencing the health outcomes of vulnerable populations through health education and other multifaceted approaches. Jessica earned her Master's degree in Public Health from Yale University, with a study emphasis on global health. She continued her education and became a Master Certified Health Education Specialist offered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. In her current role at AltaMed Health Services, she has had the privilege of co-leading the organization's Health Education and Wellness Department. Her team is comprised of 70+ staff members including health educators, registered dietitians, community health workers, program coordinators, project managers, and more. Collectively, they provide individual and group education, digital programs and tools, patient linkage to community resources, and deliver preventive health screenings in the community via a mobile unit. The Health Education and Wellness organization values and engages in collaborative research, program evaluation and community health impact projects. Their services center focuses on chronic disease prevention and management, patient support, and addressing social determinants of health. In her twelve-year tenure at AltaMed, Jessica has gained experience in strategic planning and community partnership development. Furthermore, she has implemented and managed multiple evidenced-based preventive programs that include lifestyle interventions such as healthy eating, physical activity and stress management. She possess an in-depth knowledge of specific disease topics, federal grants compliance, staff management and development, budget analysis, system-building, program implementation and evaluation.



Catherine Knox, RN, MSN, PHN

Clinical Director, POS Integrated Care Management, Inland Empire Health Plan

Catherine Know, RN, MSN, PHN currently serves as Clinical Director for Point of Service Care Management at IEHP (Inland Empire Health Plan). She oversees the Model 2 Health Home Program Care Teams internal to the health plan. Catherine's nursing career has spanned from acute care to public health to working in a managed care health plan. She is passionate about working with underserved populations, so overseeing the M2Health Home Program is very aligned with her mission and values. Catherine began her nursing career in New Zealand and went on to work in Australia and Great Britain, before settling in the United States. While working in the U.S., she has worked in both the public and private sectors in Southern California, including LAC/USC Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Heritage Medical Group and the Inland Empire Health Plan.



Lily Lee, DrPH, MPH

Director, Promotores Academy and San Manuel Gateway College;
Assistant Research Professor, Loma Linda University

Dr. Lily Lee is a public health professional with over 20 years of experience in program design, public health practice, leadership and management, teaching, research and evaluation. After completing her undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley, she began her work with Community Health Workers/Promotores in clinical, community and school-based settings in the early 1990s at La Clínica de la Raza in Oakland, CA. This work stirred her interest to pursue further training at Emory University earning an MPH degree in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education. Dr. Lee continued working alongside national experts at the Agency for Research and Quality, DHHS, and physicians and policymakers at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She joined Loma Linda University in 2015 where she completed her doctorate degree and is currently serving as the Director of the San Manuel Gateway College and Program Director for the Promotores/CHW Academy. In her current role, Dr. Lee has been able to grow the CHW/P training programs to expand from community-based trainings, to clinic-based and school-based trainings, as well as through traditional, intensive and hybrid delivery models. Dr. Lee works closely with various stakeholders and partners to develop and refine CHW/P training curricula, to support CHW/P workforce capacity building, and to strengthen integration/implementation efforts. She is committed to disseminate her work and expand the larger knowledge of CHW/P training and practice. Dr. Lee's recent publications assessed the need for training clinic-based CHWs for workforce integration in hospitals, community-based clinics and health plan settings from the perspective of employers, CHWs and patients. Dr. Lee continuously engages with CHWs/Ps in the field and national experts working on CHW/P training, integration, and policy efforts.