



Expert Meeting on Breastfeeding and HIV in the United States and Canada Attendees

Judith D. Auerbach, PhD, Professor, School of Medicine, UCSF; The Well Project Board Co-Chair

Judith Auerbach is a public sociologist, independent science and policy consultant, and professor in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She previously served as vice president, research and evaluation at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation; vice president, public policy and program development, at amfAR; director of the behavioral and social science program and HIV prevention science coordinator in the Office of AIDS Research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH); assistant director for social and behavioral sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; and senior program officer at the Institute of Medicine.



Judith received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught, presented and published widely in the areas of HIV/AIDS, social science, public policy and sex and gender. Her articles have appeared in such journals as *JAIDS*, *Health Affairs*, *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, and *Global Public Health*. She has served on numerous professional and advisory groups, including, currently, the U.S. National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse, PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, IAVI ADVANCE Scientific Advisory Group, and Board of Directors of The Well Project, among others.

For her science and policy work, Judith has received numerous awards including the 2006 Research in Action Award from the Treatment Action Group (TAG), the 2008 Career Award from the Sociologists AIDS Network, the 2010 Thomas M. Kelly Leadership Award from Project Inform, and the 2014 Feminist-Scholar-Activist Award from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association.

Brittany Cameron, Peer and Volunteer Engagement Program Coordinator, PARN



Brittany Cameron is a 35-year-old woman from Peterborough, Ontario, Canada who has been living with HIV for well over a decade. Brittany was diagnosed with HIV at 36 weeks pregnant with her first child in March of 2006. It was at that time Brittany was told she would not be able to breastfeed. Brittany experienced shame and stigma in her lack of ability to do so especially given the societal narrative that breastfeeding is the gold star standard. Living in a small town, Brittany has experienced challenges in accessing accurate science-based information and understands the complex issues that impact women living with HIV in relation to breastfeeding. Brittany went on to have two more children, teaching a local OBGYN Canadian PMTCT guidelines, and has been advocating for women to have access to science-based information around conception, pregnancy and breastfeeding ever since. Over the years Brittany has witnessed a lack of willingness on the part of

researchers to ensure scientific advancements around breastfeeding, and is very excited to be part of this very important working group.

Brittany wears many hats in the HIV sector. She is the current Co-Chair of the Canadian Positive People Network (CPPN), part of the Positive Leadership Development (PLDI) Facilitation Team and works at her local community AIDS Service Organization, PARN, as the Peer and Volunteer Engagement Program Coordinator. She is part of the Canadian #UequalsU Steering Committee.

In addition to her lived experiences of generational substance use, incarceration, sex work and HIV, she has an educational background in Social Service Work and Community Mobilization. The core values she brings to the work are a deep sense of connection and willingness to meaningfully engage, enable and empower people living with HIV, especially women, locally and beyond to find their passions and become active agents of change in their lives and the lives of others. As we say: nothing about us, without us.

Martha Sichone Cameron, Executive Director of ICW North America (meeting host)



Martha Cameron is originally from Zambia, Africa, where she was born and raised. She is the Executive Director for the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) North America and has served on the board of ICW Global. Most recently Martha worked as the Director of Prevention for Women's Collective (TWC), a leading community health and human service agency in Washington, DC; TWC provides prevention, care, and support services and advocates for the health and human rights of girls and women. Other past positions include Director of Policy & Advocacy at TWC, and Executive Director of an international faith-based non-profit called Every Orphan's Hope (EOH) Inc. in Zambia where she had hands on experience running HIV programs for orphans and widows. Martha still does some consulting work for EOH and with Children's AIDS Fund International. Martha

is actively involved in various HIV Policy, Advocacy and Research forums including Positive Women's Network, US PLHIV Caucus and DC Center for AIDS Research. She has bachelor's in education (English/French) and a Master's in Public Health.

Jenna Conley, Director of Communications for The Well Project (meeting host)

Jenna Conley has managed communications efforts for The Well Project since 2007. She currently provides strategic counsel and guidance to help advance the organization's mission to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls. Jenna also serves as the director of The Well Project's Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI), a think tank that brings together an extraordinary group of leaders in HIV to identify key opportunities to accelerate understanding of HIV disease in women. Jenna has 25 years of healthcare communications experience and has focused her career on HIV and other infectious diseases.

She has worked with a diverse range of organizations, including the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, Centers for Disease Control, UNAIDS, Whitman Walker Clinic, Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, and HIVR4P, among others. Jenna has a master's degree in health education.



Ciarra Covin, MS, The Well Project Community Advisory Board Member; Managing Member, Healing is Voluntary



Ciarra “Ci Ci” Covin is a mother, advocate, and lover of all human beings. Diagnosed with HIV at the age of 20, Ci Ci has curated a life of HIV and mental advocacy through both her lived experience and education. Ci Ci applies the concepts and skills she has acquired in the typically nontraditional format of social media. It is here that she uses it as a tool to bring STI and mental health awareness to individuals that might not have ever been exposed to the information. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development and Master of Science in Human Services.

As a blogger and Community Advisory Board member of The Well Project, Ci Ci has been able to connect with other leaders from around the world to further the mission of destigmatizing HIV and providing a community for women who are living with HIV. Healing Is Voluntary is a brand, blog, and business that she started in order to promote the idea that HIV does not have to be an acronym plagued by so much stigma and fear. Life is so much bigger than that. However, perception is key.

Olivia G. Ford, Managing Editor of The Well Project (meeting host)

Olivia G. Ford (she/her; they/their) is The Well Project's managing editor and has worked with the organization since 2015. In this capacity, Olivia creates and updates content for the website and acts as a liaison with The Well Project's current and potential partner organizations. Olivia has been engaged primarily with HIV-related media since her start as a proofreader/copyeditor at TheBody, a comprehensive Web-based HIV resource, in 2007. She has held leadership positions at TheBody and with Positive Women's Network - USA, a national advocacy network of women with HIV. Olivia has written and edited articles, developed award-winning content, and moderated discussions with community members and professionals on a wide variety of topics, including HIV and reproductive justice; HIV stigma in media; criminalization and racism; trauma and gender-based violence; as well as many aspects of becoming a parent while living with HIV. She has consulted with organizations and programs such as Echoing Ida, HIV Justice Worldwide, InPartnership Consulting, and the Sero Project; her work has appeared in *Black AIDS Weekly*, *Positively Aware*, *POZ*, and *TheBody/ TheBodyPro*, among other outlets. A Brooklyn native and freelance editor/writer, Olivia currently lives with her wife and kid in New Orleans.



Claire Gasamagera



Tuyishime Claire Gasamagera (@Gasamageraclair) is a storyteller, activist, advocate, and aspiring award-winning writer whose work has been featured in *TheBody.com*, *Arts and Understanding Magazine*, the International AIDS Alliance Key correspondents, *UNICEF Count Down to Zero* blog, and *Voice of Africa*. Claire is the winner for the *Arts and Understanding Magazine* 2019 Christopher Hewitt literary award for nonfiction. Claire has received numerous awards for her work for young people and women living with HIV. Claire has been on different councils and committees on HIV and AIDS. Claire was born with HIV in 1983 and is a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide. Claire is an immigrant in the U.S. and a proud Detroiter and Mom of two healthy boys.

Marielle S. Gross, MD, MBE, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; Center for Bioethics and Health Law, Affiliate Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics



Marielle S. Gross is an OB/GYN-bioethicist and assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Center for Bioethics and Health Law at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital. Her research centers on the ethics of evidence in women's health, particularly vis-a-vis merging identities of patient and research subject within a data-driven learning health system and potential role for novel approaches from blockchain, privacy-preserving technology and "data as labor." Fundamentally, her work challenges status quo biases and potential injustice

underlying issues ranging from research on deidentified data to maternal-fetal conflict framing in prenatal care to harm-reduction policies for sexually transmitted infections, substance use and birth setting. Finally, she is developing simulation-based clinical ethics training that emphasizes understanding and practical experience regarding clinicians' use of words: the most powerful instrument in patient care.

Catherine Hanssens, Founding Executive Director of The Center for HIV Law and Policy

Catherine Hanssens is the Executive Director of The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP), a national legal resource and support hub that challenges barriers to the sexual health and rights of people on the basis of stigmatized health status or identity. We do this through legal advocacy, high-impact policy initiatives, and creation of cross-issue partnerships, networks and resources that amplify the power of communities to mobilize for change that is rooted in racial, gender and economic justice. CHLP coordinates the Positive Justice Project, the first national network to challenge criminalization of HIV and other diseases.



Catherine has been working on HIV legal and policy issues since 1984 through litigation, legislative lawyering, community organizing and policy advocacy. She created and managed one of the first medical-legal partnerships in the country, with on-site HIV legal services in several Philadelphia hospitals and clinics; successfully litigated the first cases on involuntary HIV testing, a class action challenge to segregation and mistreatment of prisoners with HIV in the New Jersey state prison system, and the only federal appeals court case recognizing the right of incarcerated women to funded elective abortions.

Marsha Jones, Co-founder and Executive Director of The Afiya Center



Marsha Jones, a Texas native, is Co-founder and Executive Director of The Afiya Center. She holds Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is a graduate of the Black AIDS Institute's African American HIV University (Science and Community Mobilizing Fellowship Program) and Tyndale Theology School. Marsha has served on various boards and capacities as an act of service to and honor of Black women. She is a national grassroots organizer, community mobilizer, professional speaker, and

health educator with a commitment to transforming women and girls' lives. She's pledged to the development of leadership and engagement of activism among women by challenging harmful systemic and political constructs to advance the economic, health, and safety of women and girls.



Seble Kassaye, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine/ Division of Infectious Diseases, Georgetown University; Principal Investigator, WIHS; DC CFAR

Mary Ann Knott-Grasso, MS, CPNP, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner; Intensive Primary Care Program, Division of Adolescent/Young Adult Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University

Mary Ann Knott-Grasso's (She/Her/Hers) early career at Johns Hopkins was working in the Children's Center while obtaining the needed experience required for admission to a master's program to become a nurse practitioner. During this time, she worked with all age groups and specialties. Her master's program resulted in a double major as a pediatric nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist in maternal- child health care and minor area of study in education.



As a new Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, her practice was in an academic general pediatric outpatient clinic at Johns Hopkins. This program served the birth through 18-year old populations and has specialized components focused on adolescents and teen parents and children. An opportunity to implement a grant with a community health center in Baltimore led to opening a school-based health center (SBC) in a middle school. The clinic addressed physical and mental health issues with youth at high risk for pregnancy, dropping out of school and involvement with the legal system. This eventually was one of the first SBC's to distribute contraceptives on site.

Mary Ann returned to John's Hopkins Teen and Child Clinic which served teen parents and their children. Several patients were shared with the HIV program. When funding ended for the Teen Clinic, an opportunity to continue serving children and teens living with and affected by HIV occurred. This is her current position.

Mary Ann's role in the Intensive Primary Care Clinic has involved continuing to focus on care of teen parents and their children, infants at high risk for infection, and adolescents who have behaviorally acquired HIV infection. IPC is unique in that patients receive both primary and specialty care at a single site. She also participates in multiple studies related to HIV in this population. Over the last year she has become the care provider in the practice for moms living with HIV who are committed to breast feeding their infants.

Judy Levison, MD, MPH, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine



Judy Levison is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. She completed her MD degree from Tufts University in Boston, her residency in Ob/Gyn at the University of Washington, and her MPH from the University of Texas School of Public Health in 2010. She was in private practice in the Seattle area for 14 years and spent four years on the Ob/Gyn faculty at Stanford University Medical Center and at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in California.

Since 2002 she has led the Harris Health System Women's Program, which provides obstetric and gynecologic care for women living with HIV in Houston, Texas. She is active in educating Texas health

care workers about the management of HIV. She teaches medical students and residents in her clinics and at Ben Taub General Hospital. She is on the national Perinatal Guidelines Panel and provides consultation for the national Perinatal Hotline. Her work in the area of HIV has led her to consult on projects in Swaziland, Namibia, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nepal, and Malawi. Her group is the first in the United States to develop a curriculum for group prenatal care for women living with HIV and to follow the outcomes of this program.

**Jay MacGillivray, Registered Midwife, Positive Pregnancy Program;
Adjunct Professor, Ryerson University**

Jay MacGillivray, she/her/settler, is a Registered Midwife, one of the first in Canada. Jay's clinical work focuses on sexual and reproductive care with clients already living with HIV and those who have increased chance of acquiring HIV because of the Social Determinants of Health.



She is Co-founder and Co-director, alongside Dr. Mark Yudin, of the interdisciplinary 'Positive Pregnancy Program' (P3) at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto. P3 has grown over the last 15+ years to become a very large and internationally recognized multidisciplinary and community-involved reproductive program working with the HIV + community. P3 has worked with hundreds of families choosing to have a child.

Jay maintains an active outreach to tent encampments, ravine communities, shelters, and respite centres. Her caseload includes those affected by severe mental illness, extensive problematic substance use, histories of incarceration in conflict zones or migration trails, interactions with the Canadian 'justice/'protection' infrastructure industry, and people who have experienced trafficking either in Canada or globally in repressive regimes and migration trails.

She is also a partner clinician in the 'Call Auntie Clinic', a drop-in nested in the downtown core of Toronto with a (non-exclusive) focus on outreach to the Indigenous community. The clinic is specifically designed to provide appropriate and culturally safe care for anyone who may be very street affected, marginalized, and reluctant or unable to access regular health care because of racism, HIV stigma, and other devastating effects of SDH.

Krista Martel, Executive Director of The Well Project (meeting host)



Krista Martel is the executive director of The Well Project, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 whose mission is to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls. Since joining the organization in 2009, Krista has overseen the redesign and expansion of its online resources and community, advocacy programs, and partnerships. During her time at The Well Project, Krista has witnessed the profound impact that access to information and an online network of support can have on the lives of women living with HIV and is working to further expand the organization's reach and network across the globe. She is also committed to building leadership to ensure women living with HIV are represented at every level of the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Martel began working in HIV education in 1995, shortly after her sister was diagnosed with AIDS.

Nancy Nashid, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario

Nancy Nashid completed her undergraduate Bachelor of Health Sciences, MD and postgraduate training in Paediatrics at McMaster University. Following residency, she pursued a fellowship in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the Hospital for Sick Children, followed by a 2 year CIHR-funded Canadian HIV Trials Network postdoctoral fellowship. She is currently pursuing a Master’s in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University.



Nancy’s clinical interests are in congenital infections and infections in vulnerable populations, with a particular interest in Paediatric HIV. Her research focus has been in understanding barriers for engagement in care for HIV exposed uninfected children, as well as youth living with HIV transitioning to adult care. She was also involved in publishing a case series of the local experience with infant feeding practices of infants born to women living HIV, followed at a large tertiary care children’s hospital.

Nancy joined the faculty in the Division of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario, as an Assistant Professor at Western University in July 2019. She is presently leading the Paediatric HIV clinic at Children’s, servicing children and families of the Southwestern Ontario region.

Heather O’Connor, Communications Specialist for ICW-NA



Heather O’Connor is the communications specialist for ICW-NA. She is a 28-year-old HIV-positive (since 6/6/16) female living in Natural Bridge, Virginia with her husband, daughter, newborn son, two dogs, and two cats. She is a trained modern dancer, an in-home ABA therapist for children, and currently redirecting her career path to become more involved in HIV advocacy/outreach. “Every day is an opportunity to grow and flourish. I’m here to learn,” she says.

Lealah Pollock, MD, Clinical Director, National Perinatal HIV Hotline, National Clinician Consultation Center, UCSF

Lealah Pollock is a family physician at UCSF, specializing in primary and specialty care for women living with HIV throughout their lives, including during pregnancy and the postpartum period. She is the director of Women’s, Children’s and Perinatal HIV Consultation Services at the National Clinician Consultation Center and the clinical director of the National Perinatal HIV Hotline. Lealah is also a member of the DHHS Panel on Treatment of Pregnant Women With HIV Infection and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission, where, with Judy Levison, she co-authored a new section a few years ago “Counseling and Managing Women Living with HIV in the United States Who Desire to Breastfeed”. Lealah sees part of her role on the Perinatal HIV Hotline as helping to translate research findings and guidelines for other clinicians to help foster shared decision-making with patients.



Shannon Weber, MSW, UCSF; Founder, PleasePrEPMe

Shannon Weber, MSW (pronoun: she) is the Founder of [PleasePrEPMe](#), advancing access to HIV prevention information and resources by leveraging technology to create connection. She is a Founding Task Force Member for [Prevention Access Campaign](#), responsible for the Undetectable=Untransmittable movement worldwide. Shannon led the launch of the [U.S. National Perinatal HIV Hotline](#), created the hub of sexual and reproductive health at [HIVEonline](#) and served as the first director of [GettingtoZeroSF](#), San Francisco's plan to End the HIV Epidemic. She is an ephemeral artist creating public displays of affection, documenting her appreciative inquiry process at [LoveYou2](#). Having published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and received the 2018 UCSF Chancellor's Award for Public Service, she is also the author of [Show Up Hard: A Road Map for Helpers in Crisis](#).



Andrea Weddle, MSW, Executive Director of HIVMA



Andrea Weddle is the executive director of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), which provides a professional home and advocacy voice within the Infectious Diseases Society of America for HIV medical providers and researchers who primarily practice in the U.S. As executive director, she oversees the Association's education, membership and policy and advocacy activities. She has extensive experience in health care financing with a focus on Medicaid, the Ryan White HIV Program and the Affordable Care Act. Andrea has a Master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley and a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University's [McCourt School of Public Policy](#).

Jessica Whitbread, Consultant

Jessica Whitbread has over 18 years of experience in the gender and HIV response working at national (Canada), regional, and global levels. She is best known for some of her provocative art pieces about queer women, sex, and HIV, work on HIV criminalization, and her leadership roles in the International Community of Women with HIV - all have led her to her work on HIV and breastfeeding. In 2016, Jessica advocated to be the first woman in Canada to openly breastfeed her twins and subsequently wrote multiple publications and presentations on the issue. Currently, Jessica is working as a consultant and has been living with her twins between Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Toronto, Canada.



Providing Background Counsel and Guidance

Allison Agwu, MD, ScM, Associate Professor, Pediatric and Adult Infectious Diseases; Director, Pediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Program; Medical Director, Accessing Care Early (ACE) Clinic; PI, JHU IMPAACT and ATN



Allison Agwu is Associate Professor of Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. She cares for patients across the age spectrum, both in the pediatric and adult Ryan-White funded multi-disciplinary HIV clinics at Johns Hopkins, as the founder and medical director of the Accessing Care Early (ACE) Clinic and the Program Director of the Pediatric/Adolescent HIV/AIDS Program. Both her clinical care and NIH-funded research focus on deciphering health disparities and optimizing care, treatment strategies, and management approaches, including access to novel strategies for young people with HIV. She is a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Adolescent and Adult Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines and serves on the Board of Directors for the HIV Medicine Association, where she continuously advocates for the unique needs of young people.

Deborah Cohan, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences @ UCSF; Medical Director, HIVE @ San Francisco General Hospital www.HIVEonline.org; Director, Foundation for Embodied Medicine @ Commonwealth www.embodiedmedicine.org



Deborah Cohan (**she/they**) is an obstetrician and gynecologist who specializes in caring for women with HIV and infectious diseases affecting the reproductive system. She also teaches body awareness and mindfulness to patients as techniques for coping with illness and other life challenges. Cohan is the medical director of HIVE, a multidisciplinary clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, which provides reproductive and sexual wellness services for women and couples living with HIV. Cohan's research interests include perinatal HIV transmission, prenatal HIV testing and reproductive infectious diseases.

Cohan earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UCSF. She then completed a fellowship in reproductive infectious diseases at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Cohan also earned a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley.

Cohan is the founding director of the Foundation for Embodied Medicine, through which she offers training in body awareness, conscious dance and embodied presence to patients, caregivers and medical providers.