

Managing Pain Safely Forum Presenter Biographies



Michael Amster, M.D., is a double-boarded family medicine physician, with a subspecialty in pain management, performing interventions including pain blocks and nerve injections. He says those tools are just part of the equation when treating chronic pain. Because he believes chronic pain affects body, mind, and spirit, Dr. Amster studied Oriental medicine and acupuncture, and received training in guided imagery and meditation. “Chronic pain is not just a physical condition, it affects a patient’s entire life,” he says. He takes a functional, restorative approach to treating pain, with the goal of teaching patients how to cope with pain and enabling them to return to their active lives.



Edward S. Berberian, Jr., has worked in the Marin County District Attorney's Office since 1976 and is currently the Marin County District Attorney. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arizona and his Juris Doctorate from the University of San Francisco. From November 1976 until August 1998, Mr. Berberian's trial assignments covered the full range of criminal matters. He is the Marin County District Attorney's liaison and legal advisor to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury, and is the advisor for the Marin County Criminal Grand Jury when this body is empaneled. Mr. Berberian leads the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force, participates in several community-based activities, and has received numerous awards for his outstanding work in Marin County.



Patrick Burns is the President and CEO of Principled Strategies. He has more than 20 years of experience as an executive and consultant in the public and private sectors. He specializes in strategic planning for product development and product commercialization initiatives, using advanced data analysis and decision support systems. Mr. Burns has successfully designed and directed the analysis and optimization of hundreds of clinical and commercialization programs for dozens of FORTUNE 1000 companies. Since 2009, Mr. Burns has directed the research and development program responsible for development of the SafeUseNow™ program, including its recently completed three-year clinical trial.



Lynn Campanario serves as the Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Coordinator for the Sonoma County Department of Health Services and oversees various community-based prevention efforts to reduce substance use through environmental prevention strategies. She has worked in public health for the past 25 years, and began her career with the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. A strong proponent of harm reduction, Ms. Campanario coordinated the local syringe exchange program and outpatient substance abuse treatment services in Sonoma County for nine years. She is most passionate about prescription drug abuse prevention, and hopes to facilitate comprehensive county-wide planning in the coming year. Ms. Campanario serves on the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS and on the Board of Directors for Face to Face, an HIV/AIDS service agency.



Ron Chapman, M.D., M.P.H., was sworn in as Director and State Health Officer of the California Department of Health on June 13, 2011. He is a board-certified family physician who has dedicated his career to public health and medicine, caring for the uninsured and underinsured in California. Dr. Chapman was the Chief Medical Officer of Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC), a managed care Medi-Cal plan. He was the Solano County Public Health Officer, and worked at the California Department of Health Services as the founding Chief of Medicine and Public Health. He is the winner of the 2008 American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award for local government service. Dr. Chapman's primary interests are care for the uninsured, the interface between public health and medicine, and chronic disease management.



Willard Hunter, M.D., is the Medical Director at Open Door Community Health Centers. He received his Bachelor's degree from Harvard in the turbulent late 1960's, and attended medical school at UCLA. He became interested in the alternative cultures that were evolving at the time, and embarked on a path to create alternative medical institutions. After completing his family practice residency at UC Davis, Dr. Hunter moved to Garberville in the late 1970's. For the next 20 years, he served as Medical Director of Redwoods Rural Health Center in Redway and was on staff at Southern Humboldt Community Hospital (now Phelps Hospital) where he worked in family practice and emergency medicine. In 1998, he accepted the position of Medical Director of Open Door Community Health Centers, a fairly large community health center with sites in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, where his work is 50% clinical and 50% to administrative. Dr. Hunter currently participates in and leads several community-wide efforts to improve chronic pain and opioid prescribing.



Mary Meengs, M.D., is a family physician who trained (at Rush Medical College), practiced, and taught in Chicago for many years before moving to Humboldt County. She worked for a mobile medical practice that provided full-scope primary care to homeless and mentally ill patients, and those living in rural poverty. Dr. Meengs now serves as the Medical Director of the Humboldt Del Norte Independent Practice Association and Foundation for Medical Care, where she works on various quality improvement projects and strives to serve both local providers and the larger community.



Marie Mulligan, M.D., has specialized in the field of family medicine for 30 years. She provides comprehensive medical care for families and individuals. As a family physician, Dr. Mulligan is usually the first point of contact for patients when they seek general medical care, and can refer patients to specialists when necessary. Dr. Mulligan has graciously agreed to assist Dr. Andrea Rubinstein in role-playing successful patient conversations regarding opioids during today's forum.



Robert Moore, M.D., M.P.H., is the Chief Medical Officer of Partnership HealthPlan (PHC), a well-respected Medi-Cal Managed Care plan, serving 14 Northern California counties. Prior to joining PHC, Dr. Moore was the Medical Director of Community Health Clinic Ole, an FQHC in Napa County, for 13 years, where he continues to see patients one evening each week. His major professional interests are quality improvement, operational effectiveness, and delivery system transformation. He is a graduate of UCSF Medical School and the Columbia University School of Public Health. Dr. Moore completed post-graduate courses and fellowships in health center management, health care leadership, and quality improvement. His clinical interests include palliative care, intensive outpatient care management, hospital medicine, diabetes care, and pediatrics.



Gary Pace, M.D., is a family practice physician and current Medical Director at Alexander Valley Healthcare in Cloverdale. Dr. Pace has worked for 20 years in FQHCs and is certified with the ABIHM. This experience has fueled his interest in making integrative care accessible to the population served by community health centers. Dr. Pace received his MD and Masters in Public Health degrees from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He also holds an MA in Counseling Psychology from CIIS in San Francisco.



Kelly Pfeifer, M.D., joined the California HealthCare Foundation in June, 2014, as the Director of the Better Chronic Disease Care program. Her previous roles include Chief Medical Officer for the San Francisco Health Plan, a Medi-Cal managed health care plan; Medical Director for access at the Redwood Community Health Coalition; and Medical Director for the Petaluma Health Center, where she continues to practice medicine. Dr. Pfeifer received a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Oberlin College, her MD from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, and she trained in family medicine at the UCSF program at Sutter Santa Rosa.



Andrea Rubinstein, MD, is an anesthesiologist with a specialty in chronic pain. Before going to medical school, she worked as a software engineer, and after several years in the high-tech world, she decided it would be more interesting to solve medical problems than computer problems. Dr. Rubinstein attended Stanford University Medical School and then went on to a residency in anesthesiology at Duke University. While at Stanford, she became fascinated with chronic pain and new and exciting ways to treat it. Because of their longstanding commitment to treating patients with chronic pain, using the best methods and modalities available, she joined Kaiser Permanente in 2007. Dr. Rubinstein has a strong interest in clinical research to help both doctors and patients better understand chronic pain and find new ways to treat this condition.



Candy Stockton, MD, is a practicing board-certified family medicine physician and the Medical Director of Shingletown Medical Center. Eight years ago, she stumbled into the world of Community Health Centers and promptly found her passion. She lives in Redding, California, with her husband and two children, where she is an active volunteer, teaching hands-on science to grades 3-8 at her local elementary school. She has also volunteered with Broken Chains for Humanity and ProsthetiKa, helping to provide short-term medical care at long-term facilities in Guatemala and Haiti.



Ric Torchon and his wife are the co-founders of Alliance to Change Actions and Attitudes, a non-profit organization they established with donations made in loving memory of their son, Alec. Alec died accidentally from a mixture of alcohol and opiates while attending UC Santa Barbara in December, 2012. The mission of Alliance to Change Actions and Attitudes is to educate college students and their families on the deadly consequences of alcohol and drug use, as well as to ensure that college students have access to the proper level of counseling, support and guidance.



Matt Willis, MD assumed the role of Public Health Officer in Marin County in December, 2012, where his epidemiologic training and history as a primary care provider have helped him guide a departmental focus toward the problem of prescription drug abuse. He has earned several advanced degrees in public health and medicine, completing both his internal medicine residency and Masters in Public Health at Harvard University. Dr. Willis operates on the principle that every person deserves the highest attainable standard of health and spent six years in the US Public Health Service, serving in the Indian Health Services and the CDC.