



PACIFIC ISLAND HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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67th PIHOA Virtual Executive Board Meeting November 10-12, 2020

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Day 1: November 10, 2020



Dr. Mary Fegurur, *DPsy, MSW*

Dr. Fegurur works full time as Guam Licensed Clinical Psychologist (CP-42) at Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) working with consumers and families within Severe Mental Illnesses (SMI). In this capacity, Dr. Fegurur serves as a supervisor for psychology department ensuring quality psychological clinical services for inpatient, outpatient and residential group homes. Dr. Fegurur worked closely with GBHWC staff to achieve CARF standards and accreditation in 2017. In addition to her regular duties, Dr. Fegurur has assisted GBHWC staff in the writing of various SAMSHA and Department of Interior grants. Dr. Fegurur was awarded 2018 GovGuam MagPro Supervisor of the Year. Other work experiences include Guam Veteran's Community Based Outpatient Clinic (2014-2016).

For 10 years, Dr. Fegurur worked as an Associate and Tenured Professor of the MS in Clinical Psychology (MSCP) and Women and Gender Studies at University of Guam (UOG) from 2005-14. In this capacity, she jointly developed and taught in the UOG MS in Clinical Psychology program as well as coordinated the Women and Gender Studies Center. Her research focused on evidenced-based and culturally responsive mental health services for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families for Guam and the Micronesian region, including Philippines. In this capacity, Dr. Fegurur excelled in writing grants to SAMSHA and other local grants, and has held positions as Principal Investigator/Director and evaluator.

Dr. Fegurur's educational qualifications include a Doctorate in Psychology with emphasis in clinical psychology and couples and family therapy from the Alliant University of San Diego - California and a Master's in Social Work from San Diego State University.

Mary first moved to Guam in 1973 as a military brat and graduated from George Washington Senior High School-Mangilao in 1976. Her family fell in love with Guam's culture and people and never left. Mary has been married for 41-years to Ben Arceo Fegurur of Ordot/Chalan Pago and they have 4 children.

Day 2: November 11, 2020



Dr. Deborah McFarland, *PhD, MPH*

Dr. Deborah A. McFarland is Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health and the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. Her specialty is international health care financing and health policy. Dr. McFarland has been involved in health policy and health financing issues for the past 25 years with particular interest in the interface of disease control programs and health systems, and the ethics and economics of resource allocation for public health priorities.

She is a member of the World Health Organization Neglected Tropical Diseases Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG), the WHO technical consultative committee for the Africa Programme on Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), the WHO/UNICEF Tropical Disease Research Special Advisory Committee and the Mectizan Expert Committee for neglected tropical diseases. Dr. McFarland served in the Peace Corps in Liberia, worked as a health services specialist for the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Funds in central Appalachia and was the director of a network of primary care clinics in the same region. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow in health policy and finance at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and with the National Governors Association on Capitol Hill. She is director of the Foege Fellowship program in the RSPH, the Global Field Experience Program, the Peace Corps Masters International Program. She is an Open Society Foundation International Scholar supporting the development and strengthening of public health graduate education in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Dr. McFarland holds a PhD in strategic management and industrial organization economics, an MSc in economics, an MPH in health policy and a BA in philosophy.



Dr. Christina Higa, *PhD*

Dr. Christina Higa is the Associate Director of the Telecommunications and Social Informatics Research Program (UH TASI) and Co-Director of the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center of the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM).

Her research interests include information communication technology for development and specifically the application of Health Information Technologies to assist in the reduction of health disparities in remote and rural areas in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. Focal areas include the application of health informatics, telehealth, electronic health records, and health information exchange for improved access to health care, cost efficiencies, and outcomes. In particular, Dr. Higa's research includes focus on Chronic Care Models and the potential for health information technology innovation to integrate clinical, public health, community, and self-management programs.



Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP

Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum is currently a Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM). She is currently the Designated Institutional Official and Director of Graduate Medical Education at JABSOM, responsible for the oversight and administration of the JABSOM residency and fellowship programs that train physicians in 20 different medical and surgical specialties.

Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum was born and raised on Oahu, graduated from Leilehua High School, attended Stanford University for her Bachelor's of Science in Biology, then completed her medical school and family medicine residency training at JABSOM in 1997. After residency, she completed a faculty development fellowship which included emphasis on community-based participatory approaches to programmatic development and research. Her scholarly activities have focused on reducing health disparities in Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions. In 2003, she was the JABSOM nominee for the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award and in 2015 was nominated for the UH Manoa Excellence in Teaching award. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum's scholarly work has ranged from cross-cultural curriculum development using simulation in residency training to building health system capacity to improve prevention and screening for cervical cancer and developing a regional cancer surveillance system in the US Pacific.



Dr. Neal Palafox, MD, MPH

Dr. Neal Palafox is currently a Professor and Full Member of the Population Sciences in the Pacific Program (Cancer Prevention in the Pacific) at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, and Professor at the Department of Medicine and Community Health at UHM JABSOM.

The last 25 years of Dr. Palafox's career has been focused on improving health capacity and health policy toward reducing health disparities in the populations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the other US-Affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) jurisdictions of the Territories of American Samoa and Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. This work has been done utilizing a community-based, participatory approach and developing key partnerships with health leadership, policy-makers and community advocates throughout the USAPIs and with Micronesian communities in Hawai'i. These efforts have resulted in US Center for Disease Control (CDC)-funded Comprehensive Cancer Control programs in each of the USAPI jurisdictions and the USAPI region, in the development of a Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry and in a Pacific Center of Excellence in the elimination of disparities in breast and cervical cancer in USAPI populations.

Dr. Palafox received his MD from JABSOM UHM, and his MPH in International Health from Johns Hopkins University.