

## **NCHHSTP/CDC Update**

**Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, RADM USPHS**, Director, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, is the Director of the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), and a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service. He leads the nation's efforts to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis. These infections affect millions of Americans and cause tens of thousands of deaths each year. NCHHSTP focuses on high impact prevention strategies that are cost-effective, scalable, and grounded in the latest research. These strategies save lives, save money, reduce health disparities, and protect the health of all Americans.

Dr. Mermin served as the Incident Manager for CDC's mpox response for six months, where he led the agency's efforts to bring accurate information, testing, vaccination, and treatment to communities affected by mpox, and worked to decrease health inequities associated with the virus. In 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he served for several months as Acting Director of the Center for Preparedness and Response.

From 2009-2013, Dr. Mermin directed CDC's Division of HIV Prevention, where he worked to progress the agency's HIV efforts in the United States. He previously served as Director of CDC-Kenya and HHS Public Health Attaché for the U.S. Embassy from 2006-2009, and as Director of CDC-Uganda from 1999-2006. In Uganda, he oversaw implementation of the first antiretroviral treatment program funded by CDC outside of the United States.

Dr. Mermin began his career at CDC in 1995 as an EIS officer with the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch. He completed an internal medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital and a preventive medicine residency at CDC and the California Department of Health Services. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University School of Medicine and received his MPH from Emory University. He has co-authored more than 200 scientific articles. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Public Health.

**Kathleen Ethier, PhD**, Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)

Kathleen Ethier, PhD is the Director of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Ethier brings a wealth of public health experience and leadership in addressing health issues of youth and women, with a focus on HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy, as well as supporting program improvement, strategic programs, and monitoring and evaluation. She most recently served as the Director of CDC's Program Performance and Evaluation Office, where she contributed to advancing CDC program strategy, performance measurement, and evaluation.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Ethier spent six years on the research faculty at Yale University working on studies of HIV, STDs, and unplanned pregnancy prevention among women and adolescents. In 1999, she joined CDC as a Senior Scientist in the Division of STD Prevention to lead the development and evaluation of interventions to prevent HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. She has served in a variety of leadership and management roles at CDC, including Acting Director of the Financial Management Office and the Division of Oral Health, as well as lead for the Adolescent Health Goal Team.

Dr. Ethier's research has included psychosocial, behavioral, organizational and clinical factors related to women's health, maternal health and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. She has authored or co-authored numerous articles and book chapters for peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Ethier earned her PhD in social psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

**Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH, Director, Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH)**

Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH, serves as the Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. In this role, she oversees the design and implementation of national programs for viral hepatitis prevention, control, surveillance and outbreak response. Under her leadership in this role since January 2019, the Division has launched a 5-year strategic plan with a path to eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, controlled unprecedented outbreaks of hepatitis A involving dozens of states, and updated national viral hepatitis testing and vaccination recommendations among adults from risk-based to universal recommendations, supporting health equity and cost-effectiveness. Under Dr. Wester's leadership, DVH has expanded partnerships with health departments and community partners to establish national viral hepatitis surveillance and strengthen syringe services program and provide integrated harm reduction services for people who use drugs.

Prior to joining the CDC, Dr. Wester served as the Medical Director for HIV, STDs, and Viral Hepatitis at the Tennessee Department of Health where, for 10 years, she led the daily operations for the section tasked with the prevention and control of HIV, STDs, and viral hepatitis throughout Tennessee. Under her leadership, this section successfully expanded partnerships and executed cross-program strategic plans. In particular, Dr. Wester launched and expanded the Viral Hepatitis program, integrating it with the HIV/STD section; doubled funding and tripled staff levels; expanded viral hepatitis surveillance, testing, prevention and treatment capacity across the state; and established an HIV/HCV outbreak response plan. Prior to that, Dr. Wester held positions as a Research Associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Director of Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery section at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, and an attending physician at the Rush Center for Women's Medicine, Chicago. Dr. Wester has authored or co-authored myriad articles and given numerous presentations on HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB and on such topics as harm reduction, and women's and minority health.

Dr. Wester received her Medical Degree from Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine in Hanover, NH; completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in urogynecology at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, IL; and received a Master of Public Health from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, MA.

**Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH, Director, Division of HIV Prevention (DHP)**

Dr. Daskalakis is an infectious disease physician who serves as the Deputy Coordinator of the White House National Monkeypox Response. He works closely with Robert Fenton, Coordinator of the WH National Monkeypox Response, leading the coordination across agencies to control the Monkeypox virus outbreak. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Daskalakis served locally and nationally as a leader in public health as the Director for the Division of HIV Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Disease Control, and the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV and then Deputy Commissioner of Disease Control at the NYC Department of

Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Daskalakis is recognized internationally as an expert in HIV prevention and has focused much of his career on the treatment and prevention of HIV and other STIs as an activist physician with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities. Dr. Daskalakis has extensive experience with outbreak response including serving as incident commander during the measles outbreak of 2018-2019 and COVID-19 in 2020 while at NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He also served as Deputy Incident Manager of the vaccine taskforce in CDC's COVID-19 response in 2021.

**Leandro Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Director, Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)**

Leandro Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA, is the Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) in CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). Dr. Mena served as the Deputy Incident Manager for CDC's 2022-2023 mpox response."

Dr. Mena is a clinician-researcher and public health expert in the prevention and clinical management of STIs, as well as HIV, and is fluent in Spanish and English. Throughout his career, he has studied STI transmission and culturally competent quality health services in racial/ethnic minority groups, as well as among LGBTQ people.

Dr. Mena was founding chair of the Department of Population Health Science at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) John D. Bower School of Population Health where he served as a professor of population health science and as a professor of medicine. In addition, Dr. Mena was founder and co-chair of the UMMC Center for Gender and Sexual Minority Health from 2017 to 2021, and served as medical director of UMMC's TEAM clinic – the first multidisciplinary academic clinic serving LGBTQ people in Mississippi – from 2020-2021.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Mena served as the STD medical director for the state of Mississippi from 2005 to 2021, and directed the Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education, and Policy at the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities from 2016 to 2021. Dr. Mena also served as the medical director of Jackson, Mississippi's public STD clinic between 2003 to 2021 and co-founded Open Arms Healthcare Center – Mississippi's first LGBTQ clinic – in 2013.

Dr. Mena obtained a Doctor in Medicine from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, and a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans. He is board certified in infectious diseases and is a Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

## **Panel 1: Sexual health as a holistic approach to public health implementation**

**Moderator:** Leandro Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA; Director, Division of STD Prevention, CDC

Leandro Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA, is the Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) in CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). Dr. Mena served as the Deputy Incident Manager for CDC's 2022-2023 mpox response."

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### **Speakers:**

**Eli Coleman, PhD**, Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Sexual and Gender Health, Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School

Eli Coleman, PhD is professor and director emeritus of the Institute for Sexual and Gender Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis.

He is the author of numerous articles and books on compulsive sexual behavior, sexual offenders, sexual orientation, gender dysphoria, chemical dependency and family intimacy and on the psychological and pharmacological treatment of a variety of sexual dysfunctions and disorders. Professor Coleman is one of the founding editors of the *International Journal of Transgenderism* and is the founding and current editor of the *International Journal of Sexual Health*.

He is one of the past-presidents of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS), the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the World Association for Sexual Health, the International Academy for Sex Research and the Society for Sex Therapy and Research. He is currently the Chair of the WPATH Standards of Care Revision Committee.

He has been a frequent technical consultant on sexual health issues to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (the regional office of WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the US Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Award for his role as senior scientist on *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior*, released in 2001. He was given the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and the Alfred E. Kinsey Award by the Midcontinent Region of the SSSS in 2001 and in May of 2011, he received the John Money Award from the Eastern Region of the SSSS. In April, 2007, he was awarded the Gold Medal for his lifetime contributions to the field of sexual health by the World Association for Sexual Health. He was appointed the first endowed Chair in Sexual Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School in May 2007. In May of 2009, he was awarded the Masters and Johnson Award by the Society for Sex Therapy and Research. In 2019, he was honored as the inaugural United States Sexual Health Award at the National Sexual Health Conference (2019). Most recently, he was awarded the inaugural Gold Medal from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

**Stephanie Cohen, MD, MPH**, Medical Director for the San Francisco City Clinic and Director for the STI Prevention and Control Section of the San Francisco Department of Public Health

Stephanie Cohen, MD, MPH is the STD Controller for the city and county of San Francisco and the medical director of San Francisco City Clinic, the municipal STI clinic in San Francisco. She is an assistant professor at UCSF in the division of infectious diseases and an HIV primary care provider. Her research focuses on using implementation science to guide the translation of STI and HIV prevention research into clinical and public health practice. She is currently a co-investigator and site PI for a randomized controlled study of doxycycline PEP to prevent STIs. She attended Harvard Medical School, and completed training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the University of California, San Francisco and has a Master's in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Mark Stenger, MA**, Enhanced Surveillance and Special Studies Acting Team Lead (Acting), Lead Science Officer, STD Surveillance Network (SSuN), Division of STD Prevention NCHHSTP, CDC

Mark R. Stenger is a senior epidemiologist with the Surveillance and Data Science Branch in the Division of STD Prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is the Team Lead (acting) for the Enhanced Surveillance and Special Studies Team and has been the Lead Science Officer for the STD Surveillance Network (SSuN) since 2015. The STD Surveillance Network is a collaborative of state, city and local health departments conducting sentinel and enhanced STI surveillance among persons diagnosed with STDs or presenting for care in STD specialty clinics. These projects employ a syndemic approach to STI surveillance, incorporating relevant HIV care and prevention metrics.

Mr. Stenger received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree from Washington College and a Masters in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. Prior to his appointment to CDC in 2011, Mr. Stenger's work in STIs and HIV surveillance spanned over 18 years at multiple state health departments. Mr. Stenger has also worked with community-based organizations providing HIV care and prevention services, safe injection programs and facilitating CDC's HIV Prevention Community Planning. He has

authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts and has presented his work at national and international STD/HIV conferences.

**Susan Gilbert, MPA**, Co-Director for the National Coalition for Sexual Health, Altarum

Susan Gilbert, MPA, is Co-Director of the National Coalition for Sexual Health (NCSH), with over 230 members dedicated to improving the sexual health and well-being of people across the lifespan. Susan leads NCSH's Communications Action Group, pioneered a new sexual health definition and the "Five Action Steps to Good Sexual Health," and directs media outreach. Susan creates health communication campaigns and coalitions in the U.S. and internationally to promote sexual health, HIV prevention, and family planning. To do so, she draws upon behavior change theory, market research, creative materials development, coalition-building, entertainment programming, and media outreach. Previously, as Senior Vice President at Ogilvy Public Relations, she directed health communication campaigns for clients including CDC and USAID. While living in Africa for eight years, Susan developed sexual health and HIV prevention, care, and treatment campaigns for Population Services International, Johns Hopkins University, and Columbia University.

## **Panel 2: Equitable scale-up of new interventions**

**Moderator:** Kirk D. Henny, PhD, MA, Associate Director for the Office of Health Equity, Division of HIV Prevention, NCHHSTP

Dr. Kirk D. Henny currently serves as the Associate Director for the Office of Health Equity (OHE) in the Division of HIV Prevention (DHP). Dr. Henny earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology from James Madison University (1994); and his masters and doctoral degrees in medical sociology from Howard University (1999 and 2004, respectively). His CDC experience includes extensive work in the field of HIV prevention and care as a behavioral scientist and epidemiologist. Since being selected as Associate Director for OHE in 2022, Dr. Henny has provided division-level guidance for implementing research, programmatic and external partnership engagement focused on embedding health equity and reducing health disparities within HIV care and prevention activities. A key accomplishment that exemplifies his leadership is the implementation of the DHP Equity Plan, a comprehensive strategic plan to advance equity in the division. The plan includes over 60 activities focused on advancing equity regarding workplace culture; workplace policies and procedures; and external public health activities including research, programs, and partnerships.

As a health scientist, Dr. Henny has authored over 50 papers in scientific peer-reviewed journals and other publications. His research addresses a range of HIV-related topics including HIV behavioral interventions for African American heterosexual men, housing, interpersonal violence, eHealth interventions and other related topics. Dr. Henny also served as guest editor for the *AIDS and Behavior* special issue, "HIV in the South" published in 2019.

Beyond his research record, Dr. Henny has supported DHP-funded projects including a number of demonstration projects, HIV risk reduction intervention research studies, and fact sheet development workgroups. Dr. Henny also served a detail as the Assistant Deputy of Program Operations for the *Ending the HIV Epidemic* initiative, which involved coordinating various programmatic and operational activities within the division to support the federal initiative. Additionally, Dr. Henny has been involved in several CDC emergency responses including the 2015 Ebola Response in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and 2016 Zika Response. He has also been an invited speaker at several national conferences and professional meetings.

### **Speakers:**

**Douglas Krakower, MD**, Division of Infectious Diseases, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Research Scientist, The Fenway Institute, Department of Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Douglas Krakower is Faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Research Scientist at The Fenway Institute, and Associate Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. His research focuses on ways to optimize HIV prevention in healthcare and community settings with a focus on implementing HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP). His clinical practice encompasses general infectious diseases and HIV treatment and prevention.

**Kathrine Meyers, DrPH, MS, MPP**, Assistant Professor of Bio-Behavioral Sciences, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Kathrine Meyers is an Assistant Professor of Bio-Behavioral Sciences at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is a social scientist devoted to addressing health inequity by accelerating access to proven therapeutic, preventative, and diagnostic interventions by marginalized and vulnerable populations. Her research focuses on designing and delivering community-centered interventions in ways that consider psychosocial, sociocultural, and institutional factors that influence access to effective interventions in real world settings. She is currently Principal Investigator on two NIMH-funded PrEP implementation studies (R01MH119884, R01MH123262 MPI) investigating the process by which different PrEP modalities are introduced and integrated into domestic and international health systems. In addition, she is PI on a HRSA/MAHF-sponsored Special Project of National Significance to accelerate equitable implementation of injectable treatment for HIV in clinical sites across the US (The ALAI UP Project). Her implementation science projects are characterized by the robust use of stakeholder engagement throughout the project life cycle from design through dissemination of results. Dr. Meyers earned her DrPH from the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, a Masters of Science in Clinical and Translational Research from The Rockefeller University, and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's John F Kennedy School of Government.

**Anthony Martinez, MD, AAHIVS, FAASLD**, Associate Professor of Medicine  
Jacobs School of Medicine and Medical Director, Hepatology at the Erie County Medical Center,  
Buffalo NY

Dr. Martinez cares for patients with liver disease and addiction disorders, including opiate dependency, viral hepatitis, alcoholic and fatty liver disease, at Erie County Medical Center where he is the medical director of hepatology. His clinic "La Bodega" has been recognized both nationally and internationally as a novel co-localized model for the management of viral hepatitis and addiction disorders. Dr. Martinez has lectured around the world on Hepatitis C management among people with substance use disorders. His team's work has been presented at the annual liver meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver; the annual conference of the International Network On Viral Hepatitis in Substance Users and at the International Liver Congress.

His research involves improving hepatitis C treatment in populations disproportionately affected by HCV, particularly people who inject drugs. He has been a primary and co-investigator on numerous clinical trials related to hepatitis C and fatty liver disease and he is board certified by the ABIM and the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

A fierce advocate, he works to eliminate hepatitis C treatment restrictions throughout the United States and in Europe.

Dr. Martinez is a Fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease where he serves on the HCV special interest group steering committee; the European Association for the Study of The Liver; the American Society of Addiction Medicine; he is an ambassador and co-chair of the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation HCV Committee.

**Laura Hinckle Bachmann, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP**, Chief Medical Officer, Division of STD Prevention, NCHHSTP, CDC



Dr. Bachmann is Chief Medical Officer in the Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior to coming to CDC in 2018, Dr. Bachmann was a Professor of Medicine at Wake Forest University Health Sciences (Winston-Salem, NC) and Medical Director, Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division (NC). Boarded in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Bachmann specializes in STD and HIV care with experience practicing in academic and public health settings for over 20 years. Her research has addressed a variety of STI/HIV control issues in both clinical and non-clinical settings. Dr. Bachmann's Clinical Team led the development of CDC's *Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services, 2020* and the *2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines*.

## **Special Presentation: What new data is saying about youth and STD testing**

**Moderator:** Patricia Dittus, PhD, Associate Director for Science, Division of Adolescent and School Health, CDC

Patricia Dittus, PhD is the Associate Director for Science in the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Dittus leads and directs research efforts in the division, much of which focuses on prevention of risk behaviors and experiences of adolescents, particularly those at greatest risk of negative outcomes. In her previous position as a Lead Scientist in the Division of STD Prevention at CDC, she sought to improve adolescent access to sexual and reproductive health care that is adolescent- and LGBT-friendly, both through the establishment of referral systems in school and community settings and through working with non-traditional partners to provide STI and HIV testing to youth. Dr. Dittus began her career at CDC in 1999 as a Health Scientist in DASH, contributing her parenting and attitude theory expertise to research on parental influences on adolescent risk behavior and the evaluation of parent-based interventions to reduce adolescent STI, HIV, and pregnancy. Dr. Dittus has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters and two books. She obtained her doctoral degree in Social Psychology from the University at Albany, State University of New York.

### **Speakers:**

**Kathleen Ethier, PhD**, Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health, CDC

Kathleen Ethier, PhD is the Director of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Ethier brings a wealth of public health experience and leadership in addressing health issues of youth and women, with a focus on HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy, as well as supporting program improvement, strategic programs, and monitoring and evaluation. She most recently served as the Director of CDC's Program Performance and Evaluation Office, where she contributed to advancing CDC program strategy, performance measurement, and evaluation.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Ethier spent six years on the research faculty at Yale University working on studies of HIV, STDs, and unplanned pregnancy prevention among women and adolescents. In 1999, she joined CDC as a Senior Scientist in the Division of STD Prevention to lead the development and evaluation of interventions to prevent HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. She has served in a variety of leadership and management roles at CDC, including Acting Director of the Financial Management Office and the Division of Oral Health, as well as lead for the Adolescent Health Goal Team.

Dr. Ethier's research has included psychosocial, behavioral, organizational and clinical factors related to women's health, maternal health and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. She has authored or co-authored numerous articles and book chapters for peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Ethier earned her PhD in social psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

**Thomas Gift, PhD**, Branch Chief, Clinical, Economic and Health Services Research Branch Division of STD Prevention, CDC

Thomas L. Gift, PhD, is Chief of the Clinical, Economics, and Health Services Research Branch (CEHSRB) in the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP), which is part of the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at the CDC. CEHSRB manages the National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) cooperative agreement (<https://nnptc.org/>) and conducts clinical, health services, economic, and mathematical modeling studies on STI transmission and prevention. CEHSRB also manages DSTDP's participation in the NCHHSTP Epidemiologic and Economic Modeling Agreement (NEEMA), a cooperative agreement with Stanford University and the University at Albany-SUNY. Dr. Gift joined CDC in 1997 as a Steven R. Teutsch Prevention Effectiveness Fellow. His work during the fellowship and after he joined DSTDP focused primarily on cost-effectiveness analysis of chlamydia screening and treatment interventions. Since 2010 he has served as a branch chief in DSTDP. He earned a PhD in economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1997.

**Jami Leichter, PhD**, Acting Associate Director of Science, Division of STD Prevention, CDC

Jami Leichter, PhD is the acting associate director for science in the Division of STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She received her PhD in applied experimental psychology from Southern Illinois University with a specialization in measurement and evaluation in public health. Prior to joining CDC in 1999, she was an associate scientist for Southern Illinois University Student Health Programs. Her current research activities include evaluating STD-related laws and policies, access to and use of sexual and reproductive health services, the infrastructure for STD prevention in the United States, and behavioral surveillance.

### **Panel 3: Mpox: lessons from the field**

**Moderator:** Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH; Director, Division of HIV Prevention, CDC and Deputy Coordinator for the National Monkeypox Response

Dr. Daskalakis is an infectious disease physician who serves as the Deputy Coordinator of the White House National Monkeypox Response. He works closely with Robert Fenton, Coordinator of the WH National Monkeypox Response, leading the coordination across agencies to control the Monkeypox virus outbreak. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Daskalakis served locally and nationally as a leader in public health as the Director for the Division of HIV Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Disease Control, and the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV and then Deputy Commissioner of Disease Control at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Daskalakis is recognized internationally as an expert in HIV prevention and has focused much of his career on the treatment and prevention of HIV and other STIs as an activist physician with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities. Dr. Daskalakis has extensive experience with outbreak response including serving as incident commander during the measles outbreak of 2018-2019 and COVID-19 in 2020 while at NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He also served as Deputy Incident Manager of the vaccine taskforce in CDC's COVID-19 response in 2021.

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Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans. He is board certified in infectious diseases and is a Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

**Bruce “Bryce” W. Furness, MD, MPH, CAPT, US Public Health Service, CDC Medical Epidemiologist at the DC Health and Wellness Center**

Bruce (“Bryce”) W. Furness, MD, MPH is a Medical Epidemiologist with the CDC’s DSTDP who has been embedded within the Washington, DC DOH since 2002. He has acted in many different capacities: as the Acting Chief, Division of STD Control; as the Chief Medical Officer, Southeast STD & Tuberculosis Control and Chest Clinics; and, currently, as the Strategic Information Division’s STD Medical Epidemiologist. Highlights of his tenure include starting and evaluating the District’s Internet Partner Notification Program to manage pseudo-anonymous partners of syphilis and HIV cases; starting and managing the District’s School-based STD Screening Program; starting and running Whitman-Walker Health’s Transgender Health Clinic; guiding WWH’s Gay Men’s Health & Wellness Clinics; and improving the DC Health and Wellness Center’s PrEP Clinic. He is a subject matter expert on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender health and has recently published several articles on transforming primary care for LGBT people. During the 2022 Multinational Mpox response, Bryce was an SME on CDC’s Community Outreach and Partner Engagement (COPE) Team and was diagnosing, treating, and preventing mpox cases at the DCHWC.

**Jason Beverly, RN, MSN, FNP-BC, STD & TB Control Division Chief in the HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, & TB Administration**

Jason is a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner who serves as Division Chief of the STD and TB Control Division, part of the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA) at DC Department of Health. Prior to his work at DC Health, Jason worked extensively with vulnerable youth in Washington, DC, including work at a school-based health center providing adolescent primary care and on the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital Kids Mobile Medical Clinic, a free pediatric primary care clinic serving low resource areas of DC. Prior to that, he spent 10 years as an RN at Children’s National Medical Center in the pediatric ICU. He received both his BSN and MSN from Georgetown University.

**Keshia Lynch, HIV Program Director, One Community Health**

Keshia is a dedicated healthcare professional with over a decade of experience in educating, advocating, and caring for individuals living with or at risk of HIV. As the current HIV Program Director at One Community Health in Sacramento, Keshia leads a team that serves 3,100 patients living with HIV/AIDS, ensuring that they have access to high-quality care that is free of stigma and discrimination.

Prior to her current role, Keshia managed the HIV Program at LifeLong Medical Care, overseeing four clinic locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County. She also worked at the California Department of Public Health, State Office of AIDS, Prevention Branch, where she focused on Local Capacity Building and Racial Equity work for the state of California.

Keshia received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science with a focus in Community Health from California State University, Fresno. Her desire is to be a voice at the table that determines the future of not only the HIV program but also the destiny of One Community Health and health equity within

Sacramento County. She finds great joy in addressing health inequities, disparities, and social determinants of health amongst underserved communities and is dedicated to making an impact in the lives of her patients.

**Mahyar Mofidi, DMD, PhD, CAPT USPHS** and Director of the Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs, HRSA

Captain Mahyar Mofidi is the Director of Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau. He leads and directs the administration of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part C, D, and F dental programs managing approximately \$300 million budget that supports over 600 community based organizations in providing comprehensive health care and support services to people with HIV. Captain Mofidi leads a diverse, multidisciplinary staff of 60 in strategic thinking, ongoing visioning for new and emerging public health priorities, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven innovative projects to further the mission of the HIV/AIDS Bureau and ending the HIV epidemic. He provides strategic advice on a broad range of public health program and management initiatives in HRSA including rural health, gender affirming care, and oral health. Before joining HRSA, Captain Mofidi was a faculty member of the University of North Carolina's School of Dentistry and a research associate with the Cecil Shep's Center for Health Services Research at UNC. He has over 25 years of experience in public health with a deep passion to serve underserved populations.

**Justin C. Smith, MS, MPH**, Director of the Campaign to End AIDS, Positive Impact Health Centers

Justin Smith is the Director of the Campaign to End AIDS at Positive Impact Health Centers in Atlanta, GA where he helped to develop and implement the Ending the HIV Epidemic strategy for Metro Atlanta. He currently serves as a member of the Atlanta Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory board and is the Co-chair of the Stigma and Disparities subcommittee of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

For the last 20 years, Justin has worked in a variety of capacities in LGBTQ health and HIV research, focusing primarily on improving our understanding of the social determinants of HIV among marginalized communities in the United States, particularly Black gay and bisexual men. Previously, he worked in the Division of HIV Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). Justin's research has been published in some of the leading academic journals in public health, and he has presented frequently at professional conferences addressing HIV. His writings and commentary on issues at the intersections of public health, sexuality, and popular culture have appeared in media outlets including *The Washington Post*, *Propublica*, *CNN*, *NPR*, *WIRED*, *Capital B*, *The Daily Beast*, *Al-Jazeera*, and *CNP's The Reckoning*.

Justin holds an MS in Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences from Emory University, an MPH in Health Behavior from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an AB in Sociology and Community Health from Brown University.