2014 Sujal Parikh Symposium Speakers

Keynote Speakers:

Vincent Iacopino, MD, PhD
Vincent Iacopino is currently the Senior Medical Advisor at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and an adjunct professor of medicine with the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Iacopino is one of the pioneers in conceptualizing the relationship between health and human rights and has authored 80 health and human rights publications. He has conducted medical fact-finding investigations and documented a wide range of human rights violations all over the world, including in Afghanistan, Botswana, Burma, Chad, Chechnya, Iraq, Kosovo, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, the United States, and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Iacopino has taught health and human rights courses at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health since 1995 and is a senior research fellow at the Human Rights Center of the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the former medical director of Survivors International of Northern California, a non-profit organization providing medical and psychological assistance to survivors of torture from around the world. He was the principal organizer of an international effort to develop UN guidelines on effective investigation and documentation of torture and ill treatment (the Istanbul Protocol) and has served as a consultant to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Dr. Iacopino has also examined medical records and/or testified in more than a dozen detainee cases at Guantánamo Bay. In 2004, Dr. Iacopino received the Center for Victims of Torture’s Eclipse Award for extraordinary service on behalf of torture survivors. In 2005, he also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Medicine of the University of Minnesota.

Jonathan Shaffer, Community Engagement Coordinator, Partners in Health
Jon Shaffer currently serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Partners In Health, a global health non-profit founded in 1987 with projects in Haiti, Rwanda, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Russia, Peru, and the United States whose mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. As Community Engagement Coordinator, Shaffer works to build a community organizing strategy that can strengthen the movement for global health equity. Previously, Jon served for two years as the Executive Director of GlobeMed, during which time its national network grew from 17 university-based chapters and 500 students to 46 chapters and more than 1,500 students, all working in partnership with 47 grassroots health organizations on four continents.

Lightning Talks 1

Paul Draus, PhD
Topic (tentative): Sex work, drug use, and the problem of agency
Dr. Draus is the Director of Public Administration, Director of Public Policy and an Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Michigan-Dearborn. He earned his PhD from Loyola University Chicago in 2001. From 1992 until 2000 he was a public health field worker, specializing in tuberculosis control, first in New York City and then in Chicago. He is the author of Consumed in the City: Observing Tuberculosis at Century’s End (Temple University Press, 2004) and has published extensively on health issues, behaviors and social contexts related to substance abuse in rural and urban areas. His current research focuses on the factors and contexts that contribute to marginality, mobility and recovery among former street sex workers and returning citizens or ex-offenders in the city of Detroit.

Senait Fisseha, MD, JD
Topic (tentative): Role of academic institutions in global health
Dr. Fisseha is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Chief of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Michigan. In addition, she has been serving as the Medical Director for the Center for Reproductive Medicine at the University of Michigan since 2007. With her special interest in family planning, infertility, global women’s health and reproductive ethics and law, Dr. Fisseha combines
Phyllis Meadows, PhD, MSN, RN

Topic: The art and science of community health engagement

Dr. Meadows serves as Associate Dean for Practice at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, focusing her efforts on developing a comprehensive strategy for the School to improve the public health workforce and establish the academic health department model. As a faculty member of the Department of Health Management and Policy, she develops and teaches courses in public health administration and public health policy. As a Senior Fellow – Health for the Kresge Foundation, Dr. Meadows is designing a national initiative for community health centers. She serves on numerous local, state, and national Boards and Advisory Committees. These include the State of Michigan Department of Public Health Board of Directors, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Executive Nurse Fellows National Advisory Committee, and the Jonas Fund – Center for Nursing Excellence in New York. Dr. Meadows also serves on the Review Board for the American Journal of Nursing, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies’ Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement.

Panel: The Intersection of Medicine and Law in the Pursuit of Human Rights

David Koelsch, JD (moderator)

Dr. Koelsch is an Associate Professor and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic and the Asylum Law Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. The Immigration Law Clinic represents immigrants on a variety of legal issues, including abandoned immigrant children and abused immigrant women. Professor Koelsch also teaches U.S. Immigration Law and a comparative U.S.-Canada Immigration Law course as well as a Seminar on Spirituality and the Law. The American Immigration Lawyers Association named him the 2009 Outstanding Immigration Law Professor.

Elizabeth Campbell, JD

Professor Campbell is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law in the Human Trafficking Clinic. Her research and teaching interests focus on human trafficking, immigration, domestic violence, and criminal law, and she is a member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Taskforce. She is spearheading a pilot project in partnership with Washtenaw County aimed at better responding to victims of human trafficking that are arrested and/or charged with prostitution and related offenses. Prof. Campbell oversees the Human Trafficking Legal Project, which is a comprehensive online database of human trafficking cases. She received her BA, with distinction, from the University of Michigan and earned her JD, cum laude, from Michigan Law. During law school, she was a Michigan refugee and asylum law fellow with the Refugee Status Appeals Authority in New Zealand and a project coordinator for Family Law Project, a division of Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

Michele Heisler, MD

Dr. Heisler is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan medical school and research scientist at the Ann Arbor VA’s Center for Clinical Management Research. She is Co-Director of the University of Michigan’s Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Clinical Scholars Program, and Associate Director of the UM Medical School’s Global REACH program. Dr. Heisler is also on the board of directors as Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), and before her medical training Dr. Heisler worked for the United
Nations Human Rights Commission and spent four years as a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation helping develop and strengthen human rights organizations and programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Heisler’s research focuses on developing and evaluating health system and behavioral interventions to enhance self-management support for patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart failure, and she currently is leading several federally funded randomized controlled effectiveness studies examining different models. She has authored over 100 peer-reviewed studies in medical and public health journals.

Claire Gasamagera, BS
Ms. Gasamagera holds a bachelor degree in Food Technology from the Kigali Institute of Technology. She was born with HIV in 1983 and has grown up with it her whole life. She lost her parents when she was 17, at which time she became the head of family taking care of her younger siblings. She became an HIV activist at the age of 18, fighting for the rights of young people living with HIV.

Ms. Gasamagera founded and initiated a nonprofit organization called Kigali Hope Association for young people living with HIV, advocating for sexual reproductive health of HIV sufferers. She received two awards for her work on HIV and AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health, and Human Rights. She has served as the member of the first Community Review Panel for the HIV young Leaders Funds in 2008. She joined the International AIDS conference in 2011 where she serves as a member of the Community Program Committee for the International AIDS Society. She served as a member of the Youth Technical working group for ICASA in 2011. Her advocacy went regional when she was elected to represent ICW East Africa as the first ever under-30-year-old representative of the Women Living with HIV Network. She has served as a youth representative in the High-level Commission on HIV prevention chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Michel Sidibe. She has attended several international gathering and she has received extensive training in HIV and AIDS advocacy, project developments, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. She is currently living in the US, establishing a community organization of immigrants infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Ms. Gasamagera recently joined the International AIDS Alliance serving as Key Correspondent. She is currently engaged in the Detroit World AIDS Day movement. Her passion is writing, and she is developing her own biography called “My father is my hero.” Her dream is to become a “big books” writer like her role model, Dr. Michel Sidibe, and a teacher.

Lightning Talks II

Gary Harper, PhD, MPH
*Topic (tentative): Partnering with community organizations*
Dr. Harper is a Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School Of Public Health. He is a member of the Behavioral Leadership Group within the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions, and a former member of the NIH’s Office on AIDS Research Advisory Council. Dr. Harper’s research and community work have focused on the health promotion needs of adolescents who experience varying degrees of oppression and marginalization, especially gay/bisexual male youth and youth of color, with a focus on giving voice to the social justice needs of young people. For more than 20 years Dr. Harper has worked collaboratively with community agencies and community members to develop and evaluate a range of culturally and developmentally appropriate sexual health promotion/HIV prevention programs for youth, both in the US and in Kenya. In Dr. Harper’s HIV prevention research he utilizes various qualitative research methods, especially those used to understand the lived experiences of African American and Latino gay/bisexual male youth.

Hari Conjeevaram, MD
*Topic: Disaster relief: Working in unity*
Dr. Conjeevaram is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School. He specializes in gastroenterology and hepatology and also serves as the director of the GI Fellowship Training Program. His passion for medical voluntarism in the settings of disaster relief have led him to travel to Sri Lanka in 2004 after the Indian Ocean tsunami, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, and more recently,
to Haiti in 2010 in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Dr. Conjeevaram’s work in Haiti was featured in an article by Kevin Brown in The University Record Online in which he describes his experiences: He volunteered for a Haitian relief service through the Sri Sathya Sai Organization in which he worked with a group of physicians from the US, Canada, and Latin America to provide medical care and support to communities struck by the earthquake. He worked with his colleagues out of two community churches and saw around 300 patients a day. Dr. Conjeevaram has described his experiences in Haiti as one of the most enlightening and fulfilling volunteer experiences he has had so far.

Denise Gray-Felder, APR

*Topic: The right to good health: Community participation and citizens rights in disease prevention*

Ms. Gray-Felder is the current Chief Communications Officer of the University of Michigan Health System, where she leads a team responsible for public relations, marketing, social media, digital arts, web presence, and physician and consumer communication. Prior to joining UMHS, she was president and CEO of the Communication for Social Change Consortium, a US- and UK-registered non-profit organization working globally to apply communication to public health and other global development issues including AIDS, malaria, food security and malnutrition. She has more than 35 years of multifaceted communication, marketing, management, and issues management experience, with proven leadership in positively addressing social issues facing people living in poverty. She has worked in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors focusing on high-level strategic media placements, developing and implementing advocacy campaigns, reputation and risk management, organizational positioning, culture change, labor and employee communication, policy communication, and community engagement in more than 40 countries. As the founding president of the Communication for Social Change Consortium, she was an inspirational leader and successful advocate. She holds a BA in journalism from the University of Michigan and a MA in broadcasting from Wayne State University, as well as a certificate in global marketing from the UM Ross School of Business Executive Program. She has been a communication and business school adjunct professor at several colleges and universities in the United States, Rwanda, Colombia, Jamaica, Canada, Europe and Singapore and has produced numerous book chapters, reports, learning CDs, publications, newspaper and magazine articles. A former newspaper reporter, magazine editor and broadcast producer, she is a frequent and accomplished speaker on communication for development and global communication challenges.

**Panel: Using Technology to Promote Health and Social Justice**

Devika Bagchi, JD (moderator)

Ben Gubernick, JD

Ben Gubernick directs research and development for the UM Third Century Online Court Project, a multi-million dollar initiative, which is using technology to make courts more accessible to litigants. He has extensive experience in the relationship between government structures and social problems, with an emphasis on identifying opportunities for scalable, technology-based reform. He is also a licensed attorney, visiting fellow at The University of Michigan Law School, and co-founder of Court Innovations Inc., an Ann Arbor software startup. He received his JD with honors from UM Law in 2011.

Naresh Gunaratnam, MD

Dr. Gunaratnam is the President of VeAhavta, a Ann Arbor-based non-profit organization that supports Grace Care Center, in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. Grace Care Center was established in 2002, originally as a shelter for impoverished girls who were orphaned or abandoned during the Sri Lankan Civil War. After the devastating tsunami in 2004, Grace opened its doors to displaced elders. Today, Grace provides a loving and safe home to 33 girls and 26 elders. Dr. Gunaratnam has played a vital role in the success of Grace Care Center since its establishment. During the past year, he has spearheaded the development of a multi-disciplinary healthcare model aimed at providing high-quality, low-cost care to the residents at Grace. The project, which has brought together students with medical, business, and engineering backgrounds, is leveraging technology in novel ways to create a new paradigm of care that has the potential to be expanded to other impoverished communities in the future. In addition to his extensive work with Grace Care Center, Dr. Gunaratnam is a gastroenterologist in the Ann Arbor
area and serves as an invaluable mentor for medical students at the University of Michigan Medical School. He received his MD degree from the University of Virginia Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dentistry.

**Lightning Talks III**

**Richard Tolman, LMSW, PhD**

*Topic: Engaging men as allies to end gender-based violence: A growing global movement*

Dr. Tolman is a professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. He received his doctorate in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his MSW from the University of Michigan. Professor Tolman's work focuses on the effectiveness of interventions designed to change violent and abusive behavior, and the impact of violence on the physical, psychological and economic well-being of victims. He began his work in this area as a practitioner working with men who batter in 1980. His current projects include research on the impact of and prevention of abuse during pregnancy and involvement of men and boys as allies to end men’s violence against women. He is currently co-Director of the Global Research Program on Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention, a collaborative project between the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota.

**Panel: Ending Mass Incarceration in Michigan**

**Carol Gray, MPH (moderator)**

**Debra S. Wright, MSW**

Ms. Wright received her Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan in 1995. Since then, she has spent about nine years working in the field of HIV/AIDS doing program administration for housing programs in Detroit, and working at Michigan Advocates Exchange, Inc., a law firm providing legal services to people with HIV/AIDS. Debra currently works as a program director at the Engagement Center, a crisis intervention program through Home of New Vision. Debra is a person in long-term recovery.

**Frank C Rodriguez**

Mr. Rodriguez worked as a staff paralegal for Prison Legal Services of Michigan, Inc. (PLSM). He is currently doing parole consulting, assisted the State Appellate Defender Office with its Clemency and Commutation Project, is an affiliate member in the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM), a member of Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending (CAPPs), and a member of the Michigan Campaign for Justice.

**Kathleen Schaefer, LPC**

Ms. Schaefer is a licensed professional counselor and Ph.D candidate in the College of Education at Wayne State University. She is also a part-time faculty member at Wayne State University in the College of Education. She is the current President of Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending (CAPPs) and founder of a consulting firm (since 2002) providing sentencing, parole and commutation consulting and counseling to correctional clients and their attorneys in both State and Federal criminal justice matters. She has 26 years service experience in providing counseling, management and case supervision of adult prisoners, parolees and probationers corrections in Michigan.

**Prashant Yadav, PhD**

*Topic: Global health market dynamics*

Dr. Yadav is a Senior Research Fellow at the William Davidson Institute (WDI) and Director of the Health Care Research Initiative at WDI. He also holds faculty appointments at the Ross School of Business and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Dr. Yadav’s research explores the functioning of health care supply chains using a combination of empirical, analytical and qualitative approaches. He serves as an advisor in the area of pharmaceutical supply chains to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, World Health Organization, UK Department for International Development, and many other global health organizations. He served as a member of the Institute of Medicine’s committee on strengthening food and drug regulation in developing
countries, advisory board member of several public private partnerships and currently serves as co-chair of the Procurement and Supply Chain Working Group of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership.

Prior to coming to the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan, Dr. Yadav was a Professor of Supply Chain Management at the MIT-Zaragoza International Logistics Program and a Research Affiliate at the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics where he led the creation of a high impact research initiative focused on pharmaceutical supply chains in developing countries. Dr. Yadav received his PhD from the Manderson Graduate School of Business at the University of Alabama. He received his MBA from the FORE School of Management and his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology.

**SOUP Dinner Organizations:**

**Hope Clinic** in Ypsilanti provides free medical care, as well as preventative and restorative dental care to low-income children and adults without medical insurance. They also provide many other basic services including hot meals and groceries to those in the surrounding communities. Founded 30 years ago, most care that Hope provides is based solely on volunteers, including over 100 medical and dental professionals each month, and over 250 others who help with food distribution, administration, and more. Learn more at [www.thehopeclinic.org](http://www.thehopeclinic.org).

**Street Medicine Detroit**’s mission is to ensure access to quality medical care for Detroit’s unreached homeless population. They aim to bridge the gaps between the homeless and medical communities by building relationships and offering companionship and respect. Started in 2012 by a Wayne State University Medical Student, Street Medicine Detroit strives to address the unique problems of the homeless through a psychosocial and interdisciplinary model of care that focuses on an individual’s own goals and needs. Learn more at [www.streetmedicinedetroit.org](http://www.streetmedicinedetroit.org).

**Ozone House** is a community-based agency that helps young people in Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives through intensive intervention and prevention services. Established in 1969, Ozone House focuses on providing support to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and their families so that they can reach their full potential. Learn more at [www.ozonehouse.org](http://www.ozonehouse.org).

**Sit On It Detroit** is an effort to create more seating at Detroit area bus stops. Currently, more than half of bus stops in the city are without seating and Sit On It aims to fill this void by creating benches out of reclaimed wood from abandoned houses and businesses within the city. On top of providing seating for those using public transit, Sit On It plans to equip each bench with a built-in bookshelf, encouraging citizens to read, borrow, and donate books. Learn more at [www.sitonitdetroit.com](http://www.sitonitdetroit.com).