2022 CU-CSU Summit
Speakers and Bios

**Dr. Carey Candrian** is an associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar. She is on the National Board of Directors at GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality. She received her MA in Organizational Communication and PhD in Health Communication from the University of Colorado. She completed post-doctoral training in Health Literacy from the Institute of Communication and Health at the University of Lugano, Switzerland.

Dr. Candrian’s research examines how communication affects outcomes in healthcare -- and specifically how it impacts older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) adults, and those who care for them. She has spent much of her career investigating how healthcare suffers when patients aren’t able to be open with medical professionals about who and what matters most to them.

She is a community-based researcher working to create more inclusive settings and interactions for LGBTQ older adults. She has been an advocate for the routine collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data in hospice. Her goal is to effect change on an interaction and policy level so that older LGBTQ adults receive the support they and their loved ones want, when they need it most.

Dr. Candrian’s work has been funded by the National Institute on Aging, the Cambia Health Foundation, The Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, The Next50 Initiative and The Lesbian Health Fund. She has appeared on Colorado Public Radio, NPR’s *Here and Now*, PBS NewHour’s *Brief but Spectacular* and the American Medical Association (AMA) Moving Medicine Series for her work advancing health equity for LGBTQ older adults.
Dr. Chrissy Chard was most recently an associate professor in the department of Health and Exercise Science at Colorado State University, as well as with the Department of Community and Behavioral Health with the Colorado School of Public Health. Her research interests include physical activity, self-esteem and body image in adolescent girls, as well as tailoring programming using Community-based Participatory Research.

Dr. Chard has recently become the Program Director for the Advanced Leadership Training Program with the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership (RIHEL). Dr. Chard has a strong interest in uncovering the ways that racism, structural bias and social inequities continue to impact health disparities. She also has a strong commitment to exploring the ways that whiteness and white supremacy show up in public health. Dr. Chard has taught courses including Social and Community Factors in Health, Public Health Leadership, and Foundations of Anti-Oppressive Public Health Practice and Research. She also co-founded and runs a non-profit organization for middle school students called Smart Fit Girls.

Originally from Denver, she has many years of experience in health behavior change and wellness coaching. She deeply values her close community of family and friends, as well as moving her body in ways that feel good. She loves spending time with her partner and three kiddos, Lucy, Jack and Jordan.

Dr. Bhargavi (Bhar) Chekuri (she/her) is an assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Colorado, and also faculty at the CU Climate and Health Program where her focus is graduate and continuing medical education. To that end, she co-directs a residency elective, as well as the Diploma in Climate Medicine at the University of Colorado. Her current areas of interest include the intersection of primary care, community medicine and climate change with a focus on systems medicine and health and gender equity. She is a technical contributor to the 5th National Climate Assessment, attended and presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). She is also co-chair of the Planetary Health Collaborative at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Prior to her climate medicine work, she completed her residency training at New Hampshire Dartmouth and attended medical school in Australia.
Dr. Maggie Clark is an Associate Professor of Environmental Epidemiology in the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences at Colorado State University with an affiliate appointment in the Colorado School of Public Health. Her research focuses on health and household energy in low-resource settings globally. Areas of focus have included identifying and interpreting appropriate measures of exposure and indicators of future disease risk, elucidating factors that may confer increased susceptibility to the adverse effects of air pollution exposures, and conducting studies within a community engaged framework.

Dr. Clark’s work has been funded by the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Fogarty International Center (FIC), and the UN Foundation’s Clean Cooking Alliance. Drawing on nearly 20 years of household air pollution research experience, she currently serves as a PI for the Sustainable Household Energy Adoption in Rwanda: Promoting Rural Health with Solar and Gas trial (SHEAR; NIH R01) and co-I for the Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) trial (NIH UM1, R56). Since 2019, she has served as a member of the NIH/FIC Clean Cooking Implementation Science Network, a ~25-member network formed to advance the science of uptake and scale-up of clean cooking technology in LMIC settings and to foster collaborative efforts and knowledge among researchers and implementers. In 2021-2022, she also served as a scientific mentor/advisor for the inaugural Science to Policy Academy for East Africa, sponsored by the Clean Cooking Implementation Science Network and Clean Cooking Alliance.

Dr. Sonali Diddi is an Engaged Faculty Lead in the Office of Engagement and Extension and an Associate Professor in the Department of Design and Merchandising, College of Health and Human Sciences at Colorado State University. Her research-based, interdisciplinary and systems thinking-informed approach to addressing sustainability-related issues and problems in textiles and apparel industry recognizes the ever-changing dimensions of the discipline to develop evidence-based solutions. She constantly seeks out ways to engage with the local community to gain insights regarding broader relevance of her research in society.

She was an expert consultant for BBC Radio (UK), New York Academy of Sciences and invited international speaker for numerous events to share her research. Advancing CSU’s land grant mission, she works with faculty, staff, students, and community partners to lead, advance, and communicate the impact of the engaged scholarship.
Dr. Danielle Frey is a veterinarian with a drive for community outreach and engagement. In her role as Director of Veterinary International and Outreach Experiences at Colorado State University (CSU), she has developed multiple student programs through collaboration with local communities and partnerships that focus on the community engagement and public health aspects of veterinary practice.

Her principal programs that work in underserved communities are located on the Baja Peninsula of Mexico and in the YK Delta of Alaska. These opportunities explore cultural and regional differences in approaches to the human animal bond and medicine as well as bringing access to care to communities experiencing barriers. In the creation of some of these programs, she works with collaborators to address complex issues at the heart of the intersection of animal and human health and the barriers to veterinary care.

Many of these programs create a bridge to access veterinary care for clients that experience various barriers to that care, including geographical, financial, and linguistic. Participating veterinary students are exposed to the theory and structures of providing this care and the role they play in the community as public health practitioners. Through access to off-site experiential learning opportunities, professional and leadership development, and innovative programming, students can build skills, resilience, and a global mindset.

In partnership with an instructor from the CSU College of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Dr. Frey is currently working on a research grant focused on creating a curriculum for Spanish for Veterinarians. She has assisted in the development and delivery of two Spanish for Veterinarians courses and worked to support the growth of the language track within the CSU veterinary curriculum. This research will help expand access to these critical language courses, to students outside of CSU.

A Colorado native, Danielle, graduated from CSU in 2004 with a degree in Biological Sciences, a minor in Spanish and received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from CSU in 2008. Prior to taking her role at CSU she worked in small and mixed animal practices as well as in shelter medicine. Her true passions lie developing relationships and working with others to create programs increasing community access to veterinary care, helping create healthy communities through a one health approach and fostering opportunities for students to strengthen their skills and confidence.

Danielle is also a contributing member on the development of the new DVM curriculum at CSU and actively participates on the Wellness (THRIVE), Coaching and Surgical Skills development committees. Each of these programs focus on student development and supporting resiliency and longevity in the profession.
Dr. Jon Geller is a graduate of Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine. After graduating, he practiced as an emergency clinician in Colorado for 20 years, and started up four emergency clinics. He became Board Certified as Veterinary Practitioner in Canine and Feline Medicine in 2010. In 2015 he founded The Street Dog Coalition, a non-profit charity, which provides free medical care, and other related services, to pets of owners at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in over 50 US cities. Recently, The Street Dog Coalition went international, setting up a vet clinic in a tent at the Romania-Ukraine border, where teams of veterinarians have been providing free veterinary care to pets of Ukraine refugees. Dr. Geller was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association for 2019. In the spirit of unbridled learning, he is currently enrolled as an MPH candidate at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Molly J. Gutilla is currently an Assistant Professor at the Colorado School of Public Health at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She received BS and MS degrees from The Ohio State University and worked in research settings at Williams College and the University of Michigan. In 2017, she completed a DrPH degree from the Colorado School of Public Health. Her interests include methods of community health assessment, spatial and social epidemiology, health in rural communities, and health justice. Dr. Gutilla serves on the board of several health organizations, including the Health District of Northern Larimer County and the Colorado Public Health Association. Her work focuses on facilitating the translation of public health science to public health action, including contributing to the strategic development of programs, policies, and services to improve community health. In recent years, Dr. Gutilla has delivered more than 50 invited talks on population health and health equity. She currently teaches graduate level courses in epidemiology, research methods, and public health leadership.
Dr. Natalie Nokoff is an assistant professor of pediatrics in the division of endocrinology. She is a physician scientist whose clinical and research focus is to understand outcomes for individuals who identify as transgender or gender diverse or who have a difference of sex development. She works in the clinical programs that serve these youth, the TRUE Center for Gender Diversity and the SOAR clinic at Children’s Hospital Colorado. The majority of her research focuses on understanding the cardiometabolic effects of pubertal blockade and hormone therapy for transgender youth. However, she also collaborates on numerous multi-site studies and registries, utilizes large databases, and conducts industry-sponsored trials to understand care delivered and to improve care for these populations.

Dr. Laura Podewils holds a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University, and joined Denver Health in November 2018. She initially held the position as Manager of Epidemiology with the Public Health Institute and is now the Associate Director for Learning Health Systems and Evaluation in the Office of Research at Denver Health. Prior to joining Denver Health, Dr. Podewils served 15 years as an Epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer, and then worked in the Division of Global Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV where she served as a Principal Investigator on several implementation and health service research projects on TB and HIV in Asia and many countries in Southern Africa. At Denver Health, her work has spanned from managing disease investigation and monitoring for communicable diseases for Denver residents, including COVID-19, to implementing and evaluating programs seeking to improve care and care linkage for persons who are justice involved, models of care for housing for persons experiencing homelessness, and examining racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes and clinical care cascades. Dr. Podewils also holds faculty appointments with the Colorado School of Public Health and Colorado State University. Dr. Podewils provides mentorship and support to MPH, PhD and DrPH students, interns, and preventive medicine and post-doctoral fellows. She has over 45 publications in peer-reviewed journals and is dedicated to ensuring analytics are used to inform programs and policies to improve health and health equity.
Regina Richards, PhD, MSW, has over 20 years of experience in academia as a business professional, educator, social worker, and diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) thought leader in the triplex systems of the CU School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado and CU Medicine (formerly UPI).

As vice chancellor of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (ODEICE) for the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, Dr. Richards is leading a team to develop campuswide DEI initiatives, which include key performance indicators as a system of accountability. She has created the Chancellor’s DEICE Leadership Council utilizing the practice of shared governance in decision-making for this committee, engaged in partnerships with campus leaders and key stakeholder groups to strengthen guidelines for lactation practices and gender-neutral bathrooms on our campus, as well as engages in partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and efforts to strengthen trusted ties with community stakeholders and constituents.

Before her current appointment, Dr. Richards was the inaugural director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the CU School of Medicine. The DEI work there included creating and developing programming, policies, education and trainings, and processes that span from the student pipeline to community engagement endeavors.

While in her role as director of the CU School of Medicine Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Richards co-authored with Dr. Steven Lowenstein the 2015 CU School of Medicine Diversity Plan, which outlined 104 recommendations that focused on creating programs, policies, practices and process in the mission-focused areas of education, clinical care, research and community engagement. A recent audit of the completion of those recommendations resulted in 94 of 104 recommendations being completed with measurable data to support those findings. This demonstrates the impact of partnership, supportive leadership and collaboration. “Human capital is one of our greatest assets.”

Regina received her doctoral degree in social work and higher education from Colorado State University, a master’s degree in social work with a concentration in community and leadership development from the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, and her bachelor’s degree in business administration from University of Phoenix. She loves spending time with family and friends, good food and good music especially live performances/concerts, and retail therapy. She has two adult children: Michael II and Dominique (with her now deceased spouse of 33 years, Michael). She is proud to say, “I look forward to continuing my happy fulfilled life, and the future with fiancé Derrick Jeffries.”
Dr. Stanley J. Szefler is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Director of the Pediatric Asthma Research Program for the Breathing Institute and the Section of Pediatric Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at Children’s Hospital Colorado. He is also the Interim Medical Director of the Research Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Dr. Szefler’s major contributions are directed toward the assessment of treatment response and developing an individualized approach to managing childhood asthma. For the past seventeen years, he has directed a school-centered asthma program (AsthmaCOMP) funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease Program. He is also Co-Principal Investigator for the Colorado site of the NHLBI DECIPHeR Alliance that is focused on reducing asthma risk in children with health disparities in the State of Colorado.

Shale Wong is a pediatrician at Children’s Hospital Colorado and professor in the departments of pediatrics and family medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine. She serves as Vice Chair for Policy and Advocacy and is the Executive Director of the Eugene S. Farley Jr. Health Policy Center. Wong served as health policy advisor to First Lady Michelle Obama for development and implementation of her signature child obesity initiative, Let’s Move, and assisted in launching Joining Forces with Mrs. Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to address wellness of military families. She is committed to achieving equitable child health, expanding approaches and integrating systems for prevention, resiliency and health of families, communities and populations. Working in the realm of policy and advocacy, Wong is focused on prioritizing child health policy needs and elevating the voices of youth advocates. A lifelong dancer, she is inspired by community artists to advance physical, emotional and social health through dance and the arts.