



**2009 Annual Networking Meeting
Washington, DC**

Speakers' Biosketches

Paula Braveman, MD, MPH is Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She received her degree in medicine from UCSF and in epidemiology from UC Berkeley, and practiced medicine in a range of settings serving diverse, disadvantaged populations. For more than two decades, Dr. Braveman has studied and published extensively on social disparities in health and health care and actively engaged in bringing attention to this field in the U.S. and internationally. Her research has focused on measuring and understanding both socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities, particularly in maternal and infant health and health care. During the 1990s she worked with World Health Organization staff in Geneva to develop and implement a global initiative on equity in health and health care. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with local, state, federal, and international health agencies to see research translated into practice with the goal of achieving greater equity in health. She has been a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences since her election in 2002.

Joseph P. Gone, PhD is assistant professor in the Department of Psychology (Clinical Area) and the Program in American Culture (Native American Studies) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He obtained his A.B. in psychology at Harvard University in 1992 and his doctorate in clinical and community psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. As a cultural psychologist, Gone addresses his research to a key dilemma confronting mental health professionals who serve Native American communities, namely how to provide culturally appropriate helping services that avoid the neo-colonial subversion of indigenous thought and practice. He has published articles and chapters concerning the ethnopsychological investigation of self, identity, personhood, and social relations in American Indian cultural contexts vis-à-vis the mental health professions, especially as these pertain to therapeutic processes and practices such as psychotherapy and traditional healing.

Aranthan S. Jones II or "AJ" is a Principal and a senior consultant to health care, financial services, and transportation clients at the Podesta Group. The Podesta Group is a preeminent Washington DC based bipartisan government relations firm and advises over 150 clients, 20% of whom are Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to going the Podesta Group, AJ was the Policy Director for the US House of Representatives (USHR) Majority Whip office, headed by Congressman James E. Clyburn of the 6th district of South Carolina. AJ was directly responsible for shaping policy and legislation in the following committees: Ways and Means, Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, Budget, and Transportation and Infrastructure. AJ has over a decade of work experience in healthcare policy, public health policy, urban policy, monetary finance policy, and sustainable development policy.

During his congressional tenure, AJ has received over 60 national awards and citations acknowledging his leadership in a myriad of public policy areas. AJ's policy and political insight was cited by the *Politico* newspaper which identified him as one of the top 10 democratic staffers in the 110th Congress and as a highly sought after recruit by top corporations and lobby—law firms. In 2006, AJ was publicly acknowledged by congressional members, fellow

staffers, and *The Hill* newspaper as one of the “Top 35 staffers under 35.” AJ was recognized by *Ebony Magazine* in 2005 as one of its top “30 Future Leaders Under 30,” and was profiled by CNN Headline News as one of the top four congressional staffers to be future national policy leaders.

Preceding his congressional career, AJ served as a short term consultant with the World Health Organization (WHO), a clinical research associate at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, a program specialist with Fogerty International Center at the National Institutes of Health, and a college research coordinator at the University Of Illinois School Of Public Health (UIC-SPH).

AJ has worked internationally in Nigeria, South Africa, and France. He can speak Yoruba (a prominent Nigerian language) and is currently learning conversational Hebrew.

Shawn D. Kimmel, Ph.D., received his Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan, and a Dual M.A. in Philanthropic Studies and American History from Indiana University. He is a 2006-2008 alumni of the W.K. Kellogg Health Scholars Program Community track, where he studied best practices for strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations to integrate policy research and advocacy into the design of community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects. His research was also directed at understanding how best practices in CBPR might be adapted to foster stronger *community-driven* research and policymaking partnerships, to better support the policy action and change goals of community-based organizations. In order to focus full time on this work, Dr. Kimmel recently founded and now directs *CDPolicy Consulting LLC*, which is dedicated “to working with and for communities to strengthen community power to drive policymaking.” As a consultant, researcher, and organizer focused on strengthening partnerships for community-driven policymaking, Shawn is especially committed to nurturing community organizing and community-driven research for policymaking to achieve health equity and sustainable urban development in Detroit and beyond. Toward this end, he has recently facilitated the launch of the Detroit Community Organizing Network, and is now building the Board for a new nonprofit organization—the *Detroit Center for Community-driven Policymaking*. This Center will create the support structures and collaborative public space to draw community organizers, artists, community-based researchers, planners, and policymakers together with community residents and leaders to develop strategic and coordinated campaigns for change that allow Detroiters to work together to become innovative leaders who transform their city into a model of participatory sustainable development and community health for the 21st century.

Dr. Kimmel’s research continues to be dedicated to understanding and strengthening the forms of policy-related training and capacity-building that will enable CBPR partnerships to engage in effective and strategic community-driven policy interventions. He also seeks to advance scholarship on the strategic impacts of CBPR at the policy level. His KHSP project, “Toward Strategic Measures for Building Community-Partnered Capacity for Policy Change,” was pursued in collaboration with Detroit community-based experts and University of Michigan faculty who were members of the Board of the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Detroit URC), and of the Steering Committee of the REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) Detroit partnership. Dr. Kimmel also assisted with the planning and implementation of the Detroit URC’s “Neighborhoods Working in Partnership” project. Following completion of his KHSP postdoc, Dr. Kimmel served as the Director of Policy Initiatives for the community-based organization Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ), where he worked to research and coordinate the policy elements of DWEJ’s environmental justice and sustainable development work at the local, state, and national levels.

Meredith Minkler, DrPH is Professor of Health and Social Behavior at the School of Public Health, Community Health and Human Development, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Minkler’s current research includes an ecological study of circumstances of American grandparents raising grandchildren and their families, using Census 2000 data on a .6% sample of the total population. The research examines the prevalence and correlates of grandparent caregiving, with attention to the individual, household, community and state levels of analysis. Initial

publications based on the research include a paper in *The Gerontologist* and a forthcoming article in *Social Work*. Dr. Minkler also is researching, with her colleagues, health disparities in disability in older Americans. An initial look at disability among diverse socioeconomic groups using the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey is underway, and an NIH grant is under review which would make possible a far more detailed ecological look at disability in the elderly. Dr. Minkler also continues to engage in critical research on gerontology, most recently examining problematic aspects of the concept of successful aging. Recent co-authored papers based on this work appear in the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* and *The Gerontologist*. Dr. Minkler is co-editor of several books in the field of social gerontology including *Critical Gerontology* (with Carol Estes, Baywood Publishers).

Angela G. Reyes, MPH, is the founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, a non-profit community-based organization, which she started in 1997 from her living room. Ms. Reyes is a founding board member of the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center, which was established in 1995 and involves multiple funded research and intervention projects aimed at increasing knowledge and addressing factors associated with health disparities of residents in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Reyes is actively involved in several of these community based participatory research (CBPR) projects examining and addressing, for example, the social and physical environmental determinants of cardiovascular disease, the environmental triggers of childhood asthma, and capacity building for policy change.

Ms. Reyes has been the recipient of several awards for her community work, including the Michiganiaan of the Year, Detroit Public Schools Community Service Award, and Corp! Magazine's Michigan's Most Influential Hispanic Leaders. Ms. Reyes is an international speaker about issues affecting the Latino community, including youth gangs and violence, CBPR, policy development and community organizing. She sits on numerous community boards and organizations, and is active in the political empowerment of the Latino community.

Her organization, the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, has developed a nationally recognized model of integrated services focused on youth and their families that include gang prevention and intervention, drop-out prevention, training in entrepreneurial skills and multi-media arts; support services for individuals transitioning out of prison such as case management, job readiness and placement, and tattoo removal; substance abuse and family counseling; HIV counseling and testing; Adult Education classes and training in technology.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD was appointed by President Obama to be the FDA principal deputy commissioner. He will serve as Acting Commissioner for Food and Drugs until the U.S. Senate confirms a new Commissioner of Food and Drugs. From December 2005 through March 2009, Dr. Sharfstein was the Commissioner of Health for the City of Baltimore. In this position, he led efforts to expand literacy efforts in pediatric primary care, facilitate the transition to Medicare Part D for disabled adults, engage college students in public health activities, increase influenza vaccination of healthcare workers, and expand access to effective treatment for opioid addiction. Under his leadership, the Baltimore Health Department and its affiliated agencies have won multiple national awards for innovative programs, and in 2008, Dr. Sharfstein was named a Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine.

From July 2001 to December 2005, Dr. Sharfstein served as minority professional staff of the Government Reform Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Henry A. Waxman. Dr. Sharfstein is a 1991 graduate of Harvard College, a 1996 graduate of Harvard Medical School, a 1999 graduate of the combined residency program in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, and a 2001 graduate of the fellowship in general pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Brian D. Smedley, PhD is Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC. In this position, Dr. Smedley oversees all of the operations of the Institute, which was started in 2002 with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Institute has a dual focus: to explore disparities in health and to generate policy recommendations on longstanding health equity concerns. Formerly,

Smedley was Research Director and co-founder of a communications, research and policy organization, The Opportunity Agenda (www.opportunityagenda.org), where he led the organization's effort to center equity in state and national health reform discussions and to build the national will to expand opportunity for all. To that end, Smedley is a co-editor, along with Alan Jenkins, of a book, *All Things Being Equal: Instigating Opportunity in an Inequitable Time*. Prior to helping launch The Opportunity Agenda, Smedley was a Senior Program Officer in the Division of Health Sciences Policy of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as Study Director for the IOM reports, *In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce* and *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, among other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health research policy. Smedley came to the IOM from the American Psychological Association, where he worked on a wide range of social, health, and education policy topics in his capacity as Director for Public Interest Policy. Prior to working at the APA, Smedley served as a Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA), sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Among his awards and distinctions, in 2004 Smedley was honored by the Rainbow/PUSH coalition as a "Health Trailblazer" award winner; in 2002 he was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus "Healthcare Hero" award; and in August, 2002, was awarded the Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest by the APA. Smedley holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in psychology from UCLA.

Shedra Amy Snipes, PhD, received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Bio-Cultural Anthropology from the University of Washington, and her B.S. in Anthropology and Human Biology from Emory University. She is a 2007-2009 alumnae of the W.K. Kellogg Health Scholars, Multidisciplinary Disparities Program where she pursued work in farmworker health disparities at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Currently, Dr. Snipes is a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Education and Career Development Program Fellow at the University of Texas School of Public Health within the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research.

As a bio-cultural anthropologist, Dr. Snipes' overarching interests are in the intersections between biology, culture, and health. Dr. Snipes has been awarded grants from the Southwest Agricultural Health and Safety Center (SWAgC) of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), as well as the National Science Foundation (NSF) to collect important information on key factors that are unique to the immigrant farmworker community. Her most recent study, entitled "The Migrant Farmworker Experience: An 'Ethno-Occupational' Health Assessment" targets the most vulnerable of the farmworker community, the migrant farmworker, as they travel from the Texas-Mexico border to find work. This research provides new, highly useful data on cultural notions associated with pesticide exposure, occupational illness, injury, and healthcare access among migrant farmworkers. Additionally, Snipes' work tests the feasibility of gathering biological samples from migrant farmworkers – a critical factor needed to assess risk in this vulnerable group. Dr. Snipes' history of research provides an important, first-hand account of the migrant farmworker experience through ethnographic observational data collection. Insight gained from her investigations will be used to inform reduction of occupational hazards among farmworkers through distribution of new, unexplored information specific to the migrant farmworker experience as well as the development of culturally-relevant community interventions.