



**UR Center for AIDS Research
Networking Event September 2014
Participant Biographies**

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Amina Alio*, PhD, Assistant Professor - Department of Public Health Sciences

Dr. Alio's research interests include: Research: Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Women's Health; Maternal Child Health; Perinatal outcomes; Program Evaluation; Global Health; Community Based Participatory Research. Dr. Alio is an applied anthropologist with extensive experience in community-based research, evaluation design, and qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Dr. Alio's research focuses primarily on health disparities and the impact of behavioral, psychosocial, and environmental factors on pregnancy outcomes, particularly among African Americans. Her international research is in women's reproductive health and HIV prevention in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Alio is also involved in the URMC's HIV Vaccine Trial Unit where she has been focused on efforts to engage communities of color in clinical trials.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Catherine Bunce RN, MS, CCRC- CTU Program Coordinator, and HVTU Clinical Research Site Coordinator

Ms. Bunce has been involved with the preventive HIV vaccine trials research for over 12 years and have served as Clinic Coordinator of the HIV Vaccine Clinical Trials Unit (HVTU) Clinical Research Site (CRS) since 2001. She also serves as the overall coordinator for the UR HIV / AIDS Clinical Trials Unit. In addition to her oversight and regulatory responsibilities, she leads a community education and outreach team to increase awareness about HIV vaccine research and to improve enrollment in HIV vaccine studies. Ms. Bunce has experience in managing and projecting budgets for multiple NIH funded clinical trials. She has also played an active role in the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and has served as the in-field representative for multiple Phase I-II clinical vaccine trials. Ms. Bunce serves on the HVTN Training Education Committee and will assist in the on-site training to the HIV vaccine research sites in Southern Africa.

Din-Geng Chen, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics at the School of Nursing

Dr. Chen's research is primarily on developing biostatistical methods and their applications to clinical trials, public health, and nursing research. He has published more than 100 refereed papers and 5 books titled "Clinical Trial Methodology (2010)", "Clinical Trial Data Analysis using R (2011)", "Interval-Censored Time-to-Event Data: Methods and Applications (2012)", "Applied Meta-Analysis using R (2013)" and "Clinical Trial Biostatistics and Biopharmaceutical Applications" by Chapman & Hall/CRC. Dr. Chen has extensive experience in teaching, research and biostatistical consulting in collaboration with medical and public health researchers on microarray, genetics, clinical trials, health behavior outcomes, environmental and toxicological applications along with biostatistical methodological development in Bayesian model, survival analysis, longitudinal data analysis, multi-level modeling and structure equation models.

Shaw-Ree Chen, PhD, Director of Institutional Performance Data Reporting and Program Evaluation, Trillium Health

From 2003-2014, Dr. Chen worked at the University of Rochester's Department of Environmental Medicine and the Life Sciences Learning Center. At the Life Sciences Learning Center, she developed case-based science curricula for middle and high school students and created hands-on science experiences and multimedia for students and the public. Her research interests in Environmental Medicine were in understanding how environmental health literacy and health literacy intersect to promote healthy behaviors, with particular interests in perinatal health and health in individuals living with chronic disease. She has collaborated with Dr. Bernard Weiss to conduct a qualitative study of attitudes and behaviors around environmental issues during pregnancy, and Dr. Emily Barrett to conduct a dietary intervention study to reduce phthalate exposure during pregnancy. The latter study also included qualitative analysis of attitudes towards behaviors that may reduce chemical exposures during pregnancy. She has collaborated with Dr. Marti Lindsey, COEC director at the University of Arizona, to qualitatively and quantitatively research knowledge and skills associated with Environmental Health Literacy.

In July 2014 Dr. Chen joined Trillium Health as the Director of Institutional Performance Data Reporting and Program Evaluation. Dr. Chen works collaboratively with service providers and Trillium's Department of Informatics to develop data collection and reporting systems and conducts qualitative program evaluation.

Roberto Corales, D.O., AAHIVS, Senior Director of HIV Medicine and Clinical Research and Staff Physician, Trillium Health

Dr. Corales is the Principal Investigator for clinical trials investigations and has written and lectured frequently on a variety of HIV-related topics including: conference updates, new antiretroviral drugs, novel treatments for HIV, HIV Resistance and Trillium Health's one-stop-shop model of care.

Emily Cosimano, RN, Study Coordinator - Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease

For more than eight years Emily has been working on both NIH and Pharmaceutical sponsored trials. She joined the IDD department over 2 years ago as a project nurse and has been active on many ACTG (AIDS Clinical Trials Group) protocols. Throughout her career she has been responsible for many aspects of a research study including protocol development, IRB applications, study start-up, recruitment, safety monitoring, and completion of source documents and case report forms.

Ann Dozier, Acting Chair and Associate Professor - Department of Public Health Sciences, Director, CFAR Program Evaluation

Dr. Dozier's current research and fieldwork focus is program evaluation methods including integration of qualitative and quantitative research methods and on maternal child health (MCH) outcomes. The latter includes data analysis, evaluation, and data driven program planning. Her current federally funded research focuses on implementation of evidence based practices to promote breastfeeding among low income and minority women using Community Based Participatory Research methods. She received the David A. Satcher Community Health Improvement Award in 2012. Dr. Dozier's interest in program evaluation extends to assessing system level change. She serves as the lead evaluator for several federally funded infrastructure grants including the Clinical Translational Science Institute, Center for AIDS Research, Community Transformation Grant and, previously, the National Center for Deaf Health Research. Through her other work within the CTSI, Dr. Dozier spearheads initiatives to improve recruitment and retention into clinical research focusing both on improving attitudes in the community about research participation and on improving recruitment and retention methods and tools used by UR investigators. Dr. Dozier's community participatory work extends to international venues. She led or participated in Rapid Assessment Procedures used to assess community perceptions, opinions and practices in Costa Rica and India (technology and health); the Dominican Republic (formative evaluation pre/post intervention of smoking cessation intervention in disenfranchised communities), Grenada (community based cardiovascular health initiative) and Tibet (micronutrient intake).

Theresa Fedor, Ph.D. - Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Rochester, School of Nursing.

Dr. Fedor's research takes a quantitative approach to analyzing the role that individual, social or cultural characteristics take in determining HIV prevention knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors. Furthermore, she is interested in the effect of the HIV epidemic and HIV prevention programs on interpersonal relationship dynamics, as well as individual and cultural beliefs related to sexual relationships. Much of her work has focused on HIV in Malawi, with a focus on the effects of prevention programs for married couples, women, and disadvantaged groups.

In recent work, using a sample of married individuals in rural Malawi, she examined the effects of learning HIV status for the first time on both HIV prevention behavior and marital stability. She has also examined trends in HIV prevention knowledge in Malawi from 1992 to 2010 in order to assess whether increases in prevention knowledge over time are occurring because younger birth cohorts grow up accepting new information more readily, or because everyone in Malawi, regardless of age or birth cohort, have had access to and have been receptive to new information. Another project closely examines attitudes towards HIV prevention tactics after enrollment in an intervention program in Malawi designed to educate participants on ways to engage in safer sexual behavior. Interesting findings from this study showed an increased likelihood for participants, especially female participants, of having a positive attitude towards a woman's right to protect against HIV risk. In the future, Dr. Fedor hopes to continue this line of research as well as expand her work to include HIV prevention related topics among high-risk groups in the United States.

Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH, Professor - Department of Family Medicine

Dr. Fiscella is Associate Director of the Center for Communication and Disparities Research and Co-Director of the Greater Rochester Practice-Based Research Network. His research interests are in health services to underserved populations, particularly those at risk for cancer, heart disease, and HIV. He is currently directing projects funded by the AHRQ, National Heart and Blood Institute, National Library of Medicine and PCORI. Dr. Fiscella, was recently awarded \$2M to Train Patients to use iPods, for decision making. Dr. Fiscella's project originated from and will be conducted through a collaborative effort involving HIV patients, HIV physician leaders, and HIV community organizations in Rochester and New York City. The project is designed to empower HIV patient through use of a hand-held, interactive personal health record, and group-based training in use of the device, web-access, and communication with patients' HIV clinician. Additional outcomes include patient activation, improved receipt of evidence-based care, improved health, and reduction in disparities. The URMC is one of 82 proposals approved by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute aimed to advance the field of patient-centered comparative effectiveness research.

Orlando Harris*, MS, A.P.R.N., F.N.P., Assistant Professor - School of Nursing

Dr. Harris did his dissertation research in Kingston, Jamaica where he lead a 10-month project to study the HIV prevention needs, and the social and cultural determinants of HIV risk, among young Jamaican men who have sex with men. His research interests also include gender and racial studies, and the sexual health practices of young MSMs. He is the first School of Nursing Ph.D. student to earn a Fulbright award.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Charles Kamen, PhD, MPH, Research Assistant Professor - Department of Surgery

Dr. Kamen is a clinical psychologist with a strong background and training in behavioral medicine, health disparities, and couples-based interventions. His research has focused on factors that lead to health disparities among sexual minority populations, specifically disparities in HIV risk and cancer diagnoses, as well as developing and testing dyadic interventions to address these disparities. He has been involved in a grant-funded randomized clinical trial of a group-based HIV prevention intervention targeting men and women living with HIV and reporting histories of trauma, as well as in development of a behavioral intervention targeting spouses and veterans reporting symptoms of trauma post-deployment. He is currently involved in conducting behavioral cancer control interventions with a dyadic focus, including an exercise intervention targeting sexual minority cancer patients and their caregivers. He is also trained in psychotherapeutic interventions for couples and families.

Mike Keefer, MD, Professor - Department of Medicine, Infectious Diseases, co-Director CFAR, Director CFAR Developmental Core

Dr. Keefer has over 20 years of experience in clinical aspects of HIV/AIDS research, with emphasis on preventive vaccination, as well as extensive administrative and leadership experience. Dr. Keefer has served as Director of the UR's HIV Vaccine Testing Unit since 1991 and became the Principal Investigator of the UR HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Unit in 2008. He has been chair of several vaccine studies, published extensively in the field of HIV vaccine research, and played a major role in the central administration of the NIH-supported 'HIV Vaccine Trials Network' (HVTN) since its inception in 1999. He continues to have several leadership roles for the network, including Co-chair of the HVTN 'Protocol Committee' and 'Protocol Allocation Committee', and membership on the 'Scientific Governance Committee', the 'Science Administration Group', the 'Network Evaluation Committee', and the HIV/AIDS Network Coordination Center's 'Legacy Project Working Group'. Through his roles with the HVTN, Dr. Keefer has gained extensive international research experience and has developed close relationships with HVTN research sites in Soweto and Cape Town, South Africa. In the local community, he has served on the Board of Directors of "AIDS Rochester, Inc." (1990-1999), and has a secondary appointment in the UR Center for Community Health. In addition, he heads a long-standing outreach effort in the local LGBT community and African-American/Latino communities that are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Finally, he is a founding member of the 'Rochester Faith Collaborative', which works with local African-American/Latino clergy to more effectively meet the needs of HIV-infected/affected members of the Rochester community.

James Kobie*, PhD, Assistant Professor- Department of Medicine, Infectious Diseases

The major goal of Dr. Kobie's research is to examine the mechanisms regulating the development of B cells that give rise to protective responses to HIV. Dr. Kobie has background in immunology in humans and in animal models, with emphasis on role of dendritic cells, CD4 T cells, and B cells in developing protective immune responses. He has expertise in human B cell biology; examining the cellular and molecular aspects involved in the induction and maintenance of autoimmune and protective immune responses and is proficient in development, validation, and implementation of innovative immunological assays for both in-depth mechanistic and large-scale human clinical research studies. His laboratory has been extensively characterizing the specificity and function of B cells from HIV patients with broadly neutralizing antibodies to understand the precise cellular origin of these antibodies and the mechanisms that control their generation. To examine the qualitative differences that may exist in the Env-specific B cell response to various HIV vaccine strategies and in different high-risk populations his laboratory is leading multiple HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) ancillary studies. He is also examining the potential of Human Endogenous Retrovirus-K (HERV-K) Env as a novel target for HIV prevention. Dr. Kobie is also a recipient of a HVTN/CHAVI Early Investigator Award, where he developed expertise in non-human primate models and has precisely examined the induction of HIV-Env specific B cell responses. Dr. Kobie is a recipient of CFAR pilot funding including his current project titled "Promoting Effective Humoral Responses Against HIV in the Setting of Substance Abuse."

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Amneris Luque, MD, Professor - Department of Medicine, Infectious Diseases, co-Director CFAR Clinical and Translational Sciences Core

Dr. Luque was appointed Medical Director of the URMCDivision of AIDS Care (DAC) in 1994 and Director in 2008, when she was also appointed leader of the UR AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Clinical Research Site. She has directed HIV clinical education in the Finger Lakes Region for over 22 years as the recipient of a NYS DOH AI grant: the Clinical Education Initiative. She served as member of the NYS DOH AI Medical Care Criteria Committee contributing to the design of clinical guidelines for HIV Care. Dr. Luque's research interests include studying HPV infection in HIV-infected patients, determinants of viral shedding in the female genital tract, neurological complications, and aging. She is a member-at-large of the ACTG Performance Evaluation Committee and the ACTG Women's Health Inter-Network Scientific Committee. Through a new Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality award (\$900,000, 3-year R24 grant), Dr. Luque, and her collaborator Dr. Wang will be leading a team in pioneering new ways to better circulate evidence-based practice guidelines amongst community providers who care for HIV-positive patients.

James McMahon*, PhD, Associate Professor - School of Nursing, co-Director CFAR Clinical and Translational Sciences Core

Dr. McMahon has conducted community-based health research, both domestic and international, in low-income underserved neighborhoods for over fifteen years. His work centers on the confluence of biological, behavioral, and social factors that contribute to the spread of infectious diseases in underserved populations, with special emphasis on the translation and implementation of biomedical interventions for disease prevention in social and community context. His substantive contributions have focused on HIV and hepatitis C virus epidemiology and prevention among urban drug users and heterosexual couples. He has also contributed to the development of novel designs and biostatistical methods in the health sciences, including sampling and recruitment of social dyads, multilevel dyadic data analysis, critical event analysis, simulation modeling, and community-level program evaluation. Dr. McMahon has been the recipient of 10 NIH R-level grants (four as principal investigator) and has served on over 30 NIH, AHRQ and CDC grant review committees. He teaches graduate courses in epidemiology, research measurement, and biostatistics. Dr. McMahon is a member of the national CTSI Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) novel methods committee, which directs the national agenda on CER methods. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the New York HIV Research Centers Consortium.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Diane Morse*, MD, Assistant Professor - Department of Psychiatry

Dr. Morse is an internist currently engaged in health services research in a project entitled "Women's Initiative Supporting Health" (WISH). A subset of WISH is the medical clinical project "Women's Initiative Supporting Health-Transitions Clinic" (WISH-TC). She is investigating methods to support physical and mental health among women with criminal involvement through grants from the National Institute of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse, the McGowan Charitable Fund, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

LaRon Nelson, PhD, RN, NP, Assistant Professor of Nursing, CFAR Associate Director for International Research

Dr. Nelson's overall program of research focuses on the primary prevention of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections among social marginalized groups within African and African Diaspora communities with a current focus on adult and adolescent men who have sex with men. His work with MSM is primarily concerned with understanding social and structural influences on HIV infection with the goal of generating knowledge that can be used in large-scale interventions that can address social/structural factors as part of a multi-pronged (e.g., behavioral, biomedical, social/structural) approach to HIV/STI prevention with this group.

As the newly appointed CFAR Associate Director for International Research, Dr. Nelson will provide consultations to CFAR members to facilitate international research, including establishing and maintaining international collaborations, identifying funding sources, grant and budget preparation, domestic and international regulatory procedures, and ethical and human subjects issues. In collaboration with Developmental Core he will provide mentorship to CFAR members new to the conduct of international research.

Katia Noyes, PhD, MPH, Professor - Department of Surgery

Dr. Noyes is Professor of Surgery and Public Health Sciences and Scientific Director of Surgical Health Outcomes and Research Enterprise (SHORE). She is a health services researcher with expertise in quality of care assessment, comparative effectiveness, and health outcomes and economic evaluations in

healthcare. She is co-Director of Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Key Function Committee for the University of Rochester Clinical and Translation Science Institute, and co-Director of Center for Research Implementation and Translation (CRIT) at the URM. Dr. Noyes has extensive experience working with interdisciplinary research teams on projects involving program evaluation, healthcare delivery and public health organizations funded by the NIH, AHRQ and other public and private sources. Dr. Noyes is has been involved in and led studies on evaluation of quality of life, cost and quality of long-term interventions, including cost-effectiveness of treatment for bladder, breast, and colorectal cancer, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis, use of implantable cardiac defibrillators, telemedicine, and effect of frailty on costs and quality of care.

Giovanni Schifitto, MD, MS, Professor - Neurology and Imaging Sciences

Dr. Schifitto is trained in Neurology and Experimental Therapeutics and is the Director of the Clinical Research Center at the University of Rochester. He has over 20 years of research experience in NeuroAIDS, having participated and led multiple epidemiological studies and clinical interventions for the treatment of HIV-associated neurological disorders. He has chaired the Neurology Subcommittee of the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) and within the ACTG is currently a member of the Antiretroviral Therapy Strategies Subcommittee and the Neurology Collaborative Science Group. In the last decade he has been involved in the development of neuroimaging biomarkers, which are important in understanding the evolution of HIV-associated CNS injury. More recently, he has been focusing on vascular aging, an important contributor to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease affecting older HIV infected individuals.

Theresa Senn*, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor Dept. of Medicine UR and Associate Professor (Research), Dept. of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University

Dr. Senn's primary research focus is on sexual health. She is interested in (a) investigating individual-level and community-level determinants of sexual risk behavior, (b) the development and evaluation of sexual risk reduction interventions, (c) understanding the intersection of violence/stress and sexual health, and (d) helping individuals infected with HIV to receive medical care. She is currently working on a CFAR supplement project titled "Development of a Technology-Based Intervention to Enhance Retention in HIV Care," as well as an NIMH-funded grant to develop and pilot test a sexual risk reduction intervention for women with a history of childhood sexual abuse.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Krupa Shah*, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor - Department of Medicine, Highland Hospital

Dr. Shah's current research investigates the feasibility of a behavior intervention in HIV+ older adults, which is being supported by a K23 Award sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. She also received a KL2 Mentored Career Development Scholar Award from the CTSI for research in HIV and Aging as well as pilot (*Physical Frailty and Sarcopenia in HIV/AIDS Older Adults*) and supplement award (*Frailty and body composition in HIV-infected older adults*) funding through the CFAR. Dr. Shah has received several awards from national and local organizations. The American Geriatrics Society, for example, honored her with the Merck/AGS New Investigator Award and was accepted into the NIH-sponsored Early Career Reviewer Program.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Vince Silenzio*, MD, MPH, Associate Professor - Department of Psychiatry

Dr. Silenzio's work capitalizes on the increasing ubiquity of social media and Internet technologies to bring a public health and prevention research focus to the fields of social informatics, machine learning, and network analysis to support public health and public policy needs, risk factor research, and the translation of findings into prevention-oriented clinical and community initiatives. Dr. Silenzio recently completed a NIMH-funded, Research Career Award (K23) to study social media-based suicide prevention for LGBT adolescents and young adults, a "hidden population" at high risk for suicide related thoughts and behaviors. He is the P.I. of a three-year, NSF-funded research project to study the use of social media to reach typically "hidden populations" for prevention research, specifically focused on HIV and mental health risk factors among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the US. Through the CFAR Dr. Silenzio conducted a pilot project to study social network-based data collection and intervention design for HIV and mental health risk factors for suicide among MSM in the Western Cape region of South Africa.

*Recipient of CFAR funding and support

Marguerite A. Urban*, MD, Associate Professor - Department of Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Dr. Urban's clinical and research experiences focus on reducing the incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). For the past 19 years, she has served as the Medical Director of the Monroe County Health Department STD Clinic; a large public STD clinic serving approximately 11,000 client visits annually. In addition, as Associate Professor at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in

the Infectious Disease Division AIDS Center, she has extensive experience working with diverse patient populations including those who are urban and low-income, and who face numerous health and psychosocial challenges.

As the Medical Director of the Center for Health & Behavioral Training (CHBT) Dr. Urban has been extensively involved with training, and technical assistance activities related to STD/HIV care and prevention. CHBT has been a CDC Behavioral Intervention STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC) with a principle goal of diffusing effective behavioral interventions to public health, clinical, and community-based HIV prevention providers for 19 years. CHBT is entering a sixth year as a CDC Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Program providing training and technical assistance on the use of evidence-based STD/HIV prevention interventions to state/jurisdiction health departments in the US. Dr. Urban has also been involved in R01 grants whose goals have been to develop and evaluate sexual risk reduction interventions to reduce STD and HIV rates.

William Valenti, MD, Senior Vice-President for Organizational Advancement, Co-Founder, and Staff Physician, Trillium Health

Dr. Valenti is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and has been active in HIV-related activities since the early 1980s. He is chair of the Infectious Diseases Subcommittee of the Medical Society of the State of New York and has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and scientific abstracts on HIV medical care, infectious diseases, and health care epidemiology and infection control. Dr. Valenti recently served as Chair of the Hepatitis C Guidelines Committee for the New York State Department of Health. As senior vice president for organizational advancement, Dr. Valenti is responsible for aligning the organization's strategic vision with philanthropic resources. In addition to his longtime role as a staff physician and clinical researcher, he will drive progress toward strategic goals and new clinical initiatives through the development of relationships with organizations engaged in the region's healthcare delivery, health policy and system reform.

**Mitchell Wharton, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing
Bio not available**