

# LOOKING BACK, FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER



EnHIP Annual Meeting 2024



National Library of Medicine



April 2024

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE®**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND  
INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

2024 EnHIP Annual Meeting  
University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center  
April 18-19, 2024

***Looking Back, Forging Ahead Together***

PREPARED FOR  
USER SERVICES AND COLLECTION DIVISION (USDC)  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

PREPARED BY  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE: HEALTH PROMOTION  
OAK RIDGE ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES

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**National Library of Medicine\***  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

*Looking Back, Forging Ahead Together*  
April 18-19, 2024

**AGENDA**

Thursday, April 18, 2024  
University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso Natural Gas Convention Center

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

**Registration**

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Meeting Opening and Welcome**

Dr. Alla Keselman  
EnHIP Program Lead  
Lead, Partnerships Building and Management  
User Engagement Program  
National Library of Medicine

Ms. Dianne Babski  
Director, User Services and Collection Division  
National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia  
Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences  
School of Health Sciences  
University of Texas at El Paso

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**EnHIP Member Introductions and Meeting Context Setting**

Dr. Alla Keselman

Mr. Marcais Frazier  
Senior Consultant and Executive Coach  
BlueNote, LLC

Ms. Yasmin Evans  
Project Coordinator  
BlueNote, LLC

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**BREAK**

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**2022-2023 EnHIP Outreach and Engagement Awards Presentations**

Mr. Jason Mallonee and Ms. Rosa Escalante  
University of Texas at El Paso

Ms. Dolores Caffey-Fleming  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science

Dr. Eva Moya and Dr. Guillermina Solis  
University of Texas at El Paso

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**NLM Extramural Programs Overview**

Dr. Richard Palmer  
Acting Director, Extramural Programs  
National Library of Medicine

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>HOSTED LUNCH</b>
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>EnHIP Oral History Project</b> Ms. Anne Altemus Lead, External Engagement Communications User Engagement Program National Library of Medicine
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Meaning Making: Understanding EnHIP’s Oral History</b> Mr. Marcais Frazier
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Introduction to the Network of the National Library of Medicine</b> Ms. Martha Meacham NNLM Project Director User Engagement Program National Library of Medicine
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Future of EnHIP Planning Overview</b> Ms. Blair Anton Program Manager User Engagement Program National Library of Medicine  Mr. Marcais Frazier Ms. Yasmin Evans
3:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
3:40 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Visioning Exercise</b> Mr. Marcais Frazier Ms. Yasmin Evans
4:15 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	<b>Day 1 Recap</b> Mr. Marcais Frazier
4:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Day 2 Overview and Adjournment</b> Dr. Alla Keselman Mr. Marcais Frazier  Ms. LaFrancis Gibson Health Education Specialist Section Manager Oak Ridge Associated Universities
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Shuttle Return to Hotel</b>

**AGENDA**

Friday, April 19, 2024  
University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso Natural Gas Convention Center

- 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.      **Networking & Coffee**
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.      **Welcome Back, Reflections from Day 1 and Overview of Day 2**  
Dr. Alla Keselman  
Mr. Marcais Frazier
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.      **Conversation with the NLM Acting Director**  
Dr. Stephen Sherry  
Acting Director  
National Library of Medicine
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.      **UTEP Welcome Address and Presentations**  
Dr. John Wiebe  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of Texas at El Paso  
  
Dr. Juan Aguilera  
Assistant Professor  
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
  
Dr. Josiah Heyman  
Director, Center for Inter-American and Border Studies  
Professor, Sociology and Anthropology Center for Inter-American and  
Border Studies (CIBS)  
University of Texas at El Paso  
  
Dr. Kathleen Staudt  
Professor Emerita of Political Science  
University of Texas at El Paso  
  
Ms. Alexis Kirkwood  
Student  
Department of Public Health Sciences  
University of Texas at El Paso
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.      **Group Photo: Member Representatives and Presenters**
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.      **Operationalizing Key Activities**  
Mr. Marcais Frazier  
Ms. Yasmin Evans
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.      **BREAK**
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.      **Measuring Success**  
Mr. Marcais Frazier  
Ms. Yasmin Evans
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.      **BREAK**

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Personnel & Roles**

Mr. Marcais Frazier  
Ms. Yasmin Evans

4:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.

**Honoraria & Travel Reimbursement**

Ms. LaFrancis Gibson

4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Alla Keselman  
Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia  
Ms. LaFrancis Gibson

5:00 p.m.

**Shuttle Return to Hotel**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP (EnHIP) MEETING  
April 18-19, 2024**

The annual Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP) convened on April 18, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. Mountain Time. The meeting adjourned on April 19, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. The theme of the meeting was "**Looking Back, Forging Ahead Together.**"

EnHIP Program Lead, Alla Keselman, PhD, Lead, Partnerships Building and Management User Engagement Program, National Library of Medicine (NLM), presided.

**ATTENDEES**

**Representatives from Participating Institutions**

Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Benedict College  
Ms. Dolores Caffey-Fleming, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU)  
Dr. Syreeta Tilghman, Florida A&M University  
Dr. Latonya Hughes, Hampton University  
Mr. Michael Stewart, Haskell Indian Nations University  
Dr. Robert Copeland, Howard University  
Dr. Sandie Han, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York (CUNY)  
Dr. Aramandla Ramesh, Meharry Medical College  
Ms. Maletta Payne, Southern University and A&M College  
Dr. Judith Mazique, Texas Southern University  
Dr. Jannett Lewis-Clark, Tuskegee University  
Dr. Tetine Sentell, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Dr. Jose Cerrato, University of New Mexico  
Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)  
Dr. Bobby LeDuff, Xavier University of Louisiana

**National Library of Medicine Staff**

Dr. Alla Keselman  
Ms. Anne Altemus  
Ms. Blair Anton  
Ms. Dianne Babski  
Ms. Martha Meacham  
Ms. Amanda Wilson

**BlueNote, LLC**

Mr. Marcais Frazier  
Ms. Yasmin Evans

**Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) Staff**

Ms. LaFrancis Gibson  
Ms. Regina Renfro

**UTEP Invited Guests**

Mr. Dave Arellano  
Mr. Abdulahi Ayanwale  
Ms. Andrea Baca



Ms. Yazmin Curtis  
Dr. João Ferreira-Pinto  
Ms. Maria Fuentes  
Mr. Natanael Garcia  
Ms. Michelle Gil  
Ms. Marissa Gonzalez  
Ms. Josedell Guerra-Ruiz  
Mr. Johnathan Gutierrez  
Mr. Tanzir Hozain  
Ms. Blanca Ibarra  
Ms. Angela Lucero  
Ms. Shaila Nazneen  
Mr. Benjamin Ojo  
Ms. Kristin Perales  
Ms. Klarissa Siebert  
Ms. Marissa Testerman  
Ms. Andrea Yanez

## **PRESENTERS**

Dr. Juan Aguilera, UTHealth Houston  
Ms. Anne Altemus, NLM  
Ms. Blair Anton, NLM  
Ms. Dianne Babski, NLM  
Ms. Dolores Caffey-Fleming, CDU  
Ms. Rosa Escalante, UTEP  
Ms. Yasmin Evans, BlueNote  
Mr. Marcais Frazier, Blue  
Dr. Josiah Heyman, UTEP  
Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, UTEP  
Dr. Alla Keselman, NLM  
Ms. Alexis Kirkwood, UTEP  
Mr. Jason Mallonee, UTEP  
Ms. Martha Meacham, NLM  
Dr. Eva M. Moya, UTEP  
Dr. Richard Palmer, NLM  
Dr. Dina Paltoo, NLM (on behalf of Dr. Stephen Sherry, NLM)  
Dr. Guillermina Solis, UTEP  
Dr. Kathleen Staudt, UTEP  
Dr. John Wiebe, UTEP

## **Day 1**

### I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

**Alla Keselman, PhD**

**EnHIP Program Lead**

**Lead, Partnerships Building and Management, User Engagement Program**

**National Library of Medicine**

Dr. Alla Keselman opened the meeting by welcoming representatives and thanking Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia and Ms. Leticia Paez for hosting at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Dr. Keselman observed that this meeting would differ from past meetings and the 2024 theme “Looking Back, Forging Ahead Together” would highlight the rich history of EnHIP and the future of EnHIP, with “together” being the key.

Dr. Keselman explained the location of the administration of EnHIP in the NLM’s organizational structure, including its past transition from the Specialized Information Services Division (SIS) to the Office of Engagement and Training (OET) and the recent (2024) transition to the User Engagement Program (UEP) of the User Services and Collection Division (USCD). Dr. Keselman also emphasized that EnHIP has long been one of the NLM’s key user engagement partnerships. Finally, she introduced the meeting’s attendees representing NLM, the facilitators from BlueNote, LLC, and the ORAU EnHIP team.

Dr. Keselman transitioned to highlighting accomplishments from the past year. These accomplishments included:

- **Funding two outreach awards.** The first award was to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, titled *Unlocking Understanding of Health Equity Utilizing Health Literacy and Environmental Health Resources*, led by Ms. Dolores Caffey-Fleming. The second was awarded to University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP), titled *Empowering Rural Youth: A Holistic Approach to Climate Science, Health Literacy, and Community Engagement in El Paso County*, led by Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia. Both projects engaged university and high school students in using NLM resources to deliver community outreach. Ms. Caffey-Fleming’s project involved students who served as “Junior EnHIP Ambassadors.” These students learned to use NLM resources and then worked with community- and faith-based organizations to teach them about using those resources as well as about toxins and the environment. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia’s project engaged rural high school students in learning about climate change. These students applied their knowledge by using NLM resources to educate members of their community. Dr. Keselman added that presentations of these projects would be featured at the 2025 annual meeting.
- **Developing the EnHIP Oral History Project.** Ms. Anne Altemus and a team of NLM videographers conducted interviews to document the 33-year history of EnHIP. The completed project was scheduled to be presented at the annual meeting, accompanied by a discussion of lessons learned from the past as EnHIP moves into the future.
- **Creating the NLM Undergraduate Fellowship.** With requests from EnHIP representatives for more engagement between students and NLM, NLM created a pilot

project enabling students to apply for the NLM undergraduate fellowship. This fellowship focused on social media listening and analysis of social media information about health. Though recruitment was not exclusive to EnHIP member schools, two of the four accepted interns came from EnHIP institutions, UTEP and Howard University. The student from UTEP was scheduled to present during the annual meeting.

- **Continuing communication through the EnHIP ListServ.** Communication included member research and work updates, funding opportunities, and NLM/NIH news.
- **Seeking feedback on representatives' experience and priorities.** Dr. Keselman conducted individual conversations with representatives of most EnHIP institutions, seeking feedback on their experience with EnHIP and existing and desired EnHIP benefits. Dr. Keselman noted that the findings from the conversations would be presented in a later meeting session.

In conclusion, Dr. Keselman stated that the present time was a pivotal moment for EnHIP and acknowledged the 33 years of valuable history and revisited topics from the 2019 strategic meeting—which emphasized open science and data science, increased engagement of librarians, strengthening the workforce pipeline, and enhanced communication strategies. For this 2024 meeting, EnHIP will also focus on aligning with NLM and NIH strategic priorities, addressing current institutional needs, and considering the priorities of member institutions and input from representatives.

Dr. Keselman closed with an overview of the 2-day meeting and cited the three main components of the meeting structure: celebrating EnHIP's past and accomplishments, participating in future planning sessions facilitated by BlueNote, LLC, and highlighting NLM programs with informational sessions on the Network of the National Library of Medicine, NLM Extramural Programs Division and an address by the Acting Director of NLM.

**Dianne Babski, MIM**  
**Director, User Services and Collection Division (USCD)**  
**National Library of Medicine**

Ms. Dianne Babski, Director of User Services and Collection Division (USCD) at NLM, thanked EnHIP for the invitation to present and meet the representatives and the UTEP staff for hosting. She noted that NLM has undergone many changes and continues to change at a rapid rate, including the organization and the work they do with their users and stakeholders, including EnHIP.

Ms. Babski then highlighted the three pillars of the NLM Strategic Plan: (1) Accelerating discovery and advancing health through data-driven research by fostering a data ecosystem and making data readily available for use, (2) Reaching more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement by targeting stakeholder groups and meeting their needs, and (3) Building a workforce for data-driven research and health by expanding and enhancing training opportunities, increasing workforce diversity, engaging the next generation of students and professionals, and promoting data literacy. She noted that NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli envisions NLM as an information hub. Ms. Babski explained that approximately 97% of web traffic to NLM websites originates from search engines rather than direct access to the site, indicating that users are targeting specific resources and not

searching all resources available. NLM aims to ensure that, if a user is looking at resources, they find not only what they immediately need but also discover other connected resources that may be unknown to them. She also highlighted the yet-to-be-named women's health portal web resource, which is an initiative of the President Biden administration that will be completed this year. Ms. Babski also stressed that NLM is addressing the goal of reaching more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement. The objectives include specific language that stresses the importance of engaging with medically underrepresented and underserved populations.

Regarding change, Ms. Babski noted that, after 34 years under the leadership of Director Dr. Lindberg, Dr. Patti Brennan became the new NLM director in 2016. She added that, in seeking a new director, the NIH advisory board formed a team to envision the Library's future and the qualities needed in a leader to guide it. Ms. Babski said that NLM is now asking the same question: what do we want the Library to look like and what type of leader do we need to take NLM into the future? She added that, upon launching the strategic plan in 2016, NLM staff were encouraged to conduct formal audits and assessments of products and services, leading to the retirement or merger of many programs and projects. Programs and products with low or declining usage, those no longer aligned with NLM's mission, and those duplicating services offered by other agencies were discontinued, allowing NLM to redirect its energy and resources in a meaningful direction. NLM streamlined and optimized its portfolio of products to focus on unique and high-quality products that provided a better user experience for those accessing NLM resources. Ms. Babski emphasized that NLM continues to evaluate its products and services for sustainability and regularly updates its infrastructure. She added that NLM is not only performing these types of assessments with products and services, but also with the organization as well.

Ms. Babski then highlighted Medline®, NLM's premier bibliographic database and the largest subset of PubMed, that uses medical subject headings (MeSH) to describe citations and has a tradition of adding data access points to them. Every year, NLM continued to see an increase in the number of citations published in journals. At one point, there were over 6,000 citations waiting in a queue to be indexed, and the infrastructure was no longer sustainable. NLM worked with the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHNCBC) to develop a medical text indexer, a prototype for assigning indexing to Medline citations, and to hone the algorithms over the years. In 2022, Medline went fully automated with machine indexing. The result was that previously it would take about 180 days for a citation to be indexed with medical subject headings. Now it takes within 24 hours, with a precision of over 90% and a recall just over 80%. The algorithm is continually being refined to improve those numbers. The human element, she added, is still needed to train, do quality assurance, and aid in testing and development.

Ms. Babski then displayed a slide showing the updated NLM organization chart, focusing on the USCD, the LHNCBC, and the Intramural Research Program (IRP). USCD was known as Library Operations prior to the organizational change. Ms. Babski described the USCD mission and functions in terms of "The 3 Cs": collecting, curating, and connecting biomedical information. On January 1, 2024, USCD officially became the new division. Ms. Babski focused on the "connect" aspect of the USCD work, as most relevant to EnHIP, a major hub of

engagement and training activities. She asked the representatives to take time over the 2-day meeting to reflect on how their institutions and programs connect to NLM to ensure they have the representation and relevance in data science and research endeavors as well as grant and funding opportunities.

Ms. Babski then highlighted the IRP focus areas and noted that, during the last (2016) search for a new director, NLM put together a “blue ribbon panel” to do an assessment of the IRP. Currently, there are two main components to the program: computational biology research and computational health research. After reorganizing the NLM, NLM looked to its intramural research hub, LHNCBC. LHNCBC also went through a reorganization with a focus on health information standards and discovery, natural language processing, and image processing. She added that representatives may be interested in the new Center for Clinical Observational Investigations (CCOI). Its goal is to reduce barriers to finding and evaluating relevant clinical datasets by providing curated metadata profiles for these different clinical datasets.

Ms. Babski also noted the renovations to the physical building, which included renovating the entire first floor, combining reading rooms, and updating the mezzanine and boardroom. Ms. Babski then focused on community engagement and promoting access to information. She said that user-focus is critical to the NLM’s work, so, in 2018, NLM conducted an audit of its engagement and outreach activities and created what is now the User Engagement Program (UEP) under USCD. NLM consolidated engagement and training and positioned the Network of the National Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to be the engagement and training cornerstone of NLM. Because of the success and the breadth of the NNLM and how impactful it has been, NIH is looking at the Network as a main pathway of reaching different communities across the United States and its territories.

Ms. Babski also highlighted the new NIH director’s two primary priorities, which are focused on NLM products and services that have evolved to reflect NLM priorities. She added that Dr. Bertagnolli’s vision is to make NLM a unified data science hub that people can use to access information to truly make NLM a center for innovation and discovery. Dr. Bertagnolli has expressed three guiding principles and five cross-cutting themes that Ms. Babski asked the EnHIP representatives to think about over the 2-day meeting. The three guiding principles involved (1) ensuring that scientific discoveries are spread enabling all people to live long and healthy lives; (2) NIH research encompasses the laboratory, the clinic, and the community; and (3) progress is accelerated via applying advanced scientific and data analytic methods to bring discoveries to clinical care. The cross-cutting themes were minority health and health disparities, women’s health, public health challenges across a lifespan, collaborative science, and findable and accessible data science.

Ms. Babski closed with a call to action for EnHIP representatives, as a critical stakeholder group, to reflect, reimagine, and reenergize the EnHIP priorities. She stated that, as NLM was looking for a new director, the annual meeting was a great opportunity to reflect on where EnHIP has been, where EnHIP is going, and what EnHIP wants to do in the future, not only as an EnHIP group, but also as campus representatives. She asked that EnHIP discuss mutual needs and benefits of the member schools and the NLM organization and identify priorities

and directions moving forward: How can member schools benefit from NLM products and services? How can NLM benefit from representative expertise? How can EnHIP help NLM understand user needs as a stakeholder group as it evolves into its 3<sup>rd</sup> century?

**Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**

Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia welcomed the group to the UTEP campus and thanked the partnership for selecting it as the hosting institution. He acknowledged the change in representation as he took over the role from Dr. João Ferreira-Pinto this year and the importance of partnership membership to UTEP. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia gave an overview of the journey of success UTEP has seen as part of the partnership, including advancing health equity and environmental health knowledge, partnerships leading to tangible community benefits, and increased visibility. He also discussed goals for future collaborations. He added that the goals, priorities, and mission of NLM and member schools were very similar. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia noted that, as a border community, UTEP was in a unique position to understand the importance of partnerships and that this meeting marked the beginning of another road as well as the start of everything the member schools want to do and accomplish in their communities.

II. [EnHIP Member School Representative Introductions and Meeting Context Setting - Closed Session](#)

**Marcais Frazier**  
**Senior Consultant and Executive Coach**  
**BlueNote, LLC**

Mr. Marcais Frazier and Ms. Yasmin Evans facilitated the introduction of member school representatives and led the discussion of the pre-meeting survey. Dr. Keselman presented a summary of her pre-meeting conversations with the representatives. These presentations set the stage for discussing the group's expectations from the meeting.

III. [2022-2023 EnHIP Outreach and Engagement Awards Presentations](#)

**Jason Mallonee, DSW, LCSW-S and Rosa Escalante, MSW**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**

Dr. Mallonee and Ms. Escalante joined virtually to share their research conducted as part of the 2022 EnHIP Outreach and Engagement Award for their project titled *A Mixed Methods Analysis of Food Security Outcomes During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Comprehensive Food Pantry Program in El Paso, TX*, called FreshStart. Dr. Mallonee acknowledged the assistance of the FreshStart participants, staff, and interns, the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, NLM and ORAU, the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, the More Than Food Framework, and Dr. Ferreira-Pinto. He stated that the goal of the FreshStart program was to alleviate the consequences of food insecurity as well as to tackle the root cause of food insecurity. Participants underwent an assessment, prioritized goals, and took classes on nutrition, health, financial literacy, employment readiness, technology classes, and more. They also received a curated food box that included locally grown vegetables and other healthy foods.

For the project, Dr. Mallonee and Ms. Escalante conducted a secondary data analysis to determine the effectiveness of a comprehensive food pantry at reducing the indicators associated with food insecurity. They also conducted interviews with FreshStart graduates to better understand what they achieved from the program and factors that helped them sustain those gains as well as the challenges to sustaining gains. They then disseminated the findings to a wide audience through a bilingual community presentation and a dialogue fact sheet. He stated that they were in the process of finalizing manuscripts.

Dr. Mallonee then shared the characteristics of the FreshStart participants and explained that, of the 261 participants from 2019-2022, 67 completed all three data collection points. The evaluation showed the participants were predominately female throughout a range of ages. The ethnicity of participants was mostly Hispanic, and most participants had less than a high school education. Most participants were recorded as having stable housing with the next highest percentage having mortgages that exceeded 50% of their income. Over half of the participants experienced long-term unemployment. Dr. Mallonee shared that, in order to see the impact of the program, they compared data points at baseline, 4 months into the program, and at the 9-month program mark. They found a reduction in participants having to use a foodbank every week and an increase in long-term government benefit options, a decrease in homelessness, a decrease in unemployment, and an increase in healthy food consumption. The project also found that participants were better able to prioritize different goals, such as mental health.

Dr. Mallonee said that, when looking at food insecurities, they looked at the sacrifices participants had to make in order to be able to eat, such as not paying mortgage/rent or utilities or not purchasing prescribed medications. At the end of the program, there was a significant reduction in people having to make those decisions.

Ms. Escalante stated that one of the main questions they asked the 21 interview participants was why FreshStart works. She stated that the main themes were providing resources, fostering relationships and a sense of mattering, quality of cultural support and staff, and experiences of learning and growth. The participants recorded their gains achieved as improved English and path to citizenship; increased motivation and goal setting; achieved individualized goals in education, employment, and finance; improved nutritional and physical health knowledge and practices; and improved overall wellness and self-care practices. Ms. Escalante added that what helped the participants maintain gains were confidence, motivation, and continued support from the FreshStart staff as well as remembering, reviewing, and practicing skills with the take-home resources provided. She noted that the program had active participation and a good agency culture. The challenges participants faced were competing demands, needing additional learning and practice, and environmental changes, including inflation and the increase in prices. Dr. Mallonee added that, when analyzing the outcomes, they looked at the differences between those who completed just the baseline assessment and those who completed all three data points, indicating they completed all 9 months of the program. Those who were more likely to discontinue the program prior to finishing were male, non-Hispanic, younger, homeless or in transitional housing, lacking transportation, and experiencing greater daily stress. After

looking at these predictors of attrition, Dr. Mallonee said the program can ramp up efforts to engage those specific clients.

Ms. Escalante noted that another factor analyzed was how FreshStart alleviated pandemic-related challenges. Participants answered that FreshStart continued caring for them and others, helped meet basic needs, including pandemic-related needs, and helped reduce isolation by staying connected.

Dr. Mallonee reiterated the importance of disseminating the information and going out into the community and having a conversation about the program. They held a bilingual presentation that was also available by Zoom and disseminated a bilingual findings fact sheet that linked directly to MedlinePlus® and Health.gov for access to resources that community members could use to maintain healthy eating habits. He said they found that this program helped alleviate some of the challenges associated with social determinants of health and provided people access to healthy eating options. The project also has two manuscripts in the final prepublication stages.

**Dolores Caffey-Fleming, MS, MPH**  
**Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science**

Ms. Dolores Caffey-Fleming shared her 2022 EnHIP Outreach and Engagement Award project titled *The Invisible Environmental Health Inequities Impacting the Health of Our Community*. Ms. Caffey-Fleming gave a brief overview of the background of the project and its location, South Los Angeles, which has the lowest median household income and the second-highest percentage of unemployment in the county. She added that communities of color have historically experienced multiple forms of environmental racism, which include higher levels of pollution and worse environmental quality compared to majority-white neighborhoods. These conditions can impact an individual's quality of life and risk of diseases as well as the entire community's overall physical and mental well-being. Ms. Caffey-Fleming stated that the project involved high school students from the King/Drew Medical Magnet High School and Charles R. Drew University students who lived in South Los Angeles.

The goals of the project were to increase knowledge of the inequities of invisible environmental health factors on low-income residents and people of color and to enhance the use and distribution of environmental health information to students, faculty, staff, faith-based organizations, and other community organizations. She said she wanted to provide information and instruction in the use of NLM web-based environmental health resources, and she used the library located in the subsidized housing community to teach how to access these resources. Ms. Caffey-Fleming stated that the students became stewards of the project and increased the attention and promotion of the project.

The students were trained on NLM databases and products and communication skills, which they then promoted to the community as well as in their homes. Ms. Caffey-Fleming noted that they were the ambassadors of the project and titled them "Junior EnHIP Ambassadors." These ambassadors demonstrated the use of the NLM resources and provided training to members of partner organizations. Other promotions included the *Environmental Health Inequities on our Community* event and the *Invisible Environmental Impact on the Health of our Community* workshop, which provided health information to aid in the reduction of



health disparities. The high school students also developed infographics with information on the available resources and how to access them. The students also presented on health disparities, environmental racism, and environmental justice, even including information on “redlining” and the Ujima Village. Because these high school students lived in areas where these problems existed, they were the biggest advocates of promoting the history and information resources. The university students presented “Tips n’ Tricks” for how to best access the information and highlighted QR technologies, EnHIP, and NLM resources and databases.

The project was evaluated by measuring the increase in participants’ knowledge after presentations as well as via conversations and observations. The team is currently conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data.

**Eva Moya, PhD and Guillermina Solis, PhD**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**

Drs. Moya and Solis joined the EnHIP meeting in person to present their 2022-2023 EnHIP Outreach and Engagement Award project titled *Advancing Health Equity through Information, Resources, and Services on the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Dr. Moya also thanked Dr. Silvia Chavez-Baray and Ms. Marissa Testerman as co-PIs on the project. Dr. Moya stated borderlanders (people living between countries and across state lines) live between two cultures, noting that those who are joined by a border think about how to come together to enrich each other, not to be stopped by borders, but to build on borders. She said that, with this project, they had the opportunity to exchange knowledge, skills, and innovation through high-impact educational practices and community engagement as several communities in the region face barriers to quality health information access, health literacy, and health equity.

Dr. Moya noted the project purpose was to bring together bilingual community health workers and social work undergraduate and nursing school students to bridge the health literacy gaps in the region. This was achieved by forming community-engaged teams through the introduction of core health literacy resources, the application and use of skills, the dissemination of evidence-based information, and the focus on environmental health and health disparities. Dr. Moya stated the goal of the project was to recruit 10 community health workers, 10 undergraduate social work students, and 10 nursing students to train on the use and navigation of the EnHIP program and the Healthy People 2030 (HP 2030) program. The 30 participants developed six culturally sensitive modules and disseminated the project outputs through poster presentations. The participants were evaluated on their pre- and post-project knowledge using the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Survey Model as a quantitative measure.

Dr. Solis explained that the bilingual modules were created with the collaboration of three educational programs. The three groups were integrated, allowing them to help each other understand other disciplines in a meaningful way. The modules were electronically published by the UTEP University Library and are available to the public at <https://libguides.utep.edu/healthequity>. She shared that the groups were given realistic scenarios to identify access barriers and what resources would be beneficial, and how they

would navigate the barriers to achieve access. The participants were evaluated with a pre- and post-test, and one of the results showed that, prior to the project, less than 6% felt confident conducting community outreach using EnHIP information, but over 72% felt comfortable conducting community outreach after the project. Dr. Solis shared participant quotes that stated their confidence in accessing and navigating EnHIP resources and sharing them in their communities. As one of the project outcomes, Dr. Solis also shared an example poster created by the groups titled *Health Literacy of COVID-19 in Elderly Populations*. The poster included the background of post-COVID consequences, research methods, results, research limitations and references, and the conclusion of the importance of health literacy and access to health information resources in vulnerable populations.

Dr. Moya closed by announcing that the funding awarded for the project helped to convince the AT&T Foundation to fund additional participants and purchase tablets to help them expand and improve the program.

#### IV. NLM Extramural Programs Overview

**Richard Palmer, DrPH, JD**  
**Acting Director, Extramural Programs**  
**National Library of Medicine**

Dr. Richard Palmer thanked EnHIP for the invitation to speak about the Division of Extramural Programs (EP) and its funding opportunities. He began with a brief overview of EP's background, including its mission to offer grants for research projects, resources, small businesses, and research training in biomedical informatics and data science. He added that EP's role is very specific in that they ensure effective stewardship of NLM's extramural research program; develop funding opportunities that advance science; conduct peer reviews of grant applications; provide grant compliance, oversight, and financial management; and serve as a resource for the extramural scientific community.

Dr. Palmer said that EP had a role in advancing NLM's strategic plan. Strategic Goal 1 was to accelerate discovery and advance health through data-driven research, and to do that, EP's research program was centered around advancing research and development in biomedical informatics and data science. Strategic Goal 3 was to build a workforce for data-driven research and health, and EP had a long-standing history of managing a biomedical data science training program. EP also had an R25 program at 12 institutions across the United States to help develop a pipeline of diverse biomedical informaticians and data scientists. He added that NLM's extramural focus was funding research applications that proposed tools, approaches, and methods for data discovery that had potential for widescale adoption. NLM is very interested in receiving applications that harness the power of data and develop methodologies, tools, and approaches that can be generalized to other settings with other data. He said that EP's research focus included funding within bioinformatics, translational informatics, clinical informatics, personal health informatics, public health informatics, and data science.

Dr. Palmer said NLM was also on the forefront of artificial intelligence (AI)-empowered research and that it was an exciting time to be in this space of discovery. Through AI research, data takes on new meaning and new importance, and NLM will sponsor AI projects that

impact aspects of science from how basic research is conducted all the way through improving health and well-being for everyone.

Dr. Palmer then gave a snapshot of funding opportunities through EP, including:

- PAR-23-034: NLM Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (Clinical Trial Optional), which will support rigorous scientific research in biomedical informatics and data science over 4 years with \$250,000 direct costs yearly.
- PAR-20-304: Computational Approaches to Curation at Scale for Biomedical Research Assets (Clinical Trial Not Allowed), which will support novel informatics and data science approaches that can improve the speed and scope of curation of biomedical assets over 4 years with \$250,000 direct costs yearly.
- PAR-23-245: Personal Health Informatics for Delivering Actionable Insights to Individuals (Clinical Trial Optional), which will advance the development of novel informatics and data science approaches that can help individuals understand and improve their health over 4 years with \$250,000 direct costs yearly.
- PAR-23-183: Grants for Scholarly Works in Biomedicine and Health (G13), which will support the preparation of book-length manuscripts and other scholarly works of value to the health sciences. This comes with the expectation that the manuscript is scholarly, not a textbook. The grant covers over 2 years with \$75,000 in direct yearly costs. During the question and comment portion of the presentation, Dr. Palmer specified that, while this was not for textbooks, if it was a manuscript or collection of scholarly ideas that had significant or considerable implications for health professionals, then NLM would be interested. It is critical that there is a distribution channel that makes whatever is produced able to be utilized.
- RFA-LM-20-283: NLM Information Resource Grant to Reduce Health Disparities (G08)/September 2024 reissue, which supports projects to bring useful and usable health information to health disparity populations and their healthcare providers over 2 years with \$250,000 total costs. This grant program is open to any individual; academic, not-for-profit, or for-profit institutions.
- NOT-LM-23-001: Computational and Statistical Methods to Enhance Discovery from Health Data, which supports state-of-the-art methods and approaches to address problems with datasets or tools used to analyze them, specifically focusing on how to de-bias data and make data more useful for all.
- NOT-OD-24-079: Women's Health Research, which supports applications focused on diseases and health conditions that predominately affect women, present and progress differently in women, or are female-specific. It encourages biomedical and informatic approaches that help predict diseases, better understand treatment options, and better inform health decision-making.
- NOT-OD-24-078: Supporting the Exploration of Cloud in NIH-supported Research, which supports the exploration and testing of potential opportunities for leveraging cloud solutions to enhance existing NIH-funded or -managed research activities. This grant is open to anyone with an existing NIH grant that would like to learn how to use the cloud to conduct research.

- NOT-LM-23-001: Innovative Technologies for Research on Climate Change and Human Health, which supports novel tools or technologies that aid in the integration of climate change-related data with health data to study or address the effects of climate change on human health.
- NOT-GM-23-015: Optimization of Data Storage and Utilization for the Sequence Read Archive (SRA), which supports the optimization and cost reduction for SRA data storage and utilization.
- PA-20-185: NIH R01 Research Grant (Clinical Trial Not Allowed), which supports projects in areas representing specific interests of the investigator and aligns with programmatic interests of one or more NIH Institutes and Centers for 5 years with no budget cap.
- PA-20-195: NIH R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Clinical Trial Not Allowed), which supports exploratory developmental research projects that align with programmatic interests of one or more NIH Institutes and Centers for 2 years with \$275,000 total direct costs.
- PA-24-141: NIH R13 Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings, which supports high-quality conferences and meetings that are relevant to the NIH mission over 5 years with \$25,000 direct yearly costs.
- PA-23-189: Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research, which will enhance the diversity of the research workforce and is directed at groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research. It is open to high school, undergraduate, graduate, and clinical students, post-baccalaureate and post-master's individuals, postdoctoral researchers, and eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds.
- NOT-OD-23-170: Research Supplements to Promote Re-entry, Re-integration into, and Re-training in Health-Related Research Careers, which will provide full- or part-time mentored research training experiences for individuals with high potential to re-enter an active research career after an eligible interruption.

For those unfamiliar with the grant application and review process, Dr. Palmer gave a timeline for funding decisions. He said that, once a grant application was submitted, it was usually a year-long process. The first 3 months involved internal processing, the next 4 to 8 months comprised the peer review process, and then 1 to 2 months for a funding decision with advisory boards. After a decision was made, it could take another 1 to 2 months to prepare the award before it was released and processed. He also highlighted useful websites for funding opportunities, such as:

- NIH RePORTER (<https://reporter.nih.gov>) – Allows the user to understand what has been funded and where their application or idea fits best using the “matchmaker” tool, which will tell them which center or institute is best suited for their research and will help them identify program officers.
- NIH Grants & Funding (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>) – Allows the user to identify funding opportunities.
- GRANTS.GOV (<https://www.grants.gov>) – Allows the user to identify individual grant opportunities from several funding agencies across the government.

- Institutes at NIH (<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih>) - Allows the user to search specific NIH institute opportunities.
- NIH Enterprise Directory (NED) (<http://ned.nih.gov>) - Allows the user to search for specific contact staff at NIH.

Dr. Palmer invited attendees to visit the EP website to view more information and helpful videos at <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/ep>. He also noted that NLM is always looking for individuals to help with the review process, and stated that, if you have an interest, please reach out to the Chief Review Officer, Zoe Huang, at [huangz@mail.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:huangz@mail.nlm.nih.gov).

#### V. EnHIP Oral History Project

**Anne Altemus, MA, FAMI**  
**Lead, Innovative Engagement Communications, User Engagement Program**  
**National Library of Medicine**

Ms. Anne Altemus led the EnHIP Oral History project in which she and a team of videographers conducted a series of interviews with respected leaders who contributed to the growth and success of EnHIP. The overarching goal of this project was to preserve the historical record of EnHIP by capturing the voices of those who led the way. Ms. Altemus noted that the interviews demonstrated the passion that representatives have brought to EnHIP over the years and the spirit of what EnHIP was intended to be.

Ms. Altemus and her team collected over 20 hours of video and traveled to Tallahassee, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Nashville, Tennessee; and Claiborne, Maryland to meet with the leaders in person to get a first-hand perspective on the essence of what EnHIP was and its evolution. Ms. Altemus shared the video, which is also available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ2IIJGW0yE>.

Ms. Altemus noted that what continued to surprise her was the reminder that EnHIP, in its unofficial form, began in 1967 when NLM created the Toxicology Information Program in response to the growing need to coordinate and standardize the collection of computerized toxicological information resulting from the potential effects of environmental chemicals on people's health. During the next 20 years, NLM developed TOXLINE, CHEMLINE, the Toxicology Data Bank, and the TOXNET databases. While some of these have evolved or merged with other products and services, they were the foundation of EnHIP's purpose.

Ms. Altemus added that, in 1988, before EnHIP was formally created, there was a Senate Appropriations Committee amendment to NLM's funding authorizing the mission to be expanded "to reach all American health professionals, wherever located, so that they will be able to take advantage of the library's information services." In response to this directive, an NLM planning panel recommended that NLM focus on four areas in its outreach program: building the individual and the Regional Medical Library Network (which is now the Network of the National Library of Medicine, NNLM), strengthening hospital access to national information sources, improving training in health information management, and creating a new generation of information products and services.

Ms. Altemus said that the outcome of the roadmap for that long-range plan was the development of five objectives: to increase health professionals' awareness of NLM products

and services; to facilitate health professionals' access to and use of biomedical information; to provide training to health professionals about searching electronic databases; to assist health professionals in implementing new information-seeking behaviors; and to help improve the quality of services provided by health professionals to their clients. The pilot project that came from that roadmap was the 1991 Toxicology Information Outreach Panel (TIOP), which marks the formal introduction of EnHIP. She added that TIOP predated a 1994 federal mandate requiring all federal agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy for making environmental justice a part of their decision-making and operations. The original panel was comprised of an NLM team and nine institutions: Charles R. Drew School of Medicine and Science; Florida A&M University; Howard University; Meharry Medical College; Morehouse School of Medicine; Texas Southern University; Tuskegee University; University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; and Xavier University of Louisiana.

The TIOP charge was to develop strategies to strengthen the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to use the toxicological, environmental, and occupational information resources developed by NLM. TIOP also grew to increase representation from Hampton University, Oglala Lakota Tribal College, and the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, and this expansion showed inclusion of different communities that are affected by issues addressed by TIOP.

Ms. Altemus added that, as TIOP expanded to add these schools, in 2004, the name changed to Environmental Health Information Outreach Program (EnHIOP) to reflect the broader outreach. The long-term goals established were to further institutionalize NLM resources; strengthen institutional partnerships with libraries and other information centers; boost and develop community-based and faith-based organizations to extend health-related outreach to communities surrounding participating institutions; and increase participation within the schools through professional meetings, presentations, and panel discussions. Ms. Altemus made special note that NLM former director Dr. Lindberg wanted EnHIOP to consider moving off campuses and into communities, which was the beginning of extended outreach beyond the confines of a campus.

Ms. Altemus noted that, in 2009, there was an evaluation process and reassessment of requirements reconsidering expansion both on NLM products and the communities they were serving, and the evaluation reflected a broader focus on the multicultural dimensions of environmental health, environmental health sciences, and health disparities, which led to the new name, Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP). She stated the goals of EnHIP as continuing small outreach awards for local community outreach projects, utilizing NLM resources to improve environmental courses at EnHIP institutions, increasing NLM visibility at partner institutions, and increasing use of resources in the classroom for research and in community outreach projects.

Ms. Altemus added that it has been 15 years since NLM evaluated EnHIP. During this time, parallel changes in scientific discovery and data, technological advances, information access, and other factors have changed. All these factors play a role in the collective effectiveness of NLM and EnHIP. The history of EnHIP is important, but there is much more opportunity for the

partnership. She closed saying that, by working together and forging ahead, the next iteration of EnHIP will be as successful as it can be.

#### VI. Meaning Making: Understanding EnHIP's Oral History - Closed Session

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans facilitated small group sessions in which participants reflected on EnHIP's history, shared accomplishments, and discussed thoughts and observations on the future of EnHIP.

#### VII. Introduction to the Network of the National Library of Medicine

**Martha Meacham, MA, MLIS**  
**Project Director, Network of the National Library of Medicine**  
**National Library of Medicine**

Ms. Martha Meacham began her presentation by thanking UTEP for hosting the annual meeting, and she pointed out that the UTEP outreach award presentation was the perfect showcase of diverse groups working together. Ms. Meacham said she believes that innovation and progress come at the intersections when people find ways to connect. She encouraged the audience to keep "connection" in mind as she discussed the NNLM. She explained that NNLM, a regionally based program divided into seven regions and supported by six offices and centers, serves the entire U.S. while allowing for a focused approach on specific community needs and populations. She broke the regions down as follows:

- Region 1 - Based at the University of Maryland in Baltimore; serves Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Coordinates with NNLM Web Services Office (NWSO) and the NNLM *All of Us* Program Center (NAPC).
- Region 2 - Based at the Medical University of South Carolina; serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Region 3 - Based at the University of North Texas Health Science Center; serves Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- Region 4 - Based at the University of Utah; serves Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Coordinates with NNLM Training Office (NTO).
- Region 5 - Based at the University of Washington; serves Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, U.S. territories, and the freely associated states of the Pacific.
- Region 6 - Based at the University of Iowa; serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Coordinates with the NNLM Evaluation Center (NEC) at Northwestern and the NNLM *All of Us* Program Center (NAPC).
- Region 7 - Based at the University of Massachusetts Medical School; serves Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Coordinates with the NNLM Public Health Coordination Office (NPHCO) and the NNLM Center for Data Services (NCDS).

These regional libraries, offices, and centers work together to meet the needs of the Network and help the communities meet the needs of their populations and get information and resources out to them.

Ms. Meacham highlighted the NLM Strategic Plan and noted that NNLM fits into Goal 2, “to reach more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement,” as NNLM works with different types of engagement to ensure that NLM resources and products are accessible in all communities served by the Network. She stated that NNLM’s mission was to make sure people have the information they need to make the best healthcare decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities. NNLM does this in four ways; providing access to information resources and data, improving health literacy, increasing health equity through information, and increasing health information access. She added that, in the past years, the work has moved to focus on underserved and underrepresented communities.

Ms. Meacham explained that the NNLM has been around for many years and is funded in 5-year cycles. Every 5 years, a large grant is given from NLM to the seven regional bases to reach out to communities to engage their populations based on goals NNLM sets for every cycle. The new cycle will start in 2026 and will allow NNLM to reevaluate the focus of each region and their priorities. She added that NNLM has evolved and expanded its reach through the years. Sixty years ago, it was focused on academic and medical center partnerships, particularly the libraries, so that the librarians could facilitate access to the NLM resources. However, it was realized that improving health and having access to health information benefits everyone and should not be restricted to academics; eventually, the focus moved to include public libraries and, recently, partnerships with community-based organizations and community entities that serve the community in a way that would benefit from NLM information and resources.

Ms. Meacham stated that the NNLM membership is free, provides access to funding, training, information, and materials; provides continuing education credits applicable toward maintaining credentials, such as the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) as well as others recognized by the Medical Library Association (MLA) and similar organizations; allows access to the NLM Traveling Exhibition; and cultivates partnerships and relations development. NNLM wants organizations in the membership that reflect all different perspectives and make connections through this network that is facilitated through membership. Ms. Meacham added that, of the 24 EnHIP member institutions, 20 are also NNLM members, and noted that it is important because there are existing relationships that can serve as a foundation for making mutually beneficial connections between EnHIP and NNLM. Ms. Meacham also said that there are 323 Minority Institutions (MIs) that are located across all seven regions, making note of the potential for making connections with organizations that work in similar areas and with similar audiences and interests that would make effective partnerships with many EnHIP member schools or representatives.

Ms. Meacham also gave a broad overview of what NNLM does to make these connections, citing three pillars: outreach, training, and funding. She said training is the biggest area in which they work, offering hundreds of trainings a year, highlighting the period from October 2022 through September 2023 that offered 313 classes with 30,843 registrants. The classes and trainings are freely available, and NNLM creates the materials that cover a range of topics, which are often taught by guest speakers who are experts in that field. The classes often reflect the needs of the community that a region has identified. One class that NNLM conducted was a Social Determinants of Health Webinar Series, which can be found along with all other recordings of trainings on the NNLM YouTube page. Other course examples include Black Maternal Health Week Series, Finding Environmental Health Information in



PubMed, Introduction to Generative AI, and Providing Multilingual Health Information. The complete training catalog is located at <https://www.nlm.gov/training>.

Ms. Meacham noted that the second pillar is funding, and that the universities where the regions are based offer funding to organizations within their region. Every year they give grants to these organizations for projects that are similar to EnHIP Outreach Award projects presented earlier. A number of EnHIP member schools have received NNLM funding for projects, including Meharry Medical College for developing a dialect and accent digital technology; the University of Alaska, Anchorage, for providing medical outreach to remote communities; the University of Hawaii at Manoa for professional development support; the University of Puerto Rico for locating Latino and Hispanic American's health information in the metaverse; and the University of New Mexico for the creation of a native health database. Last year, NNLM funded 112 projects with over a million dollars going to the communities; this is one of the primary ways NNLM impacts communities, not telling them what to do, but inviting them to tell NNLM what the community needs. Information on funding can be found at <https://www.nlm.gov/funding>.

Ms. Meacham described the final pillar, outreach, as a broad, nebulous term that NNLM uses because there is no way to encapsulate all the varieties of engagement that the regions handle. A small sample of programs that fall under this pillar includes an informational webinar series, traveling exhibits, the NNLM Discovery podcast that highlights different stories, yearly symposiums, community in-person outreach, and internship programs. More information on outreach can be found at <https://www.nlm.gov> by region.

Ms. Meacham closed by reiterating that important connections can be found in your region, and even on campus, that EnHIP representatives can take advantage of as well as opportunities to grow and learn about NNLM resources, NLM resources, and making partnerships with other groups in your community.

#### VIII. Future of EnHIP Planning Overview - Closed Session

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Blair Anton facilitated a session to identify and incorporate NIH/NLM strategic priorities and strategic plan goals for EnHIP.

#### IV. Visioning Exercise - Closed Session

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans facilitated small group sessions to develop a new result statement for EnHIP and discussed the rationale behind the need for the new statement and its role in planning the future.

### **Day 2**

#### IX. Conversations with the NLM Acting Director

**Dr. Dina Paltoo, PhD (on behalf of NLM Acting Director Stephen Sherry)  
Acting Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs  
National Library of Medicine**

On the day of the presentation, NLM Acting Director Stephen Sherry was ill. Ms. Babski introduced NLM Acting Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs Dr. Dina Paltoo, who joined the meeting virtually on behalf of Dr. Sherry. Dr. Paltoo provided an update on the current standing of priorities at NLM and NIH. She reminded the attendees of the mission of

NLM to accelerate discovery and data-powered health. NLM's plan is to accelerate discovery and advance health through data-driven research, reach more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement, and build a workforce for data-driven research and health.

Dr. Paltoo stated that Dr. Bertagnolli took over as NIH Director in November 2023 and added that, with any new director, comes a new vision. Dr. Paltoo shared her insight into the guiding principles of Dr. Bertagnolli's leadership and the important role that NLM is poised to play in the next chapter of the NIH story. Dr. Paltoo shared the challenges in public health and biomedical research that NIH is ready to address. She shared a slide showing a stark decline in the U.S. relative life expectancy compared with peer countries from 2021 data, which dipped since 2014 and, therefore, cannot be fully explained by the COVID-19 pandemic. Data also showed that, despite lower life expectancy, the United States spends far more on healthcare than other wealthy countries and increased spending has not resulted in better health. Dr. Bertagnolli and NLM both agree that NIH and NLM can play an important role in reversing this trend, which will involve bringing data and information that clearly link new approaches and resource utilization to meaningful clinical outcomes. Dr. Bertagnolli also pointed out that the link between biomedical evidence and clinical decision making could be made stronger. Dr. Bertagnolli noted that there is not only a gap between evidence and its impact on clinical care, but there is also a concerning gap in the evidence itself. There are serious disparities in access to clinical trials that mirror disparities in overall healthcare delivery. There are missing data in very large, important groups of patients, including those who are older, are uninsured, belong to minority groups, live in rural locations, have co-morbid conditions, and are more likely to receive non-standard treatment. While these challenges are serious, NIH is committed to adopting principles that can meaningfully turn the tide toward better health for all people. Dr. Bertagnolli added that the work is not finished when scientific discoveries are delivered, the work is finished when all people are living longer and healthier lives; and this includes looking beyond the moment of scientific discovery. Dr. Bertagnolli noted that, while discovery is certainly the foundation of the work at NLM, the scientific advantages need to reach the people who need them the most.

Dr. Paltoo continued to explain how Dr. Bertagnolli emphasized that, to make this happen, people need to rely on all components of NIH research lifecycles—from basic science to implementation research in the community and beyond. The pursuit of better health must be robust and comprehensive. Dr. Bertagnolli said people are EnHIP's partners in discovery, whether those people are researchers, trial participants, or clinicians. Of relevance to NLM is the opportunity to embrace new advances and scientific methods, such as data analytics, and to ensure that these advances support everyone by including everyone. Dr. Bertagnolli has noted that, while researchers have been using novel approaches, such as AI and machine learning for some time, the world is at a critical point where these technologies have captured its attention. AI is already revolutionizing healthcare, and Dr. Bertagnolli called for more investment in a secure and sustainable data sharing infrastructure. Now is the time to deliver evidence-based, data-driven healthcare to every patient and embrace the real-time feedback these technologies can offer, allowing the clinic to inform the research and not just the other way around.

Dr. Paltoo mentioned that Dr. Bertagnolli has stressed that one of her major priorities as NIH Director is to support research that integrates with healthcare and revitalizes the approach to data integration, data sharing, and, most of all, data use. By integrating with healthcare, Dr. Bertagnolli means connecting research with the points of care that people are most likely to encounter. She emphasized that NIH has not yet established an NIH-wide clinical research infrastructure for primary care practitioners who see everything that is happening with their patient's health. Dr. Bertagnolli added that this focus is a way to treat patients in underserved communities and rural and urban regions alike. This may be done through adopting innovative study designs that address common health issues that can be done in busy primary care offices or a community health center and by using electronic health records not only as a source of data, but also to connect patients to clinical research and disseminate research findings.

Dr. Paltoo added that Dr. Bertagnolli stresses the need to expand biomedical research data to inform new research and improve health outcomes by leveraging insights from social sciences, clinical care, and basic science. It must also include advanced genomics, diagnostics, wearables, and other forms of emerging technology in NIH research that can help improve people's health. NIH will employ a federated architecture for data sharing and use, increase capacity for data hosting, and enable low-cost access to data using open industry standards. NIH will take a sustainable approach to these advances by broadening access to these tools and investing in education and workforce development to prepare a new generation of data scientists. Dr. Paltoo said that NLM is energized by the ways Dr. Bertagnolli's priorities and guidelines that align with the NLM mission and strategic vision. From data-driven research to training programs, EnHIP has an exciting opportunity to support NIH-wide goals and priorities.

Dr. Paltoo moved to NLM updates and shared a slide showing FY 2021-FY 2025 NLM appropriations, noting that the FY 2024 appropriations bill was signed into law on March 23, 2024. The result was a flat budget that was equivalent to FY 2023 funding levels for NLM. The slide showed that the FY 2025 president's budget increased by \$31.5 million.

NLM has also kicked off a Generative AI (GenAI) pilot with 10 use cases across NLM. The pilots are using Microsoft's open AI service, Azure. Staff are gaining new knowledge, collaborating across NLM and gaining practical insights into uses of large language models. She added that staff have experimented with new tools and are in the process of developing a proof of concept that applies to their use cases. The next stage for the pilot will be to measure the results to make sure they are ensuring safe, unbiased, and reliable results.

Dr. Paltoo's final update was to share that NLM is engaging in a culture of continuous innovation. NLM continues to make great progress in establishing models of innovation that are applied consistently across the Library. There are countless numbers of staff bringing forward novel approaches, ideas, and alternative methods to showcase their innovations. This is an ongoing commitment to innovation, and it is seen in day-to-day operational delivery as well as forward-looking approaches as NLM remains responsive to how it serves the public. Innovation is a common thread throughout the three pillars of the NLM strategic plan, And is reinforced through the vision of HHS and NIH overall with examples, like customer

experience and digital transformation. NLM is leading in many of these spaces as it builds out a new digital strategy and showcases the application of data science through machine learning and AI. NLM is building a new structure and process that creates consistency across NLM and a common structure and process for innovation.

Dr. Paltoo added that, with continuous innovation at NLM, it continues to make great progress in establishing innovation that is applied consistently across NLM and pivots NLM from innovation as separate actions to a continuous model that is intentional, consistent, and embedded across all levels of the organization. With the development of a roadmap of key activities and milestones, NLM started to build out across four major components: governance to create a structure and decision-making process to improve and prioritize ideas from all levels of staff across NLM; idea lifecycle to build an end-to-end process that takes ideas from initial concept and connects them to a problem statement, then to the creation of prototypes, and, if applicable, to alternative methods to improve delivery of services to the public; measurement that defines the standard measures to evaluate the results from innovation commitments and informs continuous learning and improvement; and organizational readiness, which is part of the lifecycle that will communicate, engage, and reinforce continuous innovation at all levels of NLM. NLM is on track to have an initial build out of each of these components, and key activities will continue for the remainder of this fiscal year and throughout FY 2025. As NLM continues to build out the continuous innovation lifecycle, it remains committed to creating an efficient, supportive, and inclusive experience for all staff at every level as it realizes that creating a culture of innovation is a responsibility that everyone shares.

Dr. Paltoo closed by noting that NLM values the EnHIP member schools and representatives as important stakeholders and as critical partners in ensuring NLM is making progress on the shared long-standing goal of educating underserved groups. Dr. Paltoo said that Dr. Sherry looks forward to learning more about how NLM can continue to support EnHIP programs and ideas on how NLM can facilitate open science practices and ensure awareness and access to funding opportunities. EnHIP member schools can play a key role in advancing the NLM/NIH goals and priorities, including moving toward a more diverse workforce, improving access to high-quality health information, and positioning NLM as an innovative data science hub that will drive scientific discovery. For NLM and EnHIP to move forward together, NLM relies on valuable ideas and insights from member institutions, including questions about NLM/NIH priorities and how NLM is positioned for the future as the data hub of NIH and how EnHIP and NLM can work together to ensure that the needs of member schools are met and align with the NLM and NIH goals and priorities.

#### X. UTEP Welcome Address and Presentations

Dr. Ibarra-Mejia requested that the EnHIP Planning Committee allow time during the annual meeting to introduce key members of the UTEP faculty and administration. Each member was given a brief introduction before their presentations. See Biographies for more information.

##### **John Wiebe, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Wiebe thanked EnHIP for traveling to the UTEP campus for the meeting and hoped that representatives would walk away with a sense of how unique the institution is. He said UTEP is

a comprehensive public university that is increasing access to excellent higher education, advancing discovery of public value, and positively impacting the health, culture, education, and economy of the community that they serve.

Dr. Wiebe noted that, as of 2019, UTEP is a Carnegie R1 university but is also recognized by Carnegie as a community-engaged institution. UTEP is also the leading Hispanic-serving U.S. institution with over 24,000 students, 84% of whom identify as Hispanic, with half of those being first-generation college attendees. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of UTEP students come from households with annual incomes of \$20,000 or less. UTEP has transformed dramatically within the last 35 years from a little teaching college on the border of Mexico with \$6M in external funding to an R1 university with \$146M in external funding. The transformation was organized around the vision of Dr. Diana Natalicio, who directed the progress over her 31-year career as president. Her vision aimed to merge accessibility with academic excellence, enhancing research infrastructure to support UTEP's fundamental mission of providing access to education. Dr. Natalicio believed that, without the infrastructure that is seen in an R1 university, it was hard to provide the opportunities students needed to compete in a global economy. The vision at that time was largely unique in higher education but has been the driving force behind the decisions UTEP has made. UTEP's focus is on its responsibility to serve its region that has historically been underserved by higher education. Dr. Wiebe stated that UTEP focuses on high-impact practices and that undergraduate research happens in an organized way and at a level that is uncommon for R1 universities, and the university sees the results of that.

### **Juan Aguilera, MD, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, UTHealth Houston**

Dr. Aguilera was pleased to present at his alma mater and thanked the organizers for the invitation. He stated the focus of his presentation was the relationship between air pollution and cardiorespiratory health in El Paso, Texas. Dr. Aguilera shared that, when he began studying at UTEP for his Master of Public Health, he met a professor who was looking into cardiovascular health in children, which started his engagement with research. At the time, Dr. Aguilera did not understand how air pollution affected cardiovascular health, but he had the opportunity to go beyond the traditional health determinants and consider the importance of the environment to cardiac health.

Dr. Aguilera had the opportunity to participate in many studies, using built-in infrastructure to conduct health measurements across various communities. These studies generated several data points on health and location in relation to levels of pollutants. His team was able to create a way to correlate health data with pollution data to predict probability of metabolic syndrome and create a heat map of predicted probability of pollutants in specific areas. He added that this study opened the door for a post-doc opportunity at Stanford University, where he focused on the relationship between wildfire smoke, health, air pollution, and immunology. Once the work was completed, he came back to Texas to join the University of Texas Health System in Houston where he continues to collaborate with UTEP staff on pollution studies and discuss next steps. These studies assess health risks associated with exposure to traffic emissions and communities near major roadways. Future studies should aim to validate the models with field data. Additionally, integrating the model with factors, such as socioeconomic status, population density, and length of residence, is crucial. The

ultimate goal is to pair these models with clinical health outcomes. This will enable the development of improved strategies to reduce the effects of air pollution exposure on health and to create actionable policies.

Dr. Aguilera said that recommendations exist and are ready to be shared, and it is time to join forces with communities, politicians, and policymakers to take the next step to create a better system.

**Josiah Heyman, PhD, Director, Center for Inter-American and Border Studies**

Dr. Heyman thanked EnHIP for the invitation to speak and added that this would be a good point to pick up on points that emerged from Dr. Aguilera's presentation because Dr. Heyman would focus on the transborder, binational qualities of some of these issues and the environmental and biophysical dimensions are not well known.

Dr. Heyman discussed that the borderlands comprise 20 million people across two countries around the U.S.-Mexico border. In 2018, a survey was developed with the same questions for both sides of the border. It was designed to collect data on the way people move back and forth over the border. Dr. Heyman said medical transnationalism can be described by border crossing for health services. He said this is an important phenomenon in the El Paso region, but not universal. He added that many people are restricted to one country and that it tends to be Mexico, because most people do not have Visas to enter the U.S. He and Dr. Eva Moya consulted on the survey to gather data on crossing the borderlands, with 63.7% of El Pasoans crossing and 25.2% of residents of Ciudad Juarez crossing. The principal motivations for crossing from El Paso were visiting family and friends, shopping, and medical services. Dr. Heyman noted that transnational medical care means that the borderlands have a very complex healthcare pattern that has little to no coordination. The survey found that many view Mexico as a safety net for the U.S. gaps in healthcare, with more than half traveling to Mexico for health-related needs due to the lack of insurance or the inability to afford insurance co-pays. He added that transnational effects are wider than just healthcare mobility and that health is affected by social and cultural contexts and environmental health risk factors that are different in the two countries.

Dr. Heyman also noted that sharing a border means sharing the environment, with significant pollution—such as heat sheds—generated on both sides of the border due to transnational transit. This includes the movement of individuals, manufacturing and warehouse activities, and the delivery of goods. He stated that there is not much information on transmission or non-transmission of heat over any kind of distance and that they are currently developing a landcover map. This map will detail the distribution of trees in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, along with corresponding heat variables. He said there is a tradeoff in desert environments for heat, trees, and water, as trees take water, and there is no sustainable water system in the region, and he wants to give people better tools to implement the use of trees to temper climate change in dry environments. Dr. Heyman also noted that another environmental health issue in the region is the various movement of toxins in the region, specifically the cancer-causing ethylene oxide, which is used at the border to sterilize medical supplies produced in the transnational trade.

Dr. Heyman closed with a reminder of the importance of studying transnational outcomes to create tools to combat environmental health issues created by movement across the border.

**Kathleen Staudt, PhD, Professor Emerita of Political Science**

Dr. Staudt thanked the planning committee for the invitation to present, even though the connection between political science and environmental health may not be clear. She explained that political science focuses on public policy, policy implementation, leadership, and civil engagement, and she taught courses with these focuses as well as border studies.

Dr. Staudt referenced the two previous presentations in that the infrastructure of the borderlands creates pollution and undermines air quality, and she does not believe enough is being done at the state-level to mitigate these issues. She noted that she now focuses on local-level action based on relationships with responsive county commissioners, city council members, and congressional representatives to challenge and change practices that may generate environmental health problems.

Dr. Staudt discussed two case studies in which she joined impacted residents, city council members, and environmental lawyers to stop or impede projects that would cause more environmental health issues. In Case One, an oil refinery sought approval from a state environmental agency for a new 10-year permit that would allow increased pollutant emissions, affecting nearby south-central residents in an area already heavily documented as a cancer cluster. Environmental justice lawyer, Veronica Carbajal, represented people in south-central El Paso and suggested that testifiers should request a contested case hearing that would involve independent technical consultants to push for an administrative hearing. She said that, fortunately, two county commissioners who championed the request were able to build a majority to get the budget to hire the consultants. She said it will be months more until the case receives a contested hearing. In Case Two, the General Services Administration (GSA) announced plans for the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) expansion that would add to the already existing BOTA pollution. While GSA might have anticipated appeasement-oriented hearings, multiple local leaders and community organizations pushed back on the project. Dr. Staudt and many others submitted multiple testimonies detailing the pollution and its environmental health impacts on the community. They also leveraged their relationship with Congressional Representative Veronica Escobar to advocate for redesigned routes that would redirect large semi-trucks—significant sources of pollutants while idling on the bridge—away from the central city to a far less populated area. After 2 years, a design, including no crossing for trucks, was presented and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process allowed for more independent oversight and leverage for community organizations to have a voice. This case is also ongoing.

Dr. Staudt closed by summarizing her lessons learned. She said persistence is important, and relationships with community organizations and leaders are the key to success. It is equally important to learn the bureaucratic rules for engagement and seek political leverage to make those rules accessible and actionable for those advocating for environmental justice. She said that bureaucratic policies are not changed by research and advised people not to rely on solid research alone to build a case. Dr. Staudt also recommended training students who are the next generation of researchers and leaders in engagement tools, tactics, and strategies alongside organized community members.

**Ms. Alexis Kirkwood, Student in the Department of Public Health Sciences**

Ms. Kirkwood thanked the annual meeting organizers for the invitation to present at the meeting and noted her internship with the NLM Office of Engagement and Training (OET) last fall. She said she received a ListServ notice with internship information and an invitation to apply and that the application requirements included a CV or resume, college transcript, two writing samples, a brief essay on interest in the internship, and two references. After the pre-screening process, two interviews were conducted. Ms. Kirkwood stated her interests in the internship were analyzing social media data that aligned with her interest in health informatics and administration focus, connecting with experts in public health research and practice, and improving her health communication strategies.

Ms. Kirkwood said the objective was to use social media listening to examine mistrust of authoritative health information. Her tasks included using a social listening tool to collect tweets that mention health organizations and doctors/scientists/pharma appearing with the terms “lie or lies/don’t trust/evil/corrupt.” She was also responsible for conducting an in-depth analysis of health-related tweets and generating insights aimed at improving public health communication and trust in health information. The goal was to present her findings and recommendations to NLM OET to enhance health communication strategies. She added that she gained skills in data coding, health communication, and remote team-based collaboration. The findings were that most tweets were related to COVID-19 and used negatively charged terminology to evoke strong emotions and reactions from the public. There were also several mock government accounts imitating major federal agencies that were perceived as authentic by users. More tweets expressing mistrust were directed at the government than health professionals or scientists due to implications of “big pharma” and government collusion. Ms. Kirkwood added that over half of the tweets discussed COVID-positivity containment guideline changes as evidence of lies/corruption, indicating the need to discuss the evolving nature of scientific knowledge. Recommendations suggested by the study involved increasing transparency, connecting evolution of research to health policy changes to build trust, enhancing health literacy, clarifying the roles and relationships among the federal agencies and pharmaceutical companies, and engaging health professionals to improve patient-provider communication challenges.

Ms. Kirkwood closed by noting how the mentorship improved her remote collaboration and health communication skills, expanded her perspective through engagement with interns from diverse backgrounds, and offered fresh insights. She added that participating in a real-world project improved her analytical and data visualization skills and allowed her to network with NLM professionals. This opened doors to applying for government fellowships and exploring the possibility of future government roles.

**XI. Operationalizing Key Activities – Closed Session**

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans facilitated a session in which representatives gained an understanding of the new direction of EnHIP and brainstormed recommendations to actualize the vision.



## XII.Measuring Success - Closed Session

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans facilitated a session in which representatives identified and developed performance measures of a successful partnership.

## XIII.Personnel & Roles - Closed Session

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans facilitated a session in which representatives developed and identified primary roles that EnHIP member representatives could play in the relationship with the NLM.

## XIV.Closing Remarks

Dr. Keselman closed the meeting by thanking the attendees and speakers for a productive meeting, Mr. Frazier and Ms. Evans for facilitating the future of EnHIP sessions, UTEP for hosting the annual meeting, and ORAU for logistics and coordination planning for the event. She announced that the next steps are for NLM to take the information and ideas from the meeting and create actionable follow-up plans, which she would share with the member school representatives.

XV. Pictorial Highlights



## XV. Speaker Biographies

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION PARTNERSHIPS SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Juan Aguilera, MD, PhD, MPH**, is an Assistant Professor at UTHealth Houston, passionate about advancing public health and reducing health disparities. Born in Ciudad Juarez, Dr. Aguilera is a native of the Paso del Norte region, a binational metropolitan area within the U.S.-Mexico border. His research focuses on the interplay of environmental exposures and cardiorespiratory health, looking at outcomes, such as obesity, metabolic syndrome, asthma, and the immune response. Before his current position, Dr. Aguilera served as the Director of Translational Environmental and Climate Health at the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy & Asthma Research at Stanford University.

**Anne Altemus, MA, FAMI**, leads the Innovative Engagement Communications Team in the User Engagement Branch at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Previously, Ms. Altemus led the Audiovisual Program and Development Branch (APDB) in the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, the research and development arm of NLM, applying emerging communications technologies to NLM programs and services. Ms. Altemus has a BA in Fine Art, Sociology and Biology from the University of Richmond and an MA in Medical and Biological Illustration from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Ms. Altemus is also an assistant professor in the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins.

**Blair Anton, MS, MLIS**, is the Program Manager for User Engagement in the Engagement Branch of the User Services and Collection Division of the National Library of Medicine. In this role, she supervises 18 professional staff who manage several user engagement programs, products, and services that reach NLM's diverse audiences. Prior to her federal service, Ms. Anton was the Associate Director for Informationist Services at the William H. Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Anton's background includes over 15 years of clinical experience as a licensed and certified counselor in the behavioral healthcare field in Illinois. She has a BA in English and Education from Lawrence University, an MS in Human Services Counseling from National Louis University, and an MLIS from Dominican University.

**Dianne Babski, MIM**, is the Director of the User Services and Collection Division at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Ms. Babski is responsible for the overall management of one of NLM's largest divisions. She oversees budget, facilities, administration, and operations, including a national network of more than 8,000 academic, health science, public libraries, and community organizations to improve access to quality health information. Ms. Babski is currently leading a Generative AI pilot at NLM to leverage the latest in Gen AI to unlock new pathways of biomedical discovery, increase operational efficiencies, and achieve better user experience across NLM resources. Ms. Babski holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in information management.

**Rosa Escalante, MSW**, is an Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD student at the University of Texas at El Paso and a PhD Research Associate. Ms. Escalante's primary research interests include mental health accessibility and removing stigma and providing education in the Hispanic community. She is also interested in developing interventions for people with physical disabilities to navigate mental health impacts after life-changing situations. Additional interests include health accessibility in rural areas, opioid use disorder, substance use disorder, and food security.

**Yasmin Evans** is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland with over 10 years of operational management experience. She prides herself on being a strong collaborator with the ability to connect with people from all backgrounds and demographics. She has served in leadership roles as a results-driven manager and talent developer and has helped many of her clients exceed KPI metrics. Additionally, Ms. Evans provides administrative support and project management services to clients as an independent contractor.

**Dolores Caffey-Fleming, MS, MPH**, is a distinguished member of the faculty at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in the College of Science and Health. She serves as principal investigator and program director for several significant projects, including the DDCF Project STRIDE, CIRM ExStRM Program, and NLM EnHIP Outreach Awards. With an unwavering commitment to fostering the next generation of researchers, Mrs. Caffey-Fleming actively engages with community stakeholders, forging partnerships with school leaders to offer invaluable research opportunities to students. A seasoned grant writer, she has secured funding from private foundations and government entities to support these initiatives. Mrs. Caffey-Fleming also contributes extensively to the academic field through publications in peer-reviewed medical journals. In addition to her research leadership, she serves as a dedicated advisor and mentor to high school and college students, providing guidance, resources, and tools to enrich their research experiences. She is instrumental in teaching students how to effectively present their findings and disseminate results. Furthermore, Mrs. Caffey-Fleming offers invaluable support to high school students in conducting research and navigating career opportunities, always prioritizing their personal and professional growth. Through her tireless dedication and mentorship, Mrs. Caffey-Fleming plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of aspiring researchers and healthcare professionals.

**Marcia Frazier** provides executive leadership coaching, Results-Based Accountability (RBA) training and consultation, and strategic planning/meeting facilitation support to government agencies, non-profits, and other socially missioned organizations. In his role as the Clear Impact Academy Director, Mr. Frazier founded and led the development of the *Results-Based Accountability Professional Certification*—a learning platform designed to certify the knowledge and application of the RBA framework in CEOs, executive directors, program managers, government leaders, consultants, and others. Mr. Frazier is a certified transformational coach through the Coach Diversity Institute and a resident of Atlanta, Georgia. He enjoys playing basketball, being outdoors, and discovering new music.

**LaFrancis Gibson, MBA, MPH, CHES** is the EnHIP Project Manager and the Associate Manager for Health Communications for Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). Ms. Gibson holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from East Tennessee State University. She manages multiple outreach, engagement, training, and health promotion programs and projects for various government agencies, federal agencies, Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), community and faith-based organizations, and national organizations.

**Josiah Heyman, PhD**, is Professor of Anthropology, Endowed Professor of Border Trade Issues, and Director of the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Interamerican and Border Studies. He received his PhD from the City University of New York in 1988. Dr. Heyman is the author of two books and editor of three others. He also has authored over 160 articles, book chapters, and major essays. His recent work involves heat, water, trees, and environmental justice in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez region. Before that, he worked on migrants and state enforcement against migration, health disparities, everyday border crossing and ports of entry, and family histories in the historical formation of the border region.

**Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, MD, PhD**, is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Public Health Sciences specializing in environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, and advanced research methods. He also serves as an adjunct professor and advisor at several universities, focusing on occupational medicine, ergonomics, and pediatric environmental health. His academic journey includes an MD and an MS from Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez, an MS in Ergonomics from Luleå Tekniska Universitet, Sweden, and a PhD in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia's research primarily addresses environmental and occupational health and safety, with a focus on Hispanic populations. He collaborates internationally on a range of topics, including construction safety, air pollution, and microbial risk analysis in water sources. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia's extensive experience includes musculoskeletal biomechanics, authoring publications in occupational medicine and ergonomics, and holding multiple leadership roles in professional societies. He is a funded researcher with a focus on NIH grants and actively participates in various professional organizations, contributing significantly to the development of ergonomics societies in Mexico.

**Alla Keselman, PhD**, leads the Partnerships Building and Management Team in NLM's User Engagement Program and serves as NLM lead for its Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP). Dr. Keselman also coordinates NLM efforts to evaluate the impact of its health information outreach and community engagement programs. Previously, Dr. Keselman conducted research into the public's understanding of complex health concepts, scientific literacy, and health information provision outside clinical settings. Jointly with Catherine Arnott Smith, she co-edited "Meeting Health Information Needs Outside of Healthcare: Opportunities and Challenges" (2015, Elsevier) and co-wrote "Consumer Health Informatics: Enabling Digital Health for Everyone" (2020, Chapman & Hall). She is also a co-editor of "Combating Online Health Misinformation: A Professional's Guide to Helping the Public" with Catherine Arnott Smith and Amanda Wilson (2022, Rowman & Littlefield). Dr. Keselman holds a PhD in human cognition and learning and an MA in biomedical informatics from Columbia University.

**Alexis Kirkwood** is an undergraduate senior majoring in public health at the University of Texas at El Paso, expected to graduate in May 2024. She has achieved Dean's List honors and holds memberships in the National Society of Leadership and Success and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Additionally, Ms. Kirkwood is serving her second term as secretary of Students for Public Health, a professional student-led organization offering networking, service opportunities, and connections to public health organizations, while engaging in campus and community service projects.

**Jason Mallonee, DSW, LCSW-S**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Mallonee is a practitioner-scholar with several years of experience as a clinical social worker and program administrator. He holds a BA in Visual Art, an MA in Education, and master's and doctoral degrees in clinical social work. Dr. Mallonee leads research teams studying mental health help-seeking and treatment equity, culturally responsive interventions, and food insecurity. He collaborates on research in cyberbullying and Veteran outreach. Dr. Mallonee was a 2022 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar and has received over \$100k in grant funding since 2021 to develop and pilot test a community-grounded mental health engagement program in the U.S.-Mexico Paso del Norte border region.

**Martha E. Meacham, MA, MLIS**, is the Project Director of the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) (<https://nnlm.gov/>), which is part of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Previously, Ms. Meacham was the associate director of the NNLM New England Region (NNLM NER) within the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts

Medical School. She has also managed two V.A. Medical Center libraries, worked with the Association of American Medical Colleges, and was involved with patient education at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Ms. Meacham has a BS in psychology and was a mental health counselor before earning a Master of Library and Information Science and a Master of Arts in History from Simmons College.

**Eva M. Moya, PhD, MSW**, is the Chair and Professor of the Social Work Department in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She obtained her Master of Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin and her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences from the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Moya is a specialist in border health, with more than 41 years of professional experience in the U.S.-Mexico border region and humanitarian work. Her expertise includes border health, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, experiences of the home-free, community health workers, food and housing insecurity in college students, and the Photovoice method of research. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the *Cuidate El Paso*, the behavioral project at the Border Biomedical Research Center that assesses HPV-related knowledge, attitudes, and practices to identify barriers and facilitate HPV vaccine uptake. She also leads the MD Anderson Cancer Center Project, *Parents and Health Workers United for HPV Cancer Prevention*, a project that supports parents and health providers in getting all vaccines for children 9-17. In addition, she is one of the principal investigators for the *Health, Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE +) Initiative*, a collaboration between UTEP's College of Health Science and College of Nursing with community partners to organize health fairs across the region to bring health services to the home-free and other marginalized populations.

**Richard C. Palmer, DrPH, JD**, is the Acting Director of Extramural Programs where he oversees NLM's grant programs for research, resources, workforce development, and small businesses related to biomedical informatics and data science. Prior to joining NLM, Dr. Palmer was a Health Scientist Administrator at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. He has over 25 years of extramural research experience and has been an investigator on NIH- and CDC-funded research grants. Dr. Palmer has conducted research in healthcare and community-based settings aimed at addressing health disparities, understanding healthcare decision-making, and improving health outcomes and disease management among older adults.

**Dina N. Paltoo, PhD**, is the NLM Acting Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs. Dr. Paltoo establishes and implements policy frameworks that guide NLM's research, operations, and public services and oversee NLM's relationships across NIH and with external groups. Prior to joining NLM, Dr. Paltoo was the Assistant Director, Scientific Strategy and Innovation in the at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Dr. Paltoo was previously at NLM, where she served as the Assistant Director for Policy Development. Dr. Paltoo received her BS in Microbiology and PhD in Physiology and Biophysics from Howard University and her MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Stephen Sherry, PhD**, is the Acting Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NLM is a leader in biomedical informatics, computational health data science research, and the world's largest biomedical library. Before serving as Acting Director in October 2023, Dr. Sherry was Director of NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and NLM Associate Director for Scientific Data Resources. Throughout his tenure at NLM, Dr. Sherry has participated in many NIH efforts to characterize human genetic diversity and has served on numerous working groups across NIH to address a range of data science issues, including the development of the genomic data sharing policy, privacy analysis for risk-sensitive datasets, and advances in scientific publications. Dr. Sherry earned his PhD in Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University in 1996 and

completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Louisiana State University Medical Center before joining NLM in 1998.

**Guillermina Solis, PhD**, is an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing Graduate program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She obtained her Master of Nursing from the University of Arizona, her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences from UTEP, and a Post Doctorate in geriatric research from the University of Utah. Dr. Solis is a certified Family & Geriatric nurse practitioner and is dedicated to her clinical practice. Her research focuses on Hispanic Health disparities among vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. She has collaborated in national and regional studies with other universities, such as Weill Cornell Medical College and Oregon Health & Science University. She is one of the principal investigators for the *Health, Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE +) Initiative*, a collaboration between UTEP's College of Health Science and College of Nursing, Clinical Laboratory Science, and many community partners to bring health services to at-risk populations.

**Kathleen Staudt, PhD**, Professor Emerita of Political Science, earned her PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1976. She taught courses in public policy, comparative politics, border politics, and women & politics, and, in 1998, founded UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement (now called the Center for Community Engagement). Dr. Staudt published over 150 peer-reviewed academic articles and 20 academic books, half of them on borderlands studies, the latest of which analyzed broad-based community organizing in Texas cities (*Hope for Justice and Power...*, University of North Texas Press, 2020). Among other grants, she received a small NIMH grant under the Hispanic Disparities Program to fund two graduate students to conduct interviews for a community-based participatory research project on physical and mental health in an outlying area of El Paso next to a large border steel plant, with articles published in *Local Environment*, *Environmental Justice*, and a chapter in *The U.S.-Mexico Transborder Region*, co-edited by Velez-Ibanez and Heyman (University of Arizona Press, 2017).

**John Wiebe, PhD**, serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at El Paso. As Provost, Dr. Wiebe is the University's chief academic officer. He is responsible for the oversight and administration of all academic degree programs and plays a key role in planning and policy development for the University, and strategic campus initiatives. Dr. Wiebe received his doctorate in clinical health psychology from the University of Iowa and completed a clinical psychology doctoral internship at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics. He also holds a master's degree in psychology from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree in psychology, *summa cum laude*, from Ohio Wesleyan University. A professor of psychology and licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Wiebe has teaching and research interests in psychometrics and mental health. He has a record of funded research in clinical health research, and his students have gone on to faculty careers across the United States and Mexico.

**Amanda J. Wilson, MSLS**, is the Deputy Director of the User Services and Collection Division (USCD) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM). As part of the senior leadership team, she oversees the division's budget and administrative operations and contributes to the implementation of USCD's ambitious vision of its 2036 Long Range Plan. Previously, Ms. Wilson was the founding Chief of NLM's Office of Engagement and Training and served as both the Director of the National Transportation Library and the Assistant Director of the Office of Transportation Information Resources, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Ms. Wilson holds an MS in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a BA in music and psychology from Emory University. Ms. Wilson is also an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America Department of Library and Information Science.

## XVI. Directory of Member Schools

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION PARTNERSHIPS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP 2024 DIRECTORY**

#### **Benedict College**

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