



## LISBON, PORTUGAL

# The Health Equity Imperative: Exploring Solutions to Address Current Health Crises in Our Community

**October 5, 2023**

Corinthia Lisbon  
Av. Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro  
105, 1099-031  
Lisbon, Portugal

Jointly provided by:

Healthfirst, SOMOS Community Care, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine—Montefiore Medical Center



**Montefiore Einstein**

# The Health Equity Imperative: Exploring Solutions to Address Current Health Crises in Our Community

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This continuing medical education activity aims to promote the advancement of community health and well-being through a focus on health inequities and professional practice gap experiences by community-based primary care providers. These include limitations in the management of chronic conditions for patients with barriers to care, expanded need for behavioral health integration into primary care practice, and increasing social determinants of health stressors impacting patient health and well-being.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the event, participants should be able to:

- Describe the social conditions and experiences that influence health status and risk and contribute to health care disparities.
- Identify unique healthcare needs of diverse patient populations experiencing disparities in health outcomes.
- Review recent advances in clinical medicine, social needs navigation and evidence-based strategies to improve health equity.
- Improve clinical skills in managing clinical information, communicating with patients, and adopting pragmatic tools and innovations to address the comprehensive medical and behavioral needs of patient populations.

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

Medical directors, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, health professionals, allied health professionals and workers, and practice and health organization leaders serving displaced, immigrant, and vulnerable patients.

## ACCREDITATION STATEMENT



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Montefiore Medical Center, Healthfirst and SOMOS Community Care. Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Montefiore Medical Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

## CREDIT DESIGNATION STATEMENT

Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Montefiore Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 9.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

# The Health Equity Imperative: Exploring Solutions to Address Current Health Crises in Our Community

## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The "Policy on Identification, Mitigation and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships" of Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center requires that any individual in control of content, including faculty, participating in CME/CE activities disclose to the audience all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies\* in the last 24 months. Any individual in control of content who refuses to disclose, or their disclosed relationships prove to create a conflict of interest, will be recused. Individuals with the absence of relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies will be disclosed to the audience.

All financial relationships of individuals in a position to control the content of this CME/CE activity has been identified and mitigated prior to this educational activity.

*\*The ACCME defines an ineligible company as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.*

## REGISTRATION

If you need additional information or to register for the conference, please email Angela Sullivan, Manager, Provider Education, [asullivan@healthfirst.org](mailto:asullivan@healthfirst.org) or 917-748-8455.

## DISCLAIMER

Participants have an implied responsibility to use the newly acquired information to enhance patient outcomes and their own professional development. The information presented in this activity is not meant to serve as a guideline for patient management. Any procedures, medications, or other courses of diagnosis or treatment discussed in this activity should not be used by clinicians without evaluation of patient conditions and possible contraindications on dangers in use, review of any applicable manufacturer's product information, and comparison with recommendations of other authorities.

## FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This activity has not received any commercial support from an ineligible company.

# AGENDA

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 7:00AM – 7:30AM                               | Registration   |
| 7:30AM – 7:45AM                               | <p><b>Welcome and Greetings</b></p> <p><b>Ramon Tallaj, MD</b><br/><i>Chairman of the Board, SOMOS Community Care</i></p> <p><b>Errol Pierre, MPA, DBA</b><br/><i>Senior Vice President, State Programs, Healthfirst</i></p> <p><b>Introduction into the CME Activity and Announcements</b></p> <p><b>Allison Stark, MD, MBA</b><br/><i>Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Montefiore Care Management Organization and Office of Community and Population Health</i></p>  |
| Immigrants and Asylum Seekers                 |  |
| 7:45AM – 8:45AM                               | <p><b>Current State of Immigrant and Minority Communities</b></p> <p><b>Emilio Ivan Perez, MD</b><br/><i>Geriatrician, AW Medical Care</i></p> <p><b>A Two-Class System in Health Care</b></p> <p><b>Ramon Rodriguez</b><br/><i>President and Chief Executive Officer, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center</i></p>  |
| 8:45AM – 9:15AM                               | Question and Answer Session  |
| Let's Talk Epidemic Crises Impacting Families |  |
| 9:15AM – 10:15AM                              | <p><b>The Behavioral Health Crisis Continues to Grow with Bullying, Depression/ Anxiety, and Substance Use</b></p> <p><b>Esteve Montasell Jordana</b><br/><i>Chief Neuropsychology Service, ITA Salud Mental</i></p> <p><b>Obesity Epidemic and Management</b></p> <p><b>Henry Chen, MD</b><br/><i>President, SOMOS Community Care</i></p>   |
| 10:15AM – 10:45AM                             | Question and Answer Session  |
| 10:45AM – 11:00AM                             | Break: 15 Minutes  |
| Women's Health                                |  |
| 11:00AM – 12:00PM                             | <p><b>Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality: State of the Union</b></p> <p><b>Marie-Ignace G. Morel, MD, FACOG</b><br/><i>Director, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center<br/>Perinatal Specialists of the Palm Beaches</i></p> <p><b>Understanding Menopause in our Community</b></p> <p><b>Ervin Rene Riaño Marin, MD, FACOG</b><br/><i>Minimal Invasive Surgery Diplomate<br/>Associated Program Director, Ob/Gyn Residency at Flushing Hospital Medical Center<br/>Medical Director at Queens Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology Services</i></p> |
| 12:00PM – 12:30PM                             | Question and Answer Session  |

# AGENDA

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 12:30PM – 1:30PM  | Lunch: 60 Minutes  |
| <b>Benefits of Preventative Health ('Silent Killers')</b> |  |
| 1:30PM – 3:00PM   | <p><b>Advancing Equity in Diabetes Management - The Role of Racial Disparities in Outcomes: How to Address in the Clinic</b></p> <p><b>Joshua J. Joseph, MD, MPH, FAHA</b><br/>Associate Professor of Internal Medicine<br/>The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center</p> <p><b>Addressing Health Inequity in Hypertension Disease</b></p> <p><b>Shawna D. Nesbitt, MD, MS</b><br/>Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UT Southwestern Medical Center<br/>Medical Director, Parkland Health &amp; Hospital System's Hypertension Clinic<br/>Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, UT Southwestern</p> <p><b>Strategies for Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates in New York City</b></p> <p><b>Gopal Narasimhan, DO</b><br/>Gastroenterologist, Washington Heights Gastroenterology PC, Mount Sinai Health System</p> |
| 3:00PM – 3:30PM   | Question and Answer Session  |
| <b>The Story of Serving the Underserved</b>               |  |
| 3:30PM – 4:30PM   | <p><b>Navigating the Healthcare System in the US for the Underserved, Minority Population</b></p> <p><b>Ramon Tallaj, MD</b><br/>Chairman of the Board, SOMOS Community Care</p> <p><b>Bridging the Provider/Patient Divide in Providing Quality Care to Underserved Populations</b></p> <p><b>Shariff de los Santos</b><br/>President, Quality Improvement Medical Management<br/>Chief Executive Officer, Basilica Management Corp</p>   |
| 4:30PM – 5:00PM   | Question and Answer Session  |
| 5:00PM – 5:15PM   | Break: 15 Minutes  |
| <b>New Pathways to Improve Health Outcomes</b>            |  |
| 5:15PM – 6:15PM   | <p><b>Medicaid Redeterminations and Impacts on Healthcare</b></p> <p><b>Errol Pierre, MPA, DBA</b><br/>Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration, New York University<br/>Senior Vice President, State Programs, Healthfirst</p> <p><b>Digital Health Literacy and Digital Inequity as Social Determinants of Health</b></p> <p><b>John Dionisio, MPH</b><br/>Chief Information Officer, SOMOS Community Care</p>   |
| 6:15PM – 6:45PM   | Question and Answer Session  |
| 6:45PM  | <p><b>Closing Remarks and Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Ramon Tallaj, MD</b><br/>Chairman of the Board, SOMOS Community Care</p>   |

# Emilio Ivan Perez, MD



## *Geriatrician, AW Medical Care*

Emilio Perez, MD, is an attending physician at AW Medical Care in the Bronx and is affiliated with Mount Sinai. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Saint Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in 2008, and a fellowship in geriatric medicine also at St. Luke's in 2009. Dr. Perez is board-certified in Internal Medicine and in Internal Medicine Geriatric Medicine.

Dr. Perez is the former President of the Dominican Medical-Dental Society and currently serves as a board member. He is currently the Associate Director of Home Visits Program in the Department of Internal Medicine Division of Geriatrics at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital Center.

Dr. Perez's professional interest and expertise lies in frailty, geriatric syndromes, dementia and cognitive decline, preventative care in the elderly, and palliative care. He has lectured on topics such as frailty, chronic complication of COVID-19, and geriatric dental care.



# Ramon Rodriguez



## *President and Chief Executive Officer, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center*

Ramon J. Rodriguez is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, a 350-bed teaching hospital located on the border of Brooklyn and Queens, which has been a leader and top executive in healthcare, state government, and social services for over 30 years. A nationally recognized turnaround expert, he has set the hospital on a course of improved patient care and fiscal stability. Mr. Rodriguez joined Wyckoff in December 2011.

As a seasoned managed care executive, Mr. Rodriguez was co-founder and CEO of Socios Mayores En Salud Inc., a Medicare Advantage and health care provider company in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. He has also served as Executive Director of Sanus Health Plan of New York, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Health Net and President of Columbia Greene Medical Center, which consisted of two community hospitals and a nursing home.

In Mr. Rodriguez's state government and social services career, he has served as Chairman of the New York State Parole Board, Chief Counsel of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, and Executive Deputy Director for the Division for Youth and Executive Director of Union Settlement Association. He also was a Trustee of the New School for 27 years and a Board Member of the Primary Care Development Corporation.

He holds a Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law and Bachelor of Arts from City College of New York.



# Esteve Montasell Jordana



## *Head Neuropsychology Service, ITA Salud Mental*

Esteve Montasell Jordana is a graduate in psychology (2012), and a member of the College of Psychology of Catalonia. He holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Neuropsychology (2015) ISEP, a specialist degree in Psychotherapy by the EFPA (Europsy), a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology (2020), and a Master's Degree in Treatment and Assessment of Eating Disorders (2021). Esteve is accredited as an expert in clinical neuropsychology by the General Council of Psychology of Spain (2018), and is the coordinator of the Neuropsychology Service of the ITA Group (Clariane Group) 2016), a spokesperson for the Innovation Committee - Clariane Spain (2021), and creator of the SAE (Spanish Acronyms for School Counseling Service, 2018). Esteve is currently a Doctoral candidate in Clinical and Health Psychology at the UAB in Barcelona. He's also an associated invited researcher with University of Lausanne (Switzerland), a teacher and tutor of internships and Master's final projects in different Masters of Neuropsychology programs in Spain and Ecuador.

Esteve began his care activity with a focus on brain damage in 2013. He worked in an organization located in a disadvantaged neighborhood in Mataró, Spain where he managed to start a day center without a budget. Afterwards, he changed his activity to behavioral disorders and the world of children and young people, developing from scratch the neuropsychology service at ITA in 2016, combining systemic and constructivist family therapists with neuropsychology. He advocates for the approach of neuropsychology towards psychotherapy and bringing neuroscience positions closer to daily clinical practice in mental health.

His research activity focuses on pragmatic aspects of day-to-day clinical practice; in order to obtain data to implement new neuropsychological instruments (D-Flex, The Monetary Choice Questionnaire or Contingency Naming Test), new normative data (CAT-Q, AQ, Stroop, UPPS-P) for adolescent populations such as Eating Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Personality variables and ADHD especially to help in the daily differential diagnosis. He collaborates with Dr. Joël Billieux (Lausanne University) and Dr. Joan Deus (UAB Barcelona). He is writing three articles in order to publish UPPS-P scale normative data for Adolescents and combine with other neuropsychological measures in clinical samples (ED, ASD, PTSD, BDP, FASD, ADHD amongst others) in order to research different cognitive profiles based on a symptom approach.

Esteve is currently involved in two innovation projects in ITA, such as ContigoCare® App (working with partner Eb2 solutions) for monitoring change in patients with substance use disorders and in Macthmind project (with partner Medea), designed to match the best therapist to the right patient.





# Henry Chen, MD



## *President, SOMOS Community Care*

Dr. Henry Chen has been in private practice for more than 27 years in New York City, where he manages the healthcare of patients in the Asian communities of Brooklyn and Manhattan. Dr. Chen graduated from Guangzhou Medical College in 1982, majoring in Medicine, and graduated from the Sun Yat Sen University of Medical Science with a master's degree in surgery in 1987.

Dr. Chen completed his three-year intensive residency training program in Internal Medicine at the New York Hospital of Queens (Cornell Medical School) in 1996. He is an internist, geriatrician, and licensed physician acupuncturist. He established Jennan Comprehensive Medical P.C., opening multiple locations since 1996 and partnered with other PCPs to form Excelsior Integrated Management Corp, an exclusive MSO for Excelsior Integrated Medical Group PLLC, a multi-specialty medical group practice in 2013. Dr. Chen has been serving as CEO since its inception, with over 21 primary care sites and 22 different specialties across Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. All Excelsior's PCP and primary care sites with over one year operation have been recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for level III Patient-Center Medical Home (PCMH), diabetes recognition by NCQA and received grants from the Department of Health, State of New York. This model was selected by the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) as one of the very few models that MSSNY recommended to its entire membership in the State of New York for survival of independent practice.

Dr. Chen has been actively engaged with physician organizations and the community in many ways besides his busy practice. He is the founding member and past President of the Association of Chinese American Physicians, Founder and CEO of the Eastern Chinese American Physician IPA, Founder and CEO of the Chinese Community Accountable Care Organization, with 6 consecutive years receiving share savings from CMS. Lastly, he is the Founding President of SOMOS Community Care, a network of over 2500 community based providers, serving the most vulnerable immigrant communities such as Latino and Chinese, addressing the healthcare disparities among the fast growing minority groups.

Due to his dedication and outstanding services to patients and the community, Dr. Chen was awarded the Certificate of Achievement by New York City Council in 2016, Community Care Award by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York in 2018, Visionary Leadership Award by the Visiting Nurse Services of New York in 2019, Lifetime Achievement Award by ACAP in 2019, Spirit of Asian American Award by the Asian American Federation in 2019, The 100 Most Powerful Asian in New York by the State and City of New York in 2020, 2021 and 2022, the 100 Healthcare in New York State in 2021 and 2022 for his services to the Asian community, and for his leadership and direct participation in the fight of COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Chen's dedicated services to New Yorkers during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the beginning of testing to current vaccination of all New Yorkers, has been recognized by New York City Mayor De Blasio and New York State Governors Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul at both governmental conferences and in the media numerous times.

Dr. Chen received a Certificate of Recognition from New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in June 2022, and President's Lifetime Achievement Award from the President of United States Mr. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. in 2022, as well as a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by US Congresswoman Grace Meng in November 2022. Dr. Chen also received the Public Champion Award by Chinese American Nurses Association May 2023 and Tribute to Excellence in Healthcare by United Hospital Fund of New York State in May of 2023.



# Marie-Ignace G. Morel, MD, FACOG



## *Director, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center Perinatal Specialists of the Palm Beaches*

Dr. Marie-Ignace G. Morel, MD, FACOG, is an esteemed Perinatologist and the former Director of the Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. At present, she is a senior Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist at Perinatal and Gynecologic Specialists of the Palm Beaches, serving in the West Palm Beach, Wellington, Boca, Port St. Lucie, and Boynton Beach offices.

With an impressive tenure of thirty years in Obstetrics and Gynecology, coupled with over two decades in Maternal Fetal Medicine, she occupies a space of expertise and high regard in her domain. As a board-certified professional in Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Dr. Morel's qualifications further underline her proficiency.

Born in Haiti and raised in Brooklyn, New York, she chose to tread her path of higher education by dividing her time between Pennsylvania and New York. She garnered her medical degree from the prestigious Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the renowned LAC-USC Medical Center, while her specialization in OB/GYN consumed her tenure at the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Medical Center in New York. The eminent Albert Einstein College of Medicine witnessed her refined skills as she completed her Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship there.

With roots in Haiti, Dr. Morel exhibits a strong commitment to giving back to her home country. Over the past 20 years, she dedicates a significant portion of her time to volunteering, specifically providing care to the underprivileged women of Milot, a city located in northern Haiti at The Hospital of Sacred Heart. Her philanthropic activities extend to charities such as the Gaskov-Clerge Foundation, which offers healthcare services and academic scholarships to the disadvantaged in Cayes, Haiti, the Knight of Malta Foundation, a global organization providing healthcare to the impoverished, and CRUDEM, an entity focusing on the urbanization of the rural town of Milot in Haiti.

On a local level, Dr. Morel supports the Sickle Cell Foundation, March of Dimes, and Planned Parenthood in their endeavors.

She is a devoted mother to one child. She enjoys traveling and giving back to those less fortunate.



# Ervin Rene Riaño Marin, MD, FACOG



*Minimal Invasive Surgery Diplomate  
Associated Program Director, Ob/Gyn Residency at Flushing Hospital  
Medical Center  
Medical Director, Queens Obstetrics & Gynecology Services*

Dr. Riaño was born in Bogota, Colombia and obtained his medical degree from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. He moved to the United States and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Flushing Hospital Medical Center, where he has worked, and now serves as Associated Program Director for the Ob/Gyn residency, and adjunct clinical assistant professor for the New York Institute of Technology, College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Riaño has a special interest in minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and holds an active membership in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. In 2021, he became certified as a Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Focused Practice Designation by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Dr. Riaño saw the need for a Spanish speaker Ob/Gyn in the community, and in 2019 founded an Ob/Gyn practice, with all bilingual staff in the heart of Jackson Heights, Queens, NY.

He enjoys spending his time with his wife and two sons.



# Joshua J. Joseph, MD, MPH, FAHA



## *Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center*

Joshua J. Joseph, MD, MPH, FAHA is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine with Tenure and the Endowed Professor for Research in Internal Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC). He is Co-Chair of the OSUWMC Healthy Communities Obesity and Nutrition Steering Committee and Medical Director of The OSUWMC Healthy Community Center.

Dr. Joseph's National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and United States Department of Defense funded research focuses on advancing prevention and treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease through a health equity lens with 4 pillars: 1) Examining the role of stress hormones in Cardiometabolic Disease; 2) Health System to Community Innovations; 3) Community-Based Participatory Research; and 4) Quality Improvement Science.

Clinically, Dr. Joseph treats patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease at a community-based clinic. Nationally, he is chair of the Endocrine Society Clinical Affairs Core Committee, Chair-Elect of the American Heart Association Council on Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health Diabetes Committee, and President-Elect of the Central Ohio American Heart Association Board. He has been recognized for his science, community engagement, and clinical impact with several awards including election to Alpha Omega Alpha, National Minority Quality Forum 40 under 40, and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.



# Shawna D. Nesbitt, MD, MS



*Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Medical Director, Parkland Health & Hospital System's Hypertension Clinic, Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, UT Southwestern*

Shawna D. Nesbitt, MD, MS is a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas at Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, where she is the Medical Director of the Hypertension Clinic at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Nesbitt earned her medical degree at Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After an internship and residency in internal medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she underwent fellowship training in hypertension in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Additionally, Dr. Nesbitt earned a Master of Science in clinical research design and statistical analysis from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. She is board-certified in internal medicine, and she is a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council for High Blood Pressure Research and a Fellow of the American Society of Hypertension. She is a certified Hypertension Specialist. In addition, she is an alumnus of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program.

She is a former President of International Society of Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB) and remains a member of the Board of Trustees. She is also a current Board member of the Southwest Affiliate and the National Scientific Advisory Committee of the American Heart Association, and the American Society for Hypertension. She served as a member of the Clinical Trials Review Grant Study Section for NIH/NHLBI. She is currently a member of the Observational Study Review Board for The Jackson Heart Study sponsored by NIH, NHLBI. Her research interest is in clinical trials in hypertension and cardiovascular prevention. She has served as national leader in hypertension clinical trials with a special focus on prehypertension, hypertension in African Americans, and healthcare disparities. She is currently a site principal investigator for the ASPREE clinical trial. Dr. Nesbitt is an active clinician as well as Medical Director of the Hypertension Clinic at Parkland Hospital.

Dr. Nesbitt received the Women Who STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Award in 2019 from the Dallas Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She was also named a 2016, 2017, and 2018 D-Magazine Best Doctor.

Dr. Nesbitt has served as Associate Dean of Student Affairs in the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion of the University of Texas Southwestern. She led the team at the Medical School, Graduate School, and School of Health Professions who focus on efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds, and to create educational programming that supports an inclusive environment preparing students for careers in science and medicine. She is active in guiding education for the medical school in cultural sensitivity and approaching diverse patients focused on creating equity in science and medicine. As of October 1, 2022, she began a new role as the Inaugural Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at UT Southwestern.



# Gopal Narasimhan, DO



## *Gastroenterologist, Washington Heights Gastroenterology PC, Mount Sinai Health System*

With a career spanning over two decades, Dr. Narasimhan's journey to prominence commenced at the esteemed Johns Hopkins University followed by a rigorous residency at Mount Sinai - Beth Israel. Dr. Narasimhan pursued specialized training through a prestigious fellowship at the same college, concentrating on cutting-edge endoscopic techniques and advanced approaches to gastrointestinal disorders. His thirst for medical progress led to the publication of a plethora of research papers, each contributing to the ever-evolving tapestry of gastroenterological knowledge.

In 2008, Dr. Narasimhan founded Washington Heights Gastroenterology, a private practice known for its patient-centric ethos. Beyond the confines of his clinic, Dr. Narasimhan is a devoted educator, delivering lectures at symposiums. His commitment to disseminating wisdom and heightening awareness about digestive health underscores his dedication.

Dr. Narasimhan is an ardent participant in medical missions and renders pro bono screenings and consultations to marginalized communities. His philanthropic endeavors underscore his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of the less fortunate.



# Ramon Tallaj, MD



## *Chairman of the Board, SOMOS Community Care*

Ramon Tallaj, MD, is a board-certified internist with 41 years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Urena (Unphu), Escuela De Medicina Magna Cum Laude in the Dominican Republic, and completed a residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City.

He has served in several government positions, including as Undersecretary of Public Health and Social Services. At the request of the Cardinal of the Archdiocese of New York, Dr. Tallaj moved to the United States to provide medical care to New York's Hispanic immigrant communities and established his first internal medicine practice in Washington Heights in 1997.

In 2015, he founded SOMOS Community Care ("We Are" in Spanish), a culturally competent physician-led network of 2,500 healthcare providers serving over 1 million Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries in New York City's immigrant communities. SOMOS was one of 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPS) in New York's DSRIP program. Dr. Tallaj has championed the pay-for-performance model in New York State to improve health outcomes by enhancing preventive and chronic care management. Since 2018, SOMOS has saved New York taxpayers over \$336 million by reducing ER and hospital admissions by more than 35%.

Since the start of the first wave of the pandemic, Dr. Tallaj has been active in calling global attention to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in communities escalating illness and mortality rates in New York's inner cities.

During its darkest days, Dr. Tallaj was responsible for operating over 125 trilingual COVID-19 sites and provided free testing to over 1.5 million people, along with free health education, and call centers in 5 different languages, when technology and access were nearly impossible. Through his humanitarian efforts, SOMOS was able to serve over 2 million fresh-to-go meals to some of the poorest and food-insecure neighbors, while still providing free accessible healthcare to immigrant communities during a period of extreme medical crisis.

Dr. Tallaj's organization proved to be an even a greater community resource in the depths of the COVID-19 crisis, becoming the first primary care group in the State of New York to administer millions of COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable New Yorkers in SOMOS's medical offices, along with launching hundreds of pop-up sites in local churches, public housing, and landmark mega-sites like Yankee Stadium.

On February 17th, 2022, Dr. Ramon Tallaj was appointed as the co-chairman of New York City's COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Task Force, directed by Mayor Eric Adams. He advises on all the comprehensive policies focusing on healthcare access and equity to help rebuild New York City's post-pandemic economy and long-term growth for all New Yorkers.



# Shariff de los Santos



*President, Quality Improvement Medical Management  
Chief Executive Officer, Basilica Management Corp*

Shariff de los Santos graduated from Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) as a medical doctor. He has vast experience in primary care services and has played numerous roles in the healthcare administration of the State of New York.

In New York, he successfully managed the Cardiovascular Project in one of the largest PPS of the Medicaid redesign program (DSRIP). In 2016 he was promoted to Director of the Clinical Projects of the PPS and in 2017 he was nominated as Vice-President in the organization, where he directly oversaw the performance of more than 2,500 Primary Care Physicians in NYC.

Since 2020, Shariff has been in charge of the operations of NYC Medical of Queens.





# Errol Pierre, MPA, DBA



## *Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration, New York University Senior Vice President, State Programs, Healthfirst*

Errol Pierre is the Senior Vice President of State Programs at Healthfirst, the largest non-profit health plan in New York State, serving 1.8 million members. In this role, he is accountable for growth, profit/loss, and sales and retention for the Medicaid, Long-Term Care, and Commercial product portfolios.

A Bronx, New York resident, Errol graduated from Fordham University with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in Finance. He later obtained a master's degree in Health Policy and Financial Management from New York University. In December 2021, Errol completed his doctoral degree, with a focus on Health Equity. Additionally, he is an adjunct professor at New York University, Columbia University, and Baruch College, teaching various courses in healthcare and business. In his spare time, Errol volunteers for numerous non-profit organizations as a board member of the Arthur Ashe Institute of Urban Health and a member of the national 100 Black Men's Health & Wellness Committee.

Prior to Healthfirst, Errol spent more than 10 years at Empire BlueCross BlueShield, which is the largest for-profit health plan in New York State, serving close to five million members. Errol's career in healthcare started at Empire as an intern in 2003. Throughout his tenure at Empire, he held various leadership roles in Sales and Strategy, leaving the company as the Chief Operating Officer in 2019.

In 2020, he was acknowledged as one of the Caribbean-American "Power 100" by Carib News and was awarded for "Outstanding Community Service" by the Aesclepius Medical Society. In 2018, he was recognized with the Outstanding & Dedicated Service Award by 100 Black Men and the Home Award by the National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians. Errol is an avid traveler and has visited more than 35 countries.



# John Dionisio, MPH



## *Chief Information Officer, SOMOS Community Care*

John Dionisio is the Chief Information Officer at SOMOS Community Care. John has more than 15 years of experience in managed care and healthcare business development. He is one of the founding members of SOMOS Community Care and has closely worked with physicians regarding practice transformation and value-based initiatives.

John has extensive experience and has held leadership roles in various capacities including medical economics, analytics, strategic development, business development, finance, budget, informatics and data management.

Prior to joining SOMOS Community Care, John was a consultant with Corinthian and Balance Medical IPAs, focusing on value-based contract management and initiative development that would improve contract performance.

Before Corinthian and Balance, John worked at WellCare Health Plans as manager of reporting and analytics, informatics and IPA and provider relations.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Accounting from the University of South Florida and a Master of Public Health from Columbia University.





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October 5, 2023

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Einstein College of Medicine - Montefiore Medical Center



Montefiore

## ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

### Accreditation Statement

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center with Healthfirst and SOMOS. Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.





## CREDIT DESIGNATION STATEMENT

Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **9.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



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## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The "Policy on Identification, Mitigation and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships" of Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center requires that any individual in control of content, including faculty, participating in CME/CE activities disclose to the audience all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies\* in the last 24 months. Any individual in control of content who refuses to disclose, or their disclosed relationships prove to create a conflict of interest, will be recused. Individuals with the absence of relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies will be disclosed to the audience.

All financial relationships of individual(s) in a position to control the content of this CME/CE activity has been identified and mitigated prior to this educational activity.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center, CCPD staff, has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies in the past 24 months.

\*The ACCME defines ineligible companies as "those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients."



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## DISCLOSURES

The following course directors and planning committee members reported no relevant financial relationship with an ineligible company in the last 24 months, as defined by the ACCME:

### Course Directors

- Susan J. Beane, MD, FACP
- Victor B. Hatcher, PhD
- Allison Stark, MD, MBA

### Planning Committee

- Melisa Damcevska, MPH, CHES
- Doreen Frempongah, MPA
- Elizabeth Jean-Jacques, MPA
- Jennifer Scott
- Angela Sullivan, MPH
- Raymond Thornhill
- Nana Twumasi, MPA
- Lidia Virgil



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## DISCLOSURES

All faculty reported no relevant financial relationships with an ineligible company in the last 24 months, as defined by the ACCME:

Henry Chen, MD  
John Dionisio, MPH  
Esteve Montasell Jordana  
Joshua J. Joseph, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Ervin Rene Riaño Marín, MD, FACOG  
Marie-Ignace G. Morel, MD, FACOG  
Gopal Narasimhan, DO  
Shawna D. Nesbitt, MD, MS  
Emilio Perez, MD  
Errol Pierre, MPA, DBA  
Ramon Rodriguez  
Shariff de los Santos  
Ramon Tallaj, MD



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## PEER REVIEW

This activity has been peer reviewed for bias and objectivity, by the reviewer that has no relevant financial relationships with any ineligible company in the last 24 months, prior to the activity. The authors of this activity provided educational content and resources in advance, as Einstein-Montefiore-Healthfirst and SOMOS requested. All their recommendations for patient care were made based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning, while giving a fair and balanced view of unbiased diagnostic and therapeutic options.



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## EVALUATION

### Your feedback is very important to us!

Please complete your evaluation at the end of the activity in order to obtain credit for the conference.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center has designated **9.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** for this live activity.

To obtain Credit, all PARTICIPANTS and FACULTY must:

1. Register in eeds using the following link:  
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2. To obtain credit: The participant will receive a sign-in code to complete the evaluation and print the certificate, at the end of the activity. This is it: Go to [www.eeds.com](http://www.eeds.com) > Click the 'Sign-In' Button > Enter **82iced**



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Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Thank you for attending “The Health Equity Imperative: Exploring Solutions to Address Current Health Crises in Our Community” provided by Healthfirst, SOMOS Community Care, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Montefiore Medical Center.

## **COURSE DIRECTORS**

Susan J. Beane, MD, FACP  
*Executive Medical Director  
Healthfirst*

Victor B. Hatcher, PhD  
*Professor, Biochemistry and Medicine  
Associate Dean, CPD  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Montefiore Medical Center*

Allison Stark, MD, MBA  
*Vice President and Chief Medical Officer  
Montefiore Care Management Organization  
and Montefiore Office of Community and  
Population Health  
Associate Professor of Medicine (Geriatrics)  
and Family & Social Medicine (Palliative Care)  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

## **CME MONITOR**

Katherine E. DiPalo, PharmD, MBA, MS  
*Senior Director  
Transitional Care Excellence  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
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Nana Twumasi, MPA  
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Lidia Virgil  
*Chief Operations Officer  
SOMOS Community Care*

## **FACULTY**

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John Dionisio, MPH

Esteve Montasell Jordana

Joshua J. Joseph, MD, MPH, FAHA

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Marie-Ignace G. Morel, MD, FACOG

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Emilio Ivan Perez, MD

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Shariff de los Santos

Ramon Tallaj, MD



## About Healthfirst

Healthfirst is New York's largest not-for-profit health insurer, earning the trust of 1.8 million members by offering access to affordable healthcare. Sponsored by New York City's leading hospitals, Healthfirst's unique advantage is rooted in its mission to put members first by working closely with its broad network of providers on shared goals. Healthfirst takes pride in being pioneers of the value-based care model, recognized as a national best practice. For nearly 30 years, Healthfirst has built its reputation in the community for top-quality products and services New Yorkers can depend on. It has grown significantly to serve the needs of members, offering market-leading products to fit every life stage, including Medicaid plans, Medicare Advantage plans, long-term care plans, qualified health plans, and individual and small group plans. Healthfirst serves members in New York City and on Long Island, as well as in Westchester, Sullivan, and Orange counties.

For more information on Healthfirst, visit [healthfirst.org](https://www.healthfirst.org)

## About SOMOS

SOMOS is a non-profit, physician-led network of over 2,500 health care providers serving over 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in New York City. Launched in 2015 by its Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj, SOMOS is the largest and only physician-led performance provider system participating in the New York State Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP). The SOMOS network includes providers delivering culturally competent care to patients in some of New York City's most vulnerable populations, particularly Latino, Asian, African-American and immigrant communities throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.

## About Albert Einstein College of Medicine—Montefiore Medical Center

The mission of Montefiore is to heal, to teach, to discover and to advance the health of the communities we serve. From its beginning in 1884, as a facility for the care of patients with tuberculosis and other chronic illnesses, to the new millennium, Montefiore has been at the forefront of patient care, research and education and steadfast commitment to its community. As the academic medical center and University Hospital for Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center is nationally recognized for clinical excellence—breaking new ground in research, training the next generation of healthcare leaders, and delivering science-driven, patient-centered care.

Montefiore's partnership with Einstein advances clinical and translational research to accelerate the pace at which new discoveries become the treatments and therapies that benefit patients. Together, the two institutions are among 38 academic medical centers nationwide to be awarded a prestigious Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) by the National Institutes of Health. At the intersection of Einstein science and Montefiore medicine is our commitment to scientific inquiry. This commitment has resulted in the creation of the Montefiore-Einstein Centers of

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Excellence in cancer care, cardiovascular services, transplantation, and children's health, where nationally recognized investigators and multidisciplinary clinical teams collaborate to develop and deliver advanced, innovative care.

The second-largest medical residency program in the country, with 1,251 residents and fellows across 89 programs, Montefiore provides the doctors of tomorrow a unique opportunity for education and training in one of the most diverse urban areas in the country – one where the population is global, the disease burden is high, and the need for quality care is great. The partnership is further strengthened by the dual appointments of faculty and physicians across both organizations—enhancing synergies and collaborations for research, teaching and patient care.



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