Leading Causes of Life Initiative

July 2016 no. 2

LCLI BRIEFING #8 Seven new LCLI Fellows

LCLI Fellows share a congruent vision and practice, providing a living web of transformational connections all can share and draw on, helping contribute to enhanced life and flourishing for all.

Kevin Barnett, DrPH, MCP

Kevin, a senior investigator at the Public Health Institute, works in the intersection of health care, public health, and communities, with a focus on eliminating inequities and advancing social justice. His work emphasizes engagement of diverse stakeholders to address the root causes of health problems, working across sectors to align a broad spectrum of resources, assets and passions to make a difference in the lives of people from all walks of life. On a number of boards, from Trinity Health, a large, Catholic nonprofit health system, to Communities Joined in Action, a small but mighty national association of community health coalitions, he also has been a thought leader of the Stakeholder Health movement since its inception. When he's not running around like a chicken with it's head cut off, he relishes moments of solitude hiking in the backcountry, and relaxing with his wife Alison and son David.

Elias Bongmba, Prof.

Elias holds the Harry and Hazel Chavanne in Christian Theology and is Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University in the USA. He holds a PhD in the Joint Program at Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver, 1995, and is a Faculty Associate at Wless College. He is Also Managing Editor of *Religious Studies Reviews* as well as the *Bulletin of the Council for Societies for the Study of Religion*. His primary areas of teaching include African an African Diaspora Religious; African Christianity/Theology Hermeneutics and Theology; Contemporary Theology and Ethics, whilst his secondary teaching areas include 19th Century Theology and Philosophy of Religion, African Studies; Philosophy/Ethics. His book, *The Dialectics of Transformation in Africa*, won The 2007 Franz Prize for outstanding work in Caribbean thought, awarded by the Caribbean Philosophical Association.

Shirley Eloby Fleming, Dr. Rev.

Shirley is a long-time advocate for equity and social justice in health and human services, working for more than thirty years in public health locally and nationally as a provider, administrator and advocate to assure that all people, especially those who are disadvantaged, have the opportunity to enjoy the highest level of health and engagement in human society. Until March, 2004, she was second ranking public health officer for the City at the Chicago Department of Public Health, retiring from this position to attend seminary and do the work of health, healing and social justice, focused on the faith beliefs and practices of those who live on the margins. Since 2013 she has been co-director of The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation, a collaborative between Advocate's Health Care and the Office for Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Shirley is the recipient several local and national awards, and served on numerous local and national academic, faith-based and governmental boards that are focused on understanding and eliminating health inequity across the lifecycle, with a special passion for community-driven strategies for improving maternal and child health.

Sandy Lazarus, Prof.

An independent contractor (senior specialist scientist) at the South African Medical Research Council/University of South Africa's Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit in Cape Town, Professor, University of the Western Cape, and Extraordinaire Professor, University of South Africa, Sandy's professional experience and expertise is in community psychology (education and health sectors). An academic activist, researcher and teacher (professionally registered as a research psychologist), she has contributed to local, provincial, national and international contexts over four decades. This has included national policy development and practice in education (on the development of an inclusive education system and education support services in South Africa); national policy development and practice in health promotion (specifically in the development of health promoting schools); and research methodology, with a particular focus on the development of community engaged research through participatory action research approaches. Over the last ten years, she focused particularly on violence, violence prevention, and safety and peace promotion in South Africa. Sandy lives in the rural town of McGregor, Western Cape.

Kirsten Peachey, Rev., MSW, MDiv, DMin

Kirsten, Director of Congregational Health Partnerships for Advocate Health Care in Chicago, supports faith communities in their role as promoters of health and healing through training, consultation, resource linking and partnership development. Instrumental in founding The Center for Faith and Community HeRealth Transformation in metropolitan Chicago, which focuses on health inequities and a vision for the role that people of faith can play. Her thinking has been shaped by experiences overseas as a child in the Middle East, as an adult in South Africa, and in diverse urban settings in the USA, from which she brings an appreciation for the ways in which ordinary people create resilient lives in the midst of struggle for justice and peace. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Kirsten holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry in faith and health from the Chicago Theological Seminary. She has worked as a social worker, hospital chaplain, pastoral counselor and bus driver! She lives in Oak Park, IL with her partner and their son and loves traveling, camping and reading in their backyard tree house when the weather is nice.

Soma Stout, *Dr. MD, MS*

Executive Lead of 100 Million Healthier Lives at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, an unprecedented collaboration of change agents working to improve the health and wellbeing of people, communities and populations globally, Soma is deeply committed to improving the health and wellbeing of underserved people and communities. She has worked as a primary care doctor in the "safety net" for over 15 years and in global health for over 20 years, in some of the most underserved communities in the world. Previously, as Vice President for Patient Centered Medical Home Development at Cambridge Health Alliance, she led a whole system transformation that garnered numerous national awards for achieving breakthrough results in the Triple Aim of better health, better experience and lower cost. In 2012, she was awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Young Leader Award for her contributions to improving the health of the nation. She also directs the Innovation Fellows Program at Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care, where she helps to grow a generation of change leaders who can create the needed changes in health and health care, and continues as Lead Transformation Adviser at Cambridge Health Alliance. With her daughter, Shohini, she had the pleasure of founding Raising Peacemakers, a grassroots, parent-child program that helps children (and their families!) develop the attitudes and skills to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Herman Tolentino, *Dr.*

A practitioner of public health informatics working in health care, community health, public health, and global health, Herman aims to empower people and organizations to use health information effectively for transforming health systems. Trained in medical anesthesiology at the University of the Philippines, and in medical informatics the University of Washington, his career in public health began through working on a project to integrate notifiable disease surveillance systems in six Mekong Basin countries. He then developed an award-winning community based electronic medical record for community health centers in Manila and realized there that he was addressing a form of injustice in the lack of access to health information by the people who needed it the most. He became a fellow at the CDC Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program in 2004, and its program director from 2007-2015, where he contributed to the development of the informatics workforce domestically and in global health. He has also developed innovative approaches to train "interprofessional boundary spanners" who can collaboratively solve problems through systems thinking, and passionately continues to learn to harness the power of computing for social good and the transformative power of human wisdom and resilience.

Our website is our virtual 'Tent' or homeplace. Here you will find the LCLI Manifesto and perspective, as well as information on our core group and Fellows, a blog ('Drumbeats'), resources ('Backpack'), and more.