

# **Then and Now: The Importance of Historically-Informed Approaches to Addressing Racial Health Inequities in Responding to COVID-19**

**April 9, 2021**

**Session 3**

## **Panelist/Moderator Bios**

### **Abner Mason**

Founder & CEO  
ConsejoSano

Prior to ConsejoSano, Abner was Founder and CEO for the Workplace Wellness Council of Mexico, now the leading corporate wellness company in Mexico. From 2003-2008, he was founder and Executive Director of AIDS Responsibility Project, driving the creation of CONAES and JaBCHA, the first business councils on HIV/AIDS in Mexico and Jamaica. Abner previously served as Chairman of the International Committee and member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), appointed by President Bush in 2002.

Abner serves on the Board of [Manifest MedEx](#) and is also a member of the American Medical Association's External Equity & Innovation Advisory Group. He recently served on the Biden-Harris Policy Committee.

### **Kumbie Madondo**

Director  
Community Partnerships & Policy Solutions

Kumbie Madondo, PhD, Director, Community Partnerships & Policy Solutions (CPPS) at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) is interested in research focused on improving the health of communities of color, as well as low income and marginalized populations. She is particularly interested in using social network analysis to assess the types and quality of relationships among organizations that promote health equity. Current projects include a four-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded project examining organizational-level factors that drive the implementation and dissemination of food policies and programs across different neighborhoods in New York City. Completed projects include a contract with the New York City Department of Health to conduct a network analysis of 39 community-based organizations addressing community health priorities in neighborhoods facing significant health disparities in New York City. Dr. Madondo was also recently the project director for New York City on a European Commission Horizon 2020-funded project examining asthma and diabetes in five European and U.S. cities (Barcelona, Birmingham, Paris, New York City and Singapore). Prior to joining NYAM she evaluated strategies used by community-based organizations (CBOs) to facilitate insurance enrollment under the Affordable Care Act and was the principal investigator for a large-scale Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded evaluation that focused on HIV/AIDS prevention among African American and Latino populations. Dr. Madondo has co-

authored *Project ECHO® Evaluation 101: A Practical Guide for Evaluating your Program (2017)* and the *Kellogg's Foundation Step-by-Step Guide to Evaluation: How to Become Savvy Evaluation Consumers (2017)*. She earned her PhD in sociology from Virginia Tech University.

### **Ben Money**

Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
Department of Health and Human Service

Ben Money is Deputy Secretary for Health Services at DHHS. His portfolio includes the Division of Public Health, Division of Health Services Regulation, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of Rural Health. Prior to joining the department in July 2019, he led the NC Community Health Center Association. Mr. Money's 37-year career in health care began in community mental health and includes 11 years in local public health and 18 years with community health centers. Ben is originally from Massachusetts and has lived in NC for 36 years.

### **Nina Chiu – Session Moderator**

MBA Student  
Duke University's Fuqua School of Business

Prior to beginning her studies at Duke, Nina managed clinical trials within academia and industry primarily focused on medical device and digital health. While at Duke, she led the Healthcare Club Week-in-Cities trip, an industry-focused excursion that provides the opportunity for Fuqua students to visit companies in their regions and areas of interest, is involved in DUH ELP, an experiential learning program between Fuqua and Duke Hospital, and is completing her summer internship at Rock Health, a digital-health focused venture fund. Nina's interests include utilizing health innovation to improve health equity, access, and affordability of care for underserved and vulnerable populations on a domestic and global scale. Nina received her BS in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Irvine and is currently pursuing her MBA at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business concentrating in Healthcare and Finance

### **Michael Manasia – Session Moderator**

Oncology Certified Nurse, Urology Service  
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Prior to enrolling in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Duke, Michael earned a Master of Science in Health Policy and Economics from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Boston College. In his current position he is an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®) working in the Urology Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City. As a researcher and clinical leader dedicated to improving quality healthcare delivery, Michael has completed nursing research fellowships at Boston College and Memorial Sloan Kettering, has co-authored several journal articles, and has presented his work at national conferences.