



## **2022 Michigan Oral Health Coalition Conference Speaker Bios**

### **Abigail Burnell**

#### **Government Affairs Consultant, RWC Advocacy**

Abby Burnell joined RWC Advocacy in 2018 after 7 years with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services' Policy, Planning and Legislative Services Administration. She has extensive experience in a broad spectrum of health policy and regulatory matters, including particular expertise in Michigan Medicaid policy, professional boards and administrative rules, Certificate of Need and health facility licensing. Abby earned her Bachelor of Sciences degree from Michigan State University.

### **Misty Davis, RDH, BS**

#### **Michigan Primary Care Association Oral Health Program Manager**

Misty Davis, worked as a clinician for 14 years before coming to the Michigan Primary Care Association, where she works as an Oral Health Program Manager. Her work involves providing training and support to Michigan community health center dental departments, working with community health centers on oral health-related grant projects, and fostering the implementation of dental therapy in Michigan. Misty is an active member of the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Health at Michigan State University.

### **Margherita Fontana, DDS, PhD**

#### **Clifford Nelson Endowed Professor Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics and Director of the Global Initiatives Program in Oral and Craniofacial Health, University of Michigan School of Dentistry (U-M)**

Dr. Fontana is currently co-director of cariology courses and cariology discipline coordinator at U-M. She has over 150 papers published in peer-reviewed journals, She was the 2007-2008 President of the Cariology Group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), and the 2010-2011 Chair of the Cariology Section of ADEA. In 2012 she received the USA

Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) for her work on caries risk assessment in children.

**Chelsea Fosse, DMD, MPH**

**Senior Health Policy Analyst, ADA Health Policy Institute (HPI)**

Dr. Fosse graduated from Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and completed a general practice residency at Helen Hayes Hospital working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She obtained her Master's in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and completed a dental public health residency at Jacobi Medical Center, NYC Health + Hospitals. At HPI, Chelsea leads health policy analysis for critical issues related to Medicaid, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act and other public health issues. She is responsible for researching and analyzing policy changes that impact dentistry, oral health, and the broader health care landscape.

**Rick Guidotti**

**Founder, Positive Exposure**

Rick Guidotti, an award-winning photographer, worked in NYC, Milan, Paris and London for a variety of high-profile clients including Yves St Laurent, Revlon and L'Oreal. Rick founded POSITIVE EXPOSURE after a chance encounter in 1997 with a young lady living with albinism at a bus stop in New York City. As an artist, Rick was taken by her extraordinary beauty. In a quest for a better understanding of albinism, Rick sought out medical textbooks, where he was affronted by the dehumanizing images depicting disease, lacking all humanity. It was this experience that forced Rick to turn his lens from the more traditional ideas of beauty to the beauty and richness of human diversity. Rick has since spent more than twenty years collaborating internationally with advocacy organizations/NGOs, medical schools, universities and other educational institutions to effect a sea-change in societal attitudes towards individuals living with genetic, physical, behavioral or intellectual differences. Currently, his work involves creating curriculum for medical schools, humanizing conditions students typically only read about in textbooks.

**Emily Henderson**

**Government Affairs Consultant, RWC Advocacy**

Emily Henderson joined RWC Advocacy full time after she completed her studies at James Madison College at Michigan State University in 2020. Emily joined the firm after working as a legislative and regulatory affairs intern in the fall of 2019. Prior to that, she interned with Johnson & Johnson in their Washington D.C, office working closely alongside the federal affairs team in the summer of 2019. Outside of consulting on state-level health and human

services issues, Emily has taken the lead in reporting on the latest legislative, administrative, and regulatory activities in the state.

### **Ben Hudson**

#### **Co-founder and CEO, Sensory Health**

Ben Hudson is the co-founder and CEO of Sensory Health. One in six people in the United States has a developmental disability. Many also have sensory processing issues, meaning they have difficulty integrating information from the senses. In short, some sights, sounds, smells, and other stimuli that the wider population may find mildly annoying or don't even notice can be physically painful to a person with sensory needs.

### **Ellen Sugrue Hyman, JD**

#### **Executive Director, Michigan Oral Health Coalition**

Ellen Sugrue Hyman is the Executive Director of MOHC. Ellen served as a consultant to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on Self-Determination and Person-Centered Planning for nearly 17 years. She is both a writer and attorney, having received her JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan, respectively. Ellen also previously worked as a consultant with the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative, the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition and The Arc Michigan.

### **Rebekah Mathews**

#### **MPA Director, Value-Based Care, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health**

Rebekah Mathews serves as director of value-based care for CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. In this role, Rebekah leads efforts to drive greater adoption of value-based models of care and payment in oral health. She guides research and education efforts to promote awareness of value-based care and implements care improvement collaboratives with state-level partners to identify and scale evidence-based best practices in the transition to value-based care in oral health. Rebekah earned a bachelor's degree in art history and master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina.

### **Romesh P. Nalliah, DDS, MHCM**

#### **Associate Dean for Patient Services and Clinical Professor, University of Michigan School of Dentistry**

When Dr. Nalliah graduated from the University of Adelaide School of Dentistry (2000) he wanted to serve in Australia's public health system that had served his family and began his career in rural Australia using a mobile dental van. Since then, he has delivered care in small private practices, large group practices, hospitals, community health centers, and faculty

practices. While his practice setting has changed, there has been a continuous commitment to public health, efficiency and quality throughout his career. In 2008, Dr. Nalliah began serving as the Senior Tutor for Castle Society at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). While at Harvard, Dr. Nalliah also completed a Certificate in Medical Education (Harvard Medical School) and a Masters in Healthcare Management (Harvard School of Public Health). Dr. Nalliah has held many leadership roles in the Massachusetts Dental Society including Board Member, Delegate and Chair of Continuing Education. He has taught more than 100 continuing education programs for dentists, physicians and nurse practitioners and also served as Dental Director of Special Olympics for Massachusetts. In 2015, Dr. Nalliah began as the Director for Clinical Education in the DDS program at the University of Michigan. For more than a decade, Dr. Nalliah has maintained a national and international reputation as an expert in health services research and public health. He has published well over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, won several research awards and serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals. He also serves as the Associate Editor for the Journal of Dental Education. He brings expertise in data science into the clinical environment and has published studies related to efficiency and quality in hospitals, community health centers, and dental schools clinics.

**Steve Perlman, DDS**

**Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine**

Dr. Perlman has devoted much of his private practice and teaching to the treatment of children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities for the past 40 years. In 1993, Dr. Perlman founded Special Olympics Special Smiles, an oral health initiative for the athletes of Special Olympics International. It now has over 200 events each year taking place in every state in the United States and in over 100 countries. He currently serves as their Senior Global Clinical Advisor.

**Bob Russell, DDS, MPH, MPA, CPM, FACD, FICD**

**Dental Director & Bureau Chief, Oral & Health Delivery System Bureau, Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention, Iowa Department of Public Health**

Dr. Russell serves as the Public Health Dental Director for the State of Iowa, Department of Public Health. He joined the organization in 2005. Dr. Russell resides in Des Moines where he also serves on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), the Executive Committee of National Committee of Dentists for Oral Health Equity, the Iowa Hawk-I Advisory Committee, the Free Clinics of Iowa

Advisory Committee, Oral Health Iowa Coalition, and the Lifelong Smiles Dental Coalition.

**Holli Seabury, EdD**

**Executive Director, Delta Dental Foundation**

Dr. Seabury is the Executive Director of the Delta Dental Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the oral health of the public and to advancing dental science through education and research. From 2009 to 2019 Dr. Seabury was the CEO of McMillen Health, a non-profit health education center serving over 90,000 annually. She was the lead curriculum developer for the Brush Oral Health Program, which serves over 1.85 million children nationwide through Early Head Start/Head Start and WIC. Her work has focused on health literacy and developing educational materials for the Medicaid population, especially young families. She is also the author of four children's books on oral health.

**Barbie Vartanian**

**Director of Advocacy and Policy Initiatives, NYU College of Dentistry**

Barbie Vartanian recently took on the leadership role as Director of Advocacy and Policy Initiatives at NYU College of Dentistry. Formerly she was the Executive Director of Project Accessible Oral Health, whose mission is to connect multiple stakeholders to act as a collective catalyst for action, moving the needle on policy, education and raising much-needed awareness of the crisis in dental care for persons with disabilities. Barbie's most important role is mother to her child with special needs. She understands firsthand the barriers her son faces and will continue to face throughout his life.