



THE **AIDS** INSTITUTE

USCA Seminar HIV/AIDS and Aging: An A to Z Look at a Growing Population

Speaker Biographies

IVÁN MELÉNDEZ RIVERA, MD, FAAFP, AAHIVS, Medical Director, Centro ARARAT, Inc., Puerto Rico. Iván Meléndez-Rivera is Assistant Professor, Family Practice Department, Ponce School of Medicine; Family Practice Residency, Dr. Pila Hospital and Saint Luke's Hospital Internal Medicine Residence Program; Principal Investigator and Medical Director of Centro ARARAT, Inc. a non-profit multidisciplinary HIV organization in Ponce, Puerto Rico; Clinical Consultant of the Ryan White Planning Council; ADAP Advisory Board, Puerto Rico Juvenile Institutions and Resistance Testing Consultation Florida/Caribbean AETC; Vice President, Puerto Rico HIV Treaters Association.

MICHELLE SCAVNICKY, M.S., Director of Education, The AIDS Institute (TAI), Tampa, FL. Michelle Scavnicky is currently the Director of Education and Capacity Building Services with The AIDS Institute. The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education. Ms. Scavnicky has over nine years experience in the HIV/AIDS arena and over fourteen years in the nonprofit sector. Along with her passion for conducting education and training programs, Ms. Scavnicky was instrumental in the development of The AIDS Institute's Women Informing Now! (WIN) Project: an initiative critical to addressing issues related to women with and at-risk for HIV transmission and AIDS within communities of color. Ms. Scavnicky began her career as a prevention coordinator with a prevention and substance abuse treatment facility in Youngstown, Ohio. After moving to Florida, Ms. Scavnicky focused on different areas of health prevention which included diabetes prevention, health and physical wellness and HIV/AIDS. Ms. Scavnicky worked with a local organization as a Ryan White Community Health Planner before moving into an HIV Prevention Planner position. Ms. Scavnicky holds a Master of Science in Human Services with a specialization in Management of Non-Profit Agencies from Capella University and a Bachelor of Arts in community health education from Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

NATHAN SCHAEFER, MSSA, Director, Public Policy, Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York City, NY. Nathan Schaefer is Director of Public Policy for Gay Men's Health Crisis. Based in New York City, GMHC is the nation's oldest AIDS service provider and serves over 12,000 clients annually. In previous roles, Nathan's directed education and policy efforts at the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, and served as a Government Affairs Associate for AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, DC. Nathan received his Master's degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University and currently teaches at Columbia University's social work school.

JAMES SYKES, MPH, Director of Global Policy, Programs and Advocacy, The AIDS Institute, Washington, DC. Mr. Sykes also served as Community Educator and was responsible for developing and implementing capacity building programs for organizations participating in the Pfizer Southern HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative. Mr. Sykes has more than 14 years experience in the HIV/AIDS arena. He began his career in HIV/AIDS as Medical Educator for the Tampa AIDS Network where he developed and implemented a pilot project that focused on improving compliance to primary care with African American clients. Mr. Sykes later became Director of Community Health Services for the Tampa AIDS Network. He served on the Minority Affairs, the Rural Issues, and the Health Services Committees of the local Community Planning Partnership. Previously, Mr. Sykes served as Manager of the Health Education Department for the National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Sykes served as Chair of the Interventions Committee for the Georgia Statewide Community Planning Group. Mr. Sykes holds a master of public health degree in community health education and bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

DAN TIETZ, RN, JD, Executive Director, AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), New York City, NY. Since 2006, when it released the findings of its groundbreaking Research on Older Adults with HIV (ROAH) study, the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA) has led the nation in psychosocial/behavioral research, programming, education, and materials development on HIV and aging. Beginning in New York City with a large-scale, City Council-backed program of HIV and aging training, technical assistance, and capacity building for staff and clients of both HIV and aging service providers, ACRIA has broadened its reach across the country with its Older Adults Technical Assistance & Capacity Building (OATA) and National Older Adults HIV (NOAH) programs. Among other accomplishments, this effort has produced the first HIV prevention intervention tailored for older adults. In 2009, the ACRIA Center on HIV & Aging (ACHA) was launched to coordinate the organization's efforts in this field and to serve as an international information and resource clearinghouse on the subject of aging and HIV. In July 2010, ACRIA also expanded its international collaborations by partnering with the U.K.'s Terrence Higgins Trust to present an HIV and aging satellite at the XVIII International Conference on AIDS in Vienna.

DANIEL TIETZ has served as ACRIA's Executive Director since 2006, spearheading the organization's leadership role in the field of HIV and aging. Both an attorney and a registered nurse, Tietz has worked for more than 25 years in health, housing, and human services, with a particular focus on HIV. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer for New York's Coalition for the Homeless, Deputy Executive Director for Day Treatment and Residential Services for Housing Works, Director of New York City's HOPWA program at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, and Director of Elder Affairs & Facilities Support for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

HANNA TESSEMA, MPH, MSW, Program Manager, AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), New York City, NY. Hanna Tessema is the Older Adults Technical Assistance Manager in ACRIA's HIV Health Literacy Program (HHLF), responsible for the overall operation of the OATA and NOAH programs and the New York City Council Older Adults HIV Initiative. Tessema holds a Global M.P.H. in Epidemiology from New York University and an M.S.A. in Social Policy & Evaluation within Community & Social Systems from the University of Michigan. In addition to varied public health work in New York and Michigan, she has worked and studied in health policy research in Durban and the KwaZulu Natal Region of South Africa and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.