**Panelist Biographies**

**Bita Amani,** PhD, MHS an Associate Professor at Charles R. Drew University in the Department of Urban Public Health. She is a social epidemiologist whose public health pedagogy, research, and practice centers larger questions of racism and social justice. With over a decade of experience in both local and global settings, her work has focused on how systems and structures shape health trajectories. In particular, she has studied the many ways that carceral institutions, such as the criminal justice system, create and perpetuate overlapping public health crises. Her community collaborations and partnerships have included investigating the conditions of confinement, supporting community-based solutions for issues of substance-abuse and mental health, addressing the impact of racism on Black maternal and infant mortality, and increasing awareness of health systems that prioritize prevention and health promotion such as the Cuban Health System. She currently Co-Chairs the COVID19 Task Force on Racism and Equity which is a CDU and UCLA Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health collaboration.

**John Forbes** HCT- Program Director (HIV Counseling and testing Program). At Charles R. Drew University/Oasis Clinic Storefront. Mr. Forbes has been working at CDU-Oasis clinic since 2009. He has 21yrs experience working in the HIV field with at risk population. CDU/Oasis Clinic Storefront testing program has one of the highest positivity rates in the Los Angeles County.

**David Goodman-Meza**, MD, MAS, is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Goodman-Meza is a Mexican-American physician-scientist with his research focused at the relationship of substance use disorders and infectious diseases. He provides care to people living with HIV at UCLA’ CARE Center, and he has been heavily involved in his Division’s response to the COVID epidemic at UCLA.

**Aziza Lucas Wright**, MEd is the Academic/Community Liaison for the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) at both RAND and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU).  At CDU, Ms. Wright provides leadership, oversight and coordination through quarterly bi-directional symposia focusing on health disparities.  Ms. Wright is one of the first members of the Community Faculty cohort appointed to the CDU faculty.  She was additionally one of the first of the cohort to apply for and receive a grant from the U54 funded CDU/UCLA Cancer Center Partnership to Eliminate Cancer Health Disparities to conduct a pilot study in the faith community.  Ms. Wright is the Project Manager for the National Library of Medicine’s Resource Project, a collaborative partnership between CDU, LA BioMed Harbor/UCLA, UCLA, Healthy African American Families, and Queens Care Faith Partnership.  She has provided training and staff development to agencies in Los Angeles for over 30 years including NIH-funded projects.

**Solange Madriz**, MA, MS is an Academic Coordinator in the Institute of Global Health Sciences at UCSF.  Ms. Madriz has extensive experience in the development, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of global health programs in low-resource settings including Latin America and India. Her research focuses on food insecurity, nutrition, and clinical quality improvement. In addition to her research activities, Ms. Madriz also teaches graduate level courses on global health for public health practitioners.  From 2015 to 2017 she implemented a maternal and newborn health quality improvement project in all the secondary health facilities of the states of Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz, Guatemala that continues as a capacity building strategy. Ms. Madriz obtained her undergraduate degree from the Central University of Venezuela and a MA in International Studios from the University of San Francisco followed by a MS in Global Health from the University of California, San Francisco. During the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Madriz has been working on case investigation and contact tracing efforts of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. He work focuses on the involvement of community-based organizations in the COVID-19 response efforts of the city. Since the start of the pandemic, Ms. Madriz has trained over 100 contact tracers and case investigators.