

Bios for Panelists

MODERATOR: Michelle Faust, Health Care Reporter at KPCC

Michelle Faust is a health care reporter at KPCC with a focus on health policy.

Faust's first foray into health policy reporting was for WXXI Public Broadcasting in Rochester, New York. In 2014, she was one of few public media reporters covering New York State's first open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act.

Since she began in broadcast journalism, Faust has hosted Morning Edition for KAWC in Yuma, Arizona, reported for the public health news collaborative Side Effects Public Media, and covered education policy for StateImpact Ohio at Ideastream in Cleveland.

Faust is a multimedia journalist who has written for print, web, radio, and television. Her reporting has been on NPR national newscasts, Tell Me More with Michel Martin, NPR's flagship news magazines Morning Edition and Here & Now. Faust's stories have been recognized by the New York State Associated Press Association and won regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for innovation and breaking news.

Dedicated to developing the profession, Faust is lifetime member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, volunteers with other local journalism organizations, and has mentored for the Next Generation Radio public radio journalist training project.

A lover of languages, Faust was a full-time Spanish professor in a previous career.

Georgiana Bostean, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Environmental Science & Policy Program, Chapman University

Georgiana Bostean is an Assistant Professor at Chapman University, jointly appointed in the Sociology Department and Environmental Science and Policy Program. She earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Irvine, and completed postdoctoral training in cancer prevention and control research at UCLA. Broadly, her research is in the area of population health, focusing on the social determinants of health. Dr. Bostean's research has examined racial/ethnic and nativity disparities in health outcomes and health behaviors, with a focus on smoking and e-cigarette use. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and University of California Office of the President, and published in journals including American Journal of Public Health, Social Science and Medicine, and Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health.

Jane Chai, M.P.H., Public Health Projects Manager, Orange County Health Care Agency, Public Health Services

Jane Chai is the Public Health Projects Manager at the Orange County Health Care Agency. She holds a Master of Public Health from the UCLA School of Public Health in the field of community health sciences. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in Social Welfare and Political Science.

Ms. Chai has worked in the field of public health for 20 years and in community health planning for the past 14 years; eight of those years were in HIV/AIDS. Prior to her work with the Health Care Agency,

Jane had worked with various community based organizations in Southern California focusing on reproductive health and Asian-American community health. In her current position, Jane coordinates the Public Health Services division's efforts around community health planning, strategic planning, quality improvement, and workforce development. Jane has been the administrator of the www.ochealthiertogether.org website since its launch in 2014.

Pam Pimentel, RN, CEO at MOMS Orange County & Co-Chair of OC Health Improvement Partnership

Pamela Pimentel, RN, is the Chief Executive Officer of MOMS Orange County, a 25 year old nonprofit organization whose mission is to help families have healthy babies. MOMS Orange County provides access to prenatal care, health screenings, infant development screenings, health education and referral services through monthly home visits and group classes.

MOMS Orange County is both improving birth outcomes among an at-risk community and bringing children in a highly disadvantaged population to health and developmental levels that exceed those set by the general population. MOMS Orange County has been recognized by the Irvine Health Foundation, CalOptima, the Children & Families Commission of Orange County, the Health Care Agency of Orange County, the California Department of Health Services, and the United States Congress for its innovative work in the community and impact on the health of women and babies in Orange County.

Pamela brings more than 40 years' experience in Maternal Child Nursing and health care administration to MOMS Orange County, and a definitive passion for the health and well-being of mothers and children. Pamela received her Associate Art's Degree in Nursing from San Bernardino Valley College in 1977, and her Bachelor's Degree in Health Science from Chapman University in 1993, graduating at the top of her class.

Pamela was one of OC METRO's "20 Women to Watch" in 2007 and in 2010, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County recognized Pamela as one of their "10 Agents of Change" to celebrate their 10-year anniversary. Pamela was honored by the March of Dimes in 2004 for "Excellence in Nursing Leadership", by Senator Lou Correa in 2009 for "Women Making a Difference", by the National Latina Business Women's Association in 2006 as the "Executive of the Year".

Currently, Pamela is a Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Yuqing Guo, UCI Program in Nursing Science, and conducting research on MOMS Orange County's model of community-based, paraprofessional prenatal support services. Pamela currently serves as the immediate past chair for the Provider Advisory Committee for CalOptima and the Co-Chair for the Recruitment Innovation Center Community Advisory Board. In addition, Pamela is the Co-Chair of the Orange County Health Improvement Partnership, the Chair of the Recruitment Innovation Center Community Advisory Board, serves on the Clinical Translational Science Enterprise Leadership Group as a Community Advocate, the Advisory Board for the Orange County Women's Health Project, the Steering Committee for the University of California Pediatric ACHIEVE-Research, and the CalOptima Quality Improvement Committee. Recently, Pamela served as the chair for the county-wide Low Birth Weight Task Force. She has also served on the National Children's Health Study's Regional Community Engagement Committee and the Children's Outcomes Project Committee for the Nemours Foundation.

Iliana Soto Welty, Executive Director for MECCA, Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies

Iliana Soto Welty is the Executive Director of the Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies (MECCA). In her role, her primary purpose to work towards eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in Orange County. Iliana's career has focused on intercultural communication and community relations for the past 20 years. She has been a diversity trainer and consultant to schools, cities, hospitals, universities, nonprofits and police departments. Her passion is building the capacity of low income, underserved populations and developing grassroots leaders to have a voice in creating policy and systems change in their community. Iliana's strengths are in community strategic planning, community assessments and developing collaborative initiatives. She is excited to be working with a collective impact organization focused on improving the lives and health of multicultural communities. Iliana enjoys having adventures with her two daughters Emily and Annika, spending time in nature, off-roading and writing.