Chelsey Canavan
Chelsey Canavan, MSPH, is the Manager of the Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity at Dartmouth Health. Chelsey has worked in the design and evaluation of public health programs in New England and globally for over 10 years with a focus on food and nutrition security. Chelsey joined Dartmouth Health’s Population Health team in 2019, building partnerships to address health inequities across New Hampshire and Vermont. She is an adjunct instructor in public health at The Dartmouth Institute and an affiliate in the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Chelsey was an Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellow at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She holds an MSPH from UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health and a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Boston University.

Dr. Steven Chen
Steven Chen, MD, is Chief Medical Officer of Alameda County Recipe4Health, an award-winning integrative healthcare model that uses “food as medicine” interventions to bring together health care and organic/regenerative agriculture to improve food and nutrition insecurity, chronic conditions, health/racial equity, local economic health, and climate health. While leading the scale and spread of Recipe4Health (R4H), Dr. Chen and his team successfully implemented one of California’s first Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition services as a covered Medi-Cal (Medicaid) service.

Dr. Chen serves on the Board of Integrative Medicine for the Underserved (IM4US), is active on California’s Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition Steering Committee, has helped craft two bills for the California legislature, has given testimony to the U.S. Congressional House Rules Committee Roundtable on Food as Medicine, and organized a Food as Medicine roundtable for Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Stanford University and Stanford School of Medicine, Dr. Chen is a board-certified family medicine physician who completed his residency training at UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital. He completed additional fellowship training at the University of Arizona’s Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine, leadership training through the California Health Care Foundation’s Leadership Program, acupuncture training through the UCLA-HMI Physicians’ Medical Acupuncture program, and advanced training in osteopathic manipulative medicine.
Melanie Condon
Melanie Condon, MBA, is Director of Sustainability for Keurig Dr Pepper where she leads their corporate health and wellbeing strategy and oversees their community relations work. She is also the liaison to KDP’s commercial sector, helping the brands, sales and marketing functions embed sustainability in their daily business.

Prior to joining KDP, Melanie was with Unilever in the External Affairs and Sustainable Business Communications office. She worked in advocacy around energy and environmental policy in Washington D.C. for years before joining the consumer product goods world.

Melanie holds an MBA from the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, and a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Affairs from the University of New Hampshire.

Katie Garfield
Katie Garfield, JD, is the Director of Whole Person Care at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. In this role, Katie works to advance state and federal policies that better enable the U.S. health care system to identify and respond to social determinants of health. As part of this work, Katie leads the Center’s Food is Medicine initiative, in which she works with community-based organizations, health care providers, health plans, and coalitions across the nation to develop strategies to establish more widespread, equitable access to innovative services such as medically tailored meals, medically tailored groceries, and produce prescriptions. Katie is also co-convenor of Food is Medicine Massachusetts, a statewide coalition focused on integrating nutrition supports into the Massachusetts health care system. Prior to joining the Center, Katie was an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP. She is a licensed member of the Massachusetts Bar.

Susan Goldenstein
Susan Goldenstein, MNM, is currently serving Director of Community Impact for Children’s Hospital Colorado. In this role, she oversees the hospital community health programs focused on the social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, public benefits enrollment, transportation, housing, and legal needs. Susan also leads the health system Community Benefit and community engagement strategies.

Prior to her current role, Susan spent several decades leading Children’s Hospital Colorado’s school-based programs, including many complex pivots throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She also leads the Colorado Alliance for School Health, a statewide coalition of about 20 education and healthcare organizations working to improve student health and achievement across the state.

In 2017, Susan was awarded the “Karen A. Patterson Award for Organizational and Community Change” by the College of Business and Economics at Regis University in Denver. She holds a master’s degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University and a bachelor’s degree in Public Management from Colorado State University. Susan serves on the board of the Colorado Association of School-Based Health Care, and she chairs the Kids Interest Committee of the Aurora Health Alliance.
Alberto González

Alberto A. González, Jr., MPP, currently serves as Senior Advisor for External Engagement at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Alberto’s role at FNS involves engaging healthcare, food, nutrition, and anti-hunger partners on FNS’s more than 15 federal nutrition assistance programs and the USDA’s nutrition security initiative to advance health equity.

Prior to his role at the USDA, Alberto was Senior Project Manager for Health Policy at UnidosUS, where he worked on health and nutrition policy related to federal government programs and led a federal legislative campaign to pass the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2020.

Before joining UnidosUS in 2018, he worked as a Senior State Advocacy Manager at Community Catalyst in Boston, MA, and served on the steering committee for the Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Campaign. Alberto also held roles at the California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) and the California State Assembly. Alberto has a master’s degree in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Sheila Hanley

Sheila Hanley, MPH, is a Senior Advisor at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center supporting the development and execution of strategic initiatives in priority areas. These include the alignment of private and public payers in health transformation and the development of initiatives addressing social needs, including food and nutritional interventions for the underserved. She has supported the design of multiple Innovation Center models in the areas of primary care and value-based insurance design and oversaw the Health Care Innovation Awards (HCIA), a set of $1.4 B cooperative agreements testing promising private sector innovations. Prior to the Innovation Center, she held senior positions within commercial, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid managed care organizations, implementing innovative payment, care management, quality, and data and reporting systems. In addition to her experience in health care financing and policy, she has deep delivery system experience having held senior positions in acute care hospitals, responsible for strategic financial planning, clinical service development, and payer contracting. Throughout her career she has served in a voluntary capacity to community-based organization, and as a founding member of several non-profit organizations, including the Hanley Center for Health Leadership.

Erika Hanson

Erika Hanson, JD, is a clinical instructor and attorney at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI) where she concentrates on policy to address the social determinants of health, improve health equity, and mitigate health disparities with a focus on the needs of low-income people living with chronic conditions. She has an active portfolio dedicated to the integration of health-related social needs into health care delivery and financing at the state level. Prior to joining CHLPI, Erika was a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York City for nearly five years, where she represented clients, conducted class action litigation, and led policy advocacy on a wide range of health law issues. Erika began her legal career as a Georgetown Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow and a Reproductive Rights & Health Legal Fellow at the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, DC.
Nicolene Hengen
Nicolene Hengen, MSPH, joined the Hunger to Health Collaboratory (H2HC) as its first executive director in July 2021. Nicolene has brought a new strategic focus to H2HC’s work. She has established new partnerships, designed several successful convenings focused on food, nutrition and health inequities for hundreds of thought leaders and stakeholders, and introduced national prizes to recognize innovative work that significantly advances health equity.

Prior to joining H2HC, she served as the director of community benefits for three hospitals in Beth Israel Lahey Health’s south region. Her career has been focused in domestic and international public health and higher education, including work with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Pathfinder International, and others.

Nicolene is an alumna of LeadBoston and a long-time community volunteer. She founded an award-winning nonprofit, Roslindale Green & Clean, focused on renewing neglected public green spaces in her Boston neighborhood. As a Friend of the Roslindale Library, she liaised with the City of Boston and the Boston Public Library to help guide a comprehensive branch library renovation process. She holds an MSPH from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a BA in Government from Smith College.

Sam Hoeffler
Sam Hoeffler, MS, oversees food programs and systems change work at Reinvestment Partners, an anti-poverty non-profit based in Durham NC. She manages a $25m produce prescription program portfolio; guides evaluation with a focus on strategic impact; and advocates for the integration of non-medical health services into healthcare delivery.

Before joining Reinvestment Partners, Sam was a public school teacher in Ohio, a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, a preschool teacher in North Carolina, a survivor advocate at a domestic violence shelter, and a server in many a restaurant. She brings optimism, determination, and savvy to the goal of healthy food and healthcare for all.

Sam holds a master’s degree in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a bachelor’s degree in International/Global Studies from Kenyon College.

Dr. Thea James
Thea James, MD, is Executive Director of the Health Equity Accelerator and Vice President of Mission & Associate Chief Medical Officer at Boston Medical Center (BMC). Dr. James works to coordinate and maximize BMC’s relationships and strategic alliances with a wide range of local, state, and national organizations including community agencies, housing advocates, and others to foster innovative and effective new models of care that are critical to operationalizing equity. This includes focus on the intersections of health and wealth, economic mobility, and other upstream drivers of predictable poor health outcomes.

In 2020-2021, Dr. James served on both the Mayor’s Health Inequities Task Force for the City of Boston and on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group. Dr. James served as the chair of the Licensing Committee on Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine 2009-2012. She is Director of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program at BMC and a founding member of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention. In 2011, she was appointed to Attorney General Eric Holder’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence.
Dr. James has worked in public health both domestically and globally, including with local partners in Haiti and Africa to implement sustainable healthcare models, as a visiting professor for Emergency Medicine residents in Haiti. She served as Supervising Medical Officer on the Boston Disaster Medical Assistance Team, has been deployed to post 9/11 in NYC, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Iran after the 2003 earthquake, and Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

She has been honored with several awards from the Boston Public Health Commission, the Suffolk County District Attorney, Boston Business Journal, The Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the American College of Emergency Medicine, and others throughout her career. A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. James trained in Emergency Medicine at Boston City Hospital, where she was a chief resident.

Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian
Dariush Mozaffarian, MD, is Distinguished Professor, Jean Mayer Professor, and Dean Emeritus of Nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, Professor of Medicine at Tufts School of Medicine, and an attending physician at Tufts Medical Center. His work aims to create the science and translation for a food system that is nutritious, equitable, and sustainable. Dr. Mozaffarian has authored more than 500 scientific publications on dietary priorities for obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases, and on evidence-based policy approaches and innovations to reduce diet-related diseases and improve health equity in the US and globally. Areas of focus include defining healthy diets, nutritional biomarkers, Food is Medicine interventions in healthcare, business innovation and entrepreneurship, and food policy. He is one of the top cited researchers in medicine globally, he has served in numerous advisory roles, and his work has been featured in an array of media outlets. Thomson Reuters has named him as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds. In 2023, Dr. Mozaffarian was nominated by President Biden to serve on the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition (PCSFN), a federal advisory committee that aims to promote healthy eating and physical activity for all Americans.

Dr. Mozaffarian received his B.S. in biological sciences from Stanford University, M.D. from Columbia University, and Doctorate in Public Health from Harvard University, and additional clinical training in internal medicine at Stanford University and in cardiology at the University of Washington.

Richard Sheward
Richard Sheward, MPP, is the Director of System Implementation Strategies at Children’s HealthWatch. In this role, Richard leads the cross-sector policy work and initiatives of the organization. In close coordination with the Children’s HealthWatch Principal Investigators and Executive Director, he identifies and executes a wide range of projects grounded in research, policy analysis, and advocacy to inform and influence policy decisions that improve children’s health. Richard’s multi-pronged portfolio includes leadership of the Children’s Health Watch Social Vital Signs™ Communities of Practice, as well as strategic and innovative partnerships with other national organizations, researchers, and policy makers to advance the mission of Children’s HealthWatch.

Before joining Children’s HealthWatch, he completed an Education Pioneers Fellowship at Jobs for the Future, where he contributed directly to the organization’s policy research and analysis, and supported the Vice President in scoping out organizational strategy, resource development and external relations. Richard has also focused on organizational development and fundraising as the Grants Manager for the Boston affiliate of the national youth development nonprofit, America SCORES, and as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in New York to develop the startup operations and fundraising strategy for an eco-civic environmental justice program serving urban youth. Richard received a Master’s of Public Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University and his BA in English from the University at Albany (SUNY).
**Dr. Elsie Taveras**

Elsie M. Taveras, MD, is the inaugural Chief Community Health and Equity Officer at Mass General Brigham and Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital. She leads system-wide strategies to improve health equity and the health of the communities served by Mass General Brigham. She is a pediatrician at Massachusetts General Hospital, the Conrad Taff Professor of Pediatrics in the Field of Nutrition at Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Nutrition at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Taveras is a leading expert in community health equity, childhood obesity, maternal-child health, and health disparities. Her research and community health leadership have influenced the development of national programs to improve health outcomes and eliminate inequities for socially at-risk populations. She is a recipient of the Public Health Leadership in Medicine Award from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health for her work improving health and health care in community-based settings.

Dr. Taveras received her Bachelor of Science and medical degrees from New York University and completed her internship, residency, and chief residency at the Boston Combined Residency Program in Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center and Boston Children’s Hospital and holds an MPH from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Dr. Priscilla Wang**

Priscilla Wang, MD, is a primary care physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Medical Director for Primary Care Health Equity at Mass General Brigham (MGB) in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, leading system efforts to close clinical disparities via its United Against Racism campaign and to promote nutrition equity. Her work seeks to address inequities in health care, via structural interventions that target systemic drivers of health disparities. Her prior work includes serving as Clinical Lead for MGB’s Medicaid ACO Community Partners and ED Navigator programs supporting vulnerable and complex patient populations, cofounding national patient advocacy campaigns to promote access to health care, and advising health policy work in the U.S. Office of Health Reform and the U.S. Office of the Surgeon General.

Dr. Wang completed her MD at the Yale School of Medicine, MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health, and residency and fellowship training at Mass General Brigham.