

## **RAISE Community Workshop Series Workshop 8 May 4, 2023**

### **Speakers**

**Tegan Boehmer, PhD, MPH**  
**CDR, US Public Health Service**  
**Senior Health Scientist, Public Health Informatics Office**  
**Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology**



CDR Tegan Boehmer is a senior health scientist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She earned a doctoral degree in Public Health Studies and a master's degree in Epidemiology from Saint Louis University School of Public Health. CDR Boehmer began her career at CDC in 2006 with the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program investigating infectious and occupational disease outbreaks at the Tri-County Health Department in Colorado. After completing EIS, she held various scientific, response, and leadership positions within CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) from 2008 to 2020. She advised the World Health Organization, Health Canada, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the state of the science and guidelines for protecting people from harmful effects of air pollution and advanced federal partnerships with U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Park Service that resulted in resources to guide evidence-based decision making around transportation and trails and green space. As Chief of the Health Studies Branch, NCEH, she oversaw groundbreaking work to minimize the impact of environmental health disasters and emerging hazards. Notably, she secured \$10M in 2017 hurricane recovery funding that resulted in several innovative programs to enhance disaster epidemiology and preparedness in affected jurisdictions. In 2020, CDR Boehmer transitioned to CDC's Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services where she serves as a Senior Health Scientist in the Public Health Informatics Office.

**April Mohanty, MPH, PhD**  
**Research Health Scientist**  
**IDEAS Center, Salt Lake City, VAMC**



Dr. Mohanty's primary position is as a Research Health Scientist and core investigator at the VA Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center. In addition, she is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Epidemiology, and Co-Director of the University of Utah Health Equity Leadership and Mentoring program in Salt Lake City, UT. She also serves as Vice Chair of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Her collaborations have led to grants funded by the National Institute of Health-National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and Novartis Pharmaceuticals.



She currently leads as co-PI an FDA-Office of Minority Health and Health Equity funded Interagency Agreement that is designed to identify Veteran social determinants of health associated with COVID-19 treatments/therapeutics and outcomes. She also serves as PI and co-PI on two VA Health Services and Research Development Investigator Initiated Research grants, one on addressing race/ethnic inequities in blood pressure control and one on long-COVID. Dr. Mohanty has published over 25 peer-reviewed manuscripts that span chronic multisymptom illness, health equity, women's and maternal/fetal health, environmental health exposures, and cardiovascular diseases.

**Rodney Samaco, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Molecular and Human Genetics**  
**Baylor College of Medicine**  
**Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute, Texas Children's Hospital**



Dr. Samaco is an Assistant Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and Investigator at Texas Children's Hospital. He is one of the Center Directors of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center at BCM and serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and as the Chair of AUCD's Council on Research and Evaluation. He also volunteers as an advisory board member of several patient advocacy and research organizations focused on rare genetic conditions including the International Foundation for CDKL5 Research, the FOXP1 Research Foundation, and the INADCure Foundation, and as a member of the Health Equity Leadership Council of Global Genes, the global non-profit advocacy organization for rare conditions. His basic-translational research program at the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at TCH focuses on optimizing the framework for preclinical readiness of rare genetic conditions, many of which are monogenic and syndromic in nature, and impact quality of life across the life span. His team evaluates preclinical outcomes and biomarkers using genetically modified rodents to identify measures that may serve as surrogate endpoints in therapy development. By fostering collaborations across the landscape of community advocacy, academic, and industry groups, he strives to advance equitable community engaged participatory approaches to drive the research and development of actionable therapies for rare conditions. He earned his doctoral degree in Molecular and Human Genetics from BCM and bachelor's degree in Genetics from U.C. Davis.

**Susan Zickmund, PhD**  
**Associate Director**  
**IDEAS Center, Salt Lake City, VAMC**

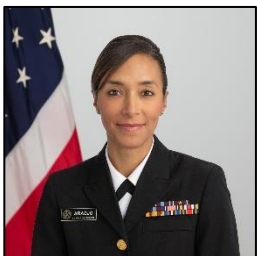


Dr. Susan Zickmund is the associate director of the Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center of Innovation located in the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Salt Lake City Health Care System. In addition, she is the director of the national VA HSR&D Centralized Transcription Services Program. On the university side she is a professor of medicine in the Division of Epidemiology and the codirector of the University's Qualitative Research core.

To add to her portfolio of expertise, she is currently an advisory member on the PCORI Methodology Committee where she drafted their standards for qualitative and mixed methods research. Zickmund's expertise in stakeholder engagement is evidenced by the fact that she also serves as the national chair of the HSR&D Veteran Engagement Work Group, which enables her to have an understanding of stakeholder input into research. She has also pioneered methods to integrate and analyze large-scale mixed-methods data, which helps to discover relationships that traditional qualitative methods would not be able to capture.

**RAISE FDA & FDA Foundation Team**

**RDML Richardae Araojo, PharmD, MS**  
**Associate Commissioner for Minority Health, Director**  
**Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, U.S. Food and Drug Administration**



Rear Admiral Richardae Araojo, PharmD, MS, serves as the Associate Commissioner for Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In this role, RDML Araojo provides leadership, oversight, and direction on minority health and health disparity matters for the Agency. RDML Araojo previously served as the Director of the Office of Medical Policy Initiatives in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), where she led a variety of broad-based medical and clinical policy initiatives to improve the science and efficiency of clinical trials and enhance professional and patient labeling. RDML Araojo joined FDA in 2003, where she held several positions in CDER. RDML Araojo received her doctoral degree in Pharmacy from Virginia Commonwealth University, completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at University of Maryland, and earned a master's degree in Pharmacy Regulation and Policy from the University of Florida.



**Carla Rodriguez-Watson, PhD, MPH**

**Director of Research**

**Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA**



Dr. Carla Rodriguez-Watson is the Director of Research for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA. Dr Rodriguez-Watson is focused on continuously developing and enhancing a portfolio of work that leverages real-world data and experiences to inform and conduct clinical and post-market drug safety and effectiveness studies. Projects include those focused on developing and advancing frameworks and tools to systematically describe data sources and methods for use in pre and post-market studies of product safety and effectiveness; as well as the the Innovation in Medical Evidence, Development

and Surveillance (IMEDS) Program – where such tools can be leveraged. IMEDS leverages a distributed network and tools developed by the FDA’s Sentinel initiative to design and execute post-market drug safety studies in a network of 9 healthcare systems representing over 111 M persons. Dr. Rodriguez-Watson brings her extensive background in public health surveillance and health outcomes research to this work. She earned her doctoral degree in Epidemiology from the University of Washington School of Public Health, her master’s degree in Public Health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and her bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University.

**Susan C. Winckler, RPh, Esq.**

**CEO**

**Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA**



Susan C. Winckler is CEO of the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA, the non-profit organization created by Congress to advance the mission of the FDA. Prior to accepting the Foundation post, she served as President of Leavitt Partners Solutions, a healthcare strategy firm founded by Gov. Michael O. Leavitt, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Winckler directly advised C-suite executives of a wide range of organizations on public policy and regulation, business strategy, investments, and other major business

matters.

As Chief of Staff for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2007-2009), she managed the Commissioner’s Office, served both Republican and Democratic commissioners as their senior-most staff adviser, analyzed complex policy challenges and represented FDA with myriad government entities and external stakeholders. Her earlier career service included more than a decade at the American Pharmacists Association in a series of positions of increasing responsibility.