



Refugee and Immigrant Health

SUMMIT 2025

COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT:
*ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY
THROUGH COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS*

UCSan Diego
Altrian Clinical and Translational
Research Institute

UC San Diego Health
Center for
Community Health

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Health and
Behavioral Analysis, General Medicine

SAN DIEGO
Refugee Communities
COALITION

Refugee
HEALTH UNIT



AGENDA



REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST	9:00 – 9:25 AM
WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none">• REBA MEIGS, MPA, BS UC SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH• REEM ZUBAIDI, MPP UC SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH OPENING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DAVEY SMITH, MD, MAS UC SAN DIEGO ALTMAN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE• AMINA SHEIK MOHAMED, MPH UC SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH• CRYSTAL CENÉ, MD, MPH, FAHA UC SAN DIEGO HEALTH• JENNIFER TUTEUR, MD COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY• ABDI ABDILLAHI, MBA CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	9:30 – 9:45 AM
PANEL I: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAO KABASHIMA, MA KAREN ORGANIZATION OF SAN DIEGO• FARIDA ERIKAT, BA MAJDAL: ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN DIEGO• NOUN ABDULAZIZ, BA UNITED WOMEN OF EAST AFRICA SUPPORT TEAM• ZUHRA ALOKAZAI, MD UNION OF PAN ASIAN COMMUNITIES	9:45 – 10:45 AM
PANEL II: CROSS SECTOR PERSPECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FARHAT POPAL, MPP UC SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH• ETLEVA BEJKO, MA SURVIVORS OF TORTURE INTERNATIONAL• JENNIFER NATIONS, PHD UC SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING• TALA AL-ROUSAN, MD, MPH THE HERBERT WERTHEIM SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE	10:45 – 11:50 AM
LUNCH	11:50 AM – 12:50 PM

AGENDA



BLESSING BOAT UNVEILING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COUNCILMEMBER SEAN ELO-RIVERA• TRE BORDEN/CO• SAMIRA HASSAN	12:50 – 1:20 PM
PRESENTATION: MEDICAL PERSPECTIVES IN IMMIGRANT HEALTH AT THE COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ JANINE YOUNG, MD UC SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS◦ KRISTIN BROWNELL MD, MPH FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS OF SAN DIEGO	1:20 – 2:25 PM
BREAK	2:25 – 2:40 PM
BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MENTAL HEALTH• HEALTHCARE NAVIGATION & CULTURAL HUMILITY• HOUSING AS A FOUNDATIONAL HEALTH ISSUE	2:40 – 3:20 PM
CLOSING <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ BLANCA MELÉNDREZ, MA UC SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH	3:20 – 3:30 PM

WELCOME

Welcome to the Refugee and Immigrant Health Summit 2025. This event is organized by the Refugee Health Unit (RHU) of the UC San Diego Center for Community Health (CCH), within the Community Engagement and Dissemination and Implementation Program at the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute in collaboration with the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC). The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science, the UC San Diego Department of Pediatrics and UC San Diego Health.

OUR GOAL

The goal of the Refugee and Immigrant Health Summit is to foster meaningful collaboration among community leaders, ethnic-led organizations, researchers, healthcare providers, and public health practitioners to co-create actionable strategies that address social determinants of health challenges and promote well-being in refugee and immigrant communities. The panel and breakout discussions will include community and cross-sector perspectives on the overarching topics of healthcare navigation and cultural humility, mental health, and housing as a foundational issue. Participants will also participate in the unveiling of the Blessing Boat, an art installation in collaboration between CCH and Tre Borden/Co as part of the James Irvine Leadership Award received by Blanca Melendrez and Amina Sheik Mohamed in honor of their work advancing health equity through collaborative, community-led initiatives.

It is our hope that participants will use the summit as an opportunity to foster further collaborations to advance health equity and well-being in refugee and immigrant communities in San Diego and beyond. Thank you for being here!

ABOUT

The Refugee Health Unit (RHU) was launched in 2017 to respond to the emerging needs of the growing number of refugees in San Diego County. The RHU offers extensive proficiency in collaborating with local immigrant and refugee communities. It currently provides backbone support for **the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC)** comprised of local ethnic-led community-based organizations, and serves as the lead agency for **the Afghan Refugee School Impact and Afghan Youth Mentoring (ARSI/AYM) program**, overseeing program delivery for refugees statewide. It spearheads training and technical assistance support for 50+ ethnic-led community-based organizations in partnership with regional lead agencies, facilitated through the establishment of statewide and regional Communities of Practice. ARSI/AYM direct services have reached over 3,500 immigrant and refugee families and youth statewide since its inception in 2023. The RHU focuses on helping refugee communities overcome health inequities and improve their agency, so individuals feel represented as a part of the larger community. This work is done through partnerships with Ethnic Community Based Organizations (ECBOs) to facilitate greater involvement and representation with the goal of ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all Californian refugees and immigrants. By deploying evidence-based health practices and translational research, RHU programs aim to achieve health equity by focusing on all aspects of the social determinants of health.

The Center for Community Health is a Center within **the Population Science and Community Engagement Unit** at the **UC San Diego [Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute \(ACTRI\)](#)**. CCH plays a pivotal role in transforming scientific discoveries into real-world health improvements. Programs target social and systemic factors affecting health through research and action to ensure equitable health opportunities for all.

ACTRI envisions a future in which everyone, irrespective of their social, economic or cultural background, can achieve their full health potential. To accomplish this vision, ACTRI fosters the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA) across programs; inspires change-makers and their disruptive innovations; provides resources and infrastructure that supports clinical translational science; and develops a workforce that bridges critical research gaps.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Panel I: Community Perspectives

This panel will discuss the impact of disparities across the social determinants of health on refugee and immigrant health outcomes through the perspective of community-based organizations that work most closely with and represent community members' perspectives. Panelists will provide insights based on their lived experience and their work advocating for and helping community members navigate systems, access resources, and address barriers.

Speakers

- Nao Kabashima, MA, Executive Director, Karen Organization of San Diego
- Noun Abdulaziz, BA, United Women of East Africa Support Team (UWEAST)
- Zuhra Alokazai, MD, Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC)
- Farida Erikat, BA, Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego

Panel II: Cross Sector Perspectives

This panel will discuss the impact of disparities across the social determinants of health on refugee and immigrant health outcomes through the perspectives of researchers and public health professionals. Panelists will discuss how they are working to address the emerging needs of community members, how research can be used as an advocacy tool, and how to build community research partnerships to refine the focus of research projects.

Speakers

- Farhat Popal, MPP, UC San Diego Center for Community Health
- Jennifer Nations, PhD, UC San Diego Department of Urban Studies and Planning
- Etleva Bejko, MA, Survivors of Torture International
- Tala Al-Rousan, MD, MPH The Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Presentation: Medical Perspectives in Immigrant Health at the Community, State, and National Level

These presentations will explore the varied healthcare challenges immigrants face at the community, state, and national levels, highlighting key medical insights, strategies to improve care and address health disparities, and opportunities for cross-sector collaboration.

Speakers

- Janine Young, PhD UC San Diego School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
- Kristin Brownell, MD, MPH Family Health Centers of San Diego

Breakout Sessions

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the following topics of their choice:

- Healthcare navigation and cultural humility
- Mental health
- Housing as a foundational health issue

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Abdi Abdullahi, MBA is the **Chief of the Refugee Programs Bureau and the California State Refugee Coordinator**, where he manages federal funding and oversees the implementation of California's refugee resettlement plan. He is responsible for developing and administering programs that support refugees, such as Refugee Cash Assistance, ensuring they receive the necessary services to achieve self-sufficiency. Abdi also coordinates with both public and private resources and works closely with federal partners, including ORR and PRM, to address the needs of refugee populations. Before joining the State, Abdi began his public service career in 2005 with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, where he held multiple roles, including County Refugee Coordinator and Refugee Employment Services Manager. In these roles, he offered policy expertise, developed community networks, and provided support for refugees and immigrants in the region. Abdi has also held leadership positions, including Chair of the County Refugee Coordinators and Vice-Chair of the State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services. As a former refugee from Somalia, Abdi is deeply committed to advocating for equity, social justice, and inclusive practices for refugees. He understands firsthand the challenges refugees face and is dedicated to fostering relationships with organizations that serve these communities. Abdi holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Amina Sheik Mohamed, MPH is the **Director and founder of the Refugee Health Unit (RHU) within the UC San Diego Center for Community Health (CCH)**. Amina is recognized for her work advancing health equity in San Diego County. As passionate public health leader, Amina collaborates with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities to promote health, community agency, and equitable access to opportunities. As the founder of both the Refugee Health Unit and the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), Amina has led initiatives that improve access to health resources in low-income communities. She excels in building coalitions, fund development, and implementing community-led projects. Her past work includes directing the Interfaith-Wellness Program, launching a Women's Only Swimming Project at the YMCA, and managing the African American Campaign for the Network for a Healthy California. Amina is a dedicated and innovative leader, committed to making a positive impact on public health locally and globally. She has received several honors, including the UC San Diego Changemaker Award (2019) and the Union Bank and KPBS Women's History Month Local Heroes Award (2013), and has spoken at major conferences like the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting. Amina holds a Master of Public Health from Walden University and a Bachelor's in Health Science from San Diego State University. She is also an alumni of the Rockwood Building Power Fellowship program.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Blanca Melendrez, MA leverages two decades of leadership as the **Executive Director of the UC San Diego Center for Community Health (CCH)**. She is deeply committed to addressing health disparities and advocating for health equity within communities of color. Blanca's work is rooted in personal experiences as an immigrant from Mexico, facing firsthand the challenges within healthcare systems and the impacts of the social determinants of health. Blanca has developed various health programs and the establishment of critical community-based coalitions, securing over \$80 million in funding to enhance community health and reduce disparities. This work is underpinned by a deep-seated belief in social justice and equity, driving her to advocate for health as a fundamental right for all. Blanca's journey at CCH began with the foundational Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Education Program, initially through the 5-a-Day pilot in partnership with the California Department of Public Health. The ¡Más Fresco! Nutrition Incentive Program stands out as a flagship effort, marking the first of its kind in the University of California System to combat food insecurity through a collaborative approach involving community, food systems, and health systems. Furthermore, under Blanca's leadership, CCH has been instrumental in establishing and leading various community-based collective impact coalitions and initiatives that embed just research and evaluation of programs, including the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition, Advancing Health Literacy, Healthy4You, Youth Advisory Council, and San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Crystal Cené, MD is the **Chief Administrative Officer for Health Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UC San Diego Health and Associate Chief Medical Officer for Health Equity**. In her dual, complementary role, she's focused on creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive environments for students, trainees, faculty, staff and patients. Dr. Cené is responsible for the vision, leadership and strategic planning of UC San Diego Health's justice, equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives. Prior to her current role, Dr. Cené was the system director for health equity and the director of the Program on Health Disparities at University of North Carolina (UNC) Health. She is a nationally recognized health services and health disparities researcher. Her research focuses on evaluating and implementing solutions that enhance patient and family-centered care, focusing on the disparities in care by race and socioeconomic status. She has held leadership roles in national and international organizations throughout her career, including the American Heart Association, the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Women's Health Initiative. Dr. Cené is a practicing general internal medicine physician. She completed her medical residency at Yale University and earned her medical degree at East Carolina University. She completed a three-year clinical research fellowship and received her Masters in Public Health from John Hopkins University.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Davey Smith, MD, MAS is an infectious disease specialist and prolific translational researcher with a focus of turning lab discoveries into better health. He has published over 400 scientific publications. Since 2022, Dr. Smith was recognized by Clarivate as being in the top 1% of researchers in the world by scientific citations. Since the pandemic started in 2019, Dr. Smith has been engaged in the international effort to find safe and effective treatments, including being the international protocol co-chair for the ACTIV-2 treatment study, which is a part of the US government's response to COVID-19. In 2023, Dr. Smith became **the Assistant Vice Chancellor of The Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute (ACTRI)** where he leads a team of scientists to tackle difficult biomedical challenges. Having his breadth of expertise allows him to better understand and overcome scientific and medical roadblocks. A good example of this is his recent work that showed how ChatGPT was better and more empathetic at answering patient queries than physicians (JAMA IM 2023) and how these new AI tools need to improve how a patient feels, functions or survives to be most useful (JAMA 2023).

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Etleva Bejko, MA, is the **Executive Director at Survivor of Torture International**. Etleva is a highly respected immigration services leader with over 20 years of experience in the field. Throughout her career, she has responded to humanitarian crises, rallied community groups, and built programs and teams that have served generations of refugees and immigrants throughout the San Diego County. Throughout her professional career, Etleva has worked closely with local and federal partners to address the barriers immigrant populations face and collaboratively improve their health, safety, and overall well-being. She has developed successful strategies for providing services to clients, while representing them and the organization in the community. She has built and maintained partnerships with various stakeholders across the County to ensure genuine immigrant and refugee equity and integration. During the border crisis of 2018, Etleva was a key leader in coordinating what is now an official migrant shelter, serving released asylum seekers and reuniting them with their families. As asylum seekers were detained and then released without coordination, leaving them stranded in San Diego with no resources, the need for a shelter grew overnight. Etleva began work on the ground, building systems to manage the influx of needy individuals, all while securing the resources required to support the newcomers. Etleva holds a master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Farida Erikat has been involved with the **Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego** since 2021 and currently serves as the **Program Manager**. Farida was born and raised in San Diego and comes from a large Palestinian family. She graduated from UC Irvine where she studied Psychology and Education, with a special interest in working with youth populations at the intersection of social work and education. Through her work at the Majdal Center, Farida seeks to support the development of her community, as well as help grow the next generation of youth leaders.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Farhat Popal, MPP is the **Assistant Director of Refugee and Immigrant Health** at the **UC San Diego Center for Community Health, Refugee Health Unit**. In prior roles, Farhat served as the Immigrant Affairs Manager for the City of San Diego and held roles at the U.S. Department of State advising on gender-based violence globally and human rights programming. Her experience also includes evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of local and federal government programs. Farhat studied Political Science/International Relations and History of the Near East at the University of California, San Diego and earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Janine Young, MD is an **academic general pediatrician at the University of California San Diego, Professor of Pediatrics, and Division Chief of Academic General Pediatrics, Newborn Medicine, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics.** She is also the **Martin T. Stein Endowed Chair in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics.** She was an undergraduate at Columbia University, received her medical training at Harvard Medical School, and pediatric residency training at the Boston Combined Program and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Her career focus is health care and access to care for immigrants and refugees and has written widely and presented talks nationally regarding topics that include the development of standard of care immigrant health medical screening guidelines, the evaluation and treatment of unaccompanied and accompanied immigrant children, pediatric female genital cutting, and medical-immigration law partnerships. She is the UCSD site PI for the Minnesota Department of Public Health/Centers for Disease Control Centers of Excellence in Newcomer Health and is a Medical Advisor addressing social determinants of health for the CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion/Surveillance Branch. She is a founding member and on the Board of the Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers and is a founding member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council of Immigrant Child and Family Health. She is a certified Spanish and French medical interpreter and loves to travel, when she can.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Jennifer Nations, PhD is currently the **Managing Director of Homelessness Hub at UC San Diego**, a research lab in the **Department of Urban Studies and Planning**. Dr. Nations leads multiple research studies at Homelessness Hub, including research on the connection between tenant rights education and wellbeing. Before her current position, Dr. Nations held postdoctoral fellowship appointments with the Fiscal Democracy Project at UC San Diego and the Scholars Strategy Network, an organization focused on bridging the gap between academic research and policy application. Dr. Nations studies inequality and the distribution of public and philanthropic resources in multiple domains, with the goal of improving service delivery and public policy to support a more equitable, just society.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Jennifer Tuteur, MD serves as the **Chief Medical Officer for the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, Medical Care Services**, supporting access to quality, timely and evidence-based care. Jennifer is passionate about improving the health of underserved communities. She earned her BA from Yale University and her MD at the University of Missouri. She worked as a Program Analyst in the Office of the Surgeon General and completed her residency in Family and Community Medicine in Minnesota. Jennifer braved a change in climate, moving to San Diego to hold leadership roles at Community Health Centers. As Medical Director of the Low Income Health Program, Jennifer piloted mental health integration and expansion of healthcare coverage prior to the ACA. Jennifer serves as a Board Member of Mama's Kitchen and San Diego Wellness Collaborative. She enjoys hiking and skiing with her family. Besides the wilderness, Petco Park is her favorite place to relax.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Kristin Brownell, MD, MPH has worked as a family physician caring for women, children, adult, and pregnant people in City Heights' diverse urban underserved area since 2007. Dr. Brownell trained at **UC San Diego School of Medicine** and serves as **core Faculty** with **Family Health Centers of San Diego Family Residency (FHCSF) Program**. For the Residency she leads the young doctors' community medicine rotation, Global Health Area of Concentration and served as FHCSF refugee health provider champion. Since serving in the Peace Corps, and later training in public health at San Diego State University (SDSU). Dr. Brownell has appreciated the value of learning from her patients and their community, to guide advocacy, & public policy especially in newcomers. She is a past president, and current delegate for of the San Diego Academy of Family Physicians (SDAFP). She is curious and passionate about social determinants of health, health equity, social justice, policy, and wellness and sustainability in medicine.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Nao Kabashima is the **co-founder and Executive Director of Karen Organization of San Diego (KOSD)**. She is originally from Japan and first came to the U.S. as a graduate student. After she earned her master's degree in political science at California State University, Chico, in 2008, she began volunteering for the Refugee Resettlement Program at Jewish Family Service of San Diego and started to meet with many Karen and Karenni refugee families. In 2009, she co-founded KOSD with Karen community leaders to meet the urgent needs of refugees from Burma in San Diego. She served as the Secretary and Chair of the San Diego Refugee Forum in 2012-2013 and is currently serving the Partnership for Advancement of New Americans (PANA) as a Board Chair. She currently sits at the San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria's AAPI Advisory Board. She is one of the awardees for the City of San Diego's Women of Distinction in 2024.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Noun Abdulaziz is a **Community Organizer & Health Researcher** within the **United Women of East Africa Support Team (UWEAST)** a member of the **San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC)**. Noun has a BA in Sociology and a strong background in public health advocacy, mental health education, and health nutrition research. As a Sudanese Egyptian immigrant, she brings a unique perspective to her work. Noun's contributions have been recognized through various awards, including a nomination for the 2018 California Endowment Youth Awards and the Outstanding Youth/Student Volunteer award from the 2019 National Philanthropy Day Honorary Committee. She was also highlighted as a "Citizen of the World" in a U.S. News article and received the 2020 Student Scholar award from the American Heart Association. Currently, Noun works with the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition Policy Council and has served as a research consultant for the UC San Diego Refugee Health Unit, where she has presented and led numerous research initiatives.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Reba Meigs, MPA serves as **the Senior Project Officer at the UC San Diego Center for Community Health (CCH)**. Reba has nearly 20 years of public health experience at the state and county level, as well as in academic and non-profit settings. She has extensive strategic planning and implementation experience in federal and state funding models, evaluation frameworks, training and skill development methodologies, and community collaboration. Reba has designed, implemented, and evaluated large-scale community-based programs and has provided evidence-based capacity building guidance for health policies, legislative bills, systems, and environmental change initiatives throughout the state of California. During her career, Reba has done work for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Public Health Institute, the Santa Clara and Marin County Public Health departments, and currently at the UC San Diego Center for Community Health, Refugee Health Unit. Reba has presented at national and state conferences such as the California Association for Health, Physical Activity and Dance, and the American Public Health Association (APHA), and her evidence-based programs have been published in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. Reba lives in Santa Rosa with her husband and two sons. She enjoys hiking, swimming, gardening, yoga, and spending time with her family. Reba attended San Diego State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree and a Master of Public Administration degree.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Reem Zubaidi, MPP is a **program manager in the UC San Diego Center for Community Health, Refugee Health Unit** and a **co-facilitator for the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC)**. In this role, she works closely with program leads across the SDRCC initiatives to provide technical assistance and works as part of the RHU evaluation team on data collection and evaluation, helping to measure the impact of various SDRCC programs. Reem also facilitates the SDRCC Policy Council, a team of youth from coalition organizations that focus on the four priority areas of employment, education, healthcare access and health literacy, and housing quality and stability. Previously, Reem also served as a co-director for the federally funded Advancing Health Literacy program. Her work revolves around addressing health inequities across the social determinants of health. As the daughter of Palestinian and Lebanese immigrants and granddaughter of refugees, she is passionate about advocating for refugee and immigrant communities and working toward lasting systems change. Reem graduated with a Master's degree in Public Policy at UC San Diego's School of Global Policy. Her focus there was on the intersection of environmental issues and human rights. Before moving to San Diego, Reem completed her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communications at Northwestern University's campus in Qatar. Reem joined the Center for Community Health in 2018.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Samira Hassan is an activist, poet, writer and aspiring journalist born and raised in San Diego. Samira grew up in the diverse and beautiful neighborhood of City Heights. Throughout her childhood, she participated in Artivism programs. Since she was 10 years old Samira has been a very present individual in her community. Whether it was spoken word or theater performances or canvassing her neighborhood, she always enjoyed interacting with her peers or the individuals who resided in her City Heights. Samira is currently still an organizer and advocate in City Heights. 'Being a Mosaic of my community! With every step I take, I remember to honor my family, mentors, friends, and City Heights!'

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



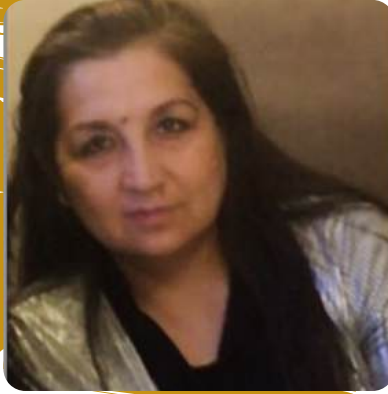
City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera proudly represents San Diego's 9th City Council District and is committed to the realization of his vision of "Opportunity for All." He was elected as Councilmember in November 2020 and then elected City Council President in December of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Before joining the Council, Sean served as an elected member of the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees and as the Executive Director of Youth Will where he worked to create a future where every young person is happy, healthy, and prepared to reach their potential. He previously spent time leading community organizing, policy, and civic engagement efforts at a local nonprofit. Sean came to San Diego to attend California Western School of Law where he focused on Creative Problem Solving and earned honors for his Pro Bono service while earning his Juris Doctor. Sean continues to be shaped by his early career as a high school athletics coach as well as his years spent volunteering and teaching abroad in South America and Korea. Family is very important to Sean who grew up in a large family of seven with his parents, a brother and three sisters. In August of 2023, Sean and his wife, Angela, welcomed their son to their family. Sean loves traveling and spending with his family, including their dog, Lexi.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Tala Al-Rousan, MD is a **physician-scientist and Assistant professor at the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health at the University of California San Diego**. She is the **Founding Director of the Displacement & Health research initiative at UC San Diego**. She seeks to examine the intersectionality of displacement and health and leads clinical and behavioral health trials to mitigate these disparities and inform policy design.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Zuhra Alokzai, MD is a **Community Health Worker** at the **Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC)**. She is fluent in Dari, English, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu, Turkish, and Uzbek. Prior to her role with UPAC, she served as a certified nurse assistant with First Promise Care Service, where she cared for patients in a nursing facility. Zuhra has over two decades of experience working as a medical practitioner and earned her medical degree from Kabul University in her home country. She served as Chief of the Hematology department from 2001 to 2017 where she oversaw a 30-bed unit, treated adult patients including those with leukemia, and trained new doctors in three-year rotations. Since moving to the US, she has continued to serve her community through her work as a nurse and a community health worker.

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute Center for Community Health

Mission: Advance health equity through community partnerships by transforming public health practice, research, and education.

San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC)

Mission: To lead coordinated action that addresses structural inequities faced by refugee communities.

UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute Center for Community Health Refugee Health Unit

Mission: To advance health equity and well-being in refugee and immigrant communities through culturally responsive approaches.

UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute Community Engagement and Dissemination and Implementation Program

Mission: To facilitate the research of others by providing resources, training, and collaboration opportunities for ACTRI scientists, health care providers, and the community.

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

Mission: Strengthen our communities with innovative, inclusive, and data-driven services through a skilled and supported workforce

UC San Diego Health

Mission: To deliver outstanding patient care through commitment to the community, groundbreaking research and inspired teaching

UC San Diego School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics

Mission: The Division of Academic General Pediatrics, Newborn Medicine and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics faculty provide comprehensive, evidence-based clinical care, medical education, and are engaged in ongoing research, quality improvement, advocacy, policy, and community outreach.

The Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

Mission: With a commitment to equity and justice and rooted in a culture of respect, the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health will lead in innovations to improve public health locally and globally by: *Cultivating new generations of diverse public health professionals, Advancing scientific discovery, dissemination and implementation, and Collaborating with diverse partners to develop community-led health solutions*

Special thanks to our Planning Committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing this impactful summit.

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UC San Diego Health



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EVALUATION SURVEY SHARING YOUR
FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS SUMMIT.
THANK YOU!*

SCAN ME



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Department of Pediatrics
Sector of Academic General Pediatrics

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