

THE COVID-19 VACCINES: AN UPDATE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

January 24th, 12:30PM - 4:00PM

A Three-hour Symposium Sponsored by the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds

PANELISTS

If you have a question for one of the panelists use the "Q&A" button at the bottom of your zoom window.



Dr. Chris T. Pernel, MD, MPH, FACPM
Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer, University Hospital, Newark, NJ

Dr. Chris T. Pernel is a dynamic physician leader, health and wellness visionary, and social change agent. In her public health practice, she concentrates on health justice, community-based advocacy, and population-wide health promotion and disease prevention. Recently, she joined University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey as the first Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer where she oversees a portfolio which includes Population Health, Strategic Planning, Community Affairs, and the Human Experience. Prior to joining University Hospital, she led the 1199SEIU/League Labor Management Initiatives (LMI) Workplace and Community Health Program. Working with leaders and frontline workers of 1199SEIU, and partners across NYC healthcare institutions, her efforts centered on workplace health strategies, worker empowerment, health equity, and health system transformation.

Dr. Chris graduated cum laude from Princeton University before attending Duke University School of Medicine. She received her Master of Public Health from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, and completed the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health General Preventive Medicine Residency.



Kevin Cranston, MDiv
Assistant Commissioner and Director, Bureau of Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Sciences, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Kevin Cranston previously served as the Director of the MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau and was HIV/AIDS Program Director at the Massachusetts Department of Education. Prior to joining the public sector he was an adolescent HIV prevention specialist at The Children's Hospital in Boston. He has also served as a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and has brought his HIV/AIDS expertise to Nigeria, Brazil, and South Africa. Kevin earned his Master of Divinity degree at Harvard Divinity School.



Dr. Magdalena Sobieszczyk, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and Chief of Infectious Diseases, NY-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, NYC

Dr. Magda Sobieszczyk is an infectious disease specialist, a clinical virologist and Chief of Infectious Diseases at NewYork Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She went to medical school at Columbia and completed her medicine residency and infectious diseases fellowship at Columbia/NewYork Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Sobieszczyk is an HIV clinician and her research focuses on HIV prevention and HIV vaccines, especially among women, Blacks and Latinos, communities highly impacted by HIV yet underrepresented in HIV prevention care and research. Since the SARS-COV-2 pandemic, she has overseen the implementation of COVID-19 clinical management guidelines and has led studies that test new interventions to prevent and treat COVID-19. She is the co-chair of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine study that is being conducted in the US, Chile and Peru.



Dr. Shobha Swaminathan, MD
Director of HIV Programs, University Hospital, Newark, NJ and Associate Professor of Medicine, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Shobha Swaminathan is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS). She is the Clinical Research Site Leader for the NIH funded Clinical Trials Unit at Rutgers NJMS and is the Medical Director of the Infectious Diseases Practice (IDP) at University Hospital, Newark, NJ. In her role as Site Principal Investigator for the NIH-funded Clinical Research Site, she has successfully implemented multiple NIH-funded HIV treatment and prevention studies at Rutgers NJMS. More recently, with the COVID-19 pandemic, Rutgers NJMS is now an NIH-funded site for COVID Treatment and Prevention Studies. The site has launched multiple treatment and prevention studies for COVID-19, including the Moderna Vaccine study. She is passionate about her work and continues to find ways to engage with the community to ensure that the clinical trials offered at the center reflect the needs of the community.

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Zeynep Sumer-King

Vice President, Regulatory and Professional Affairs, Greater New York Hospital Association

Zeynep Sumer King is the Vice President for Regulatory and Professional Affairs at the Greater New York Hospital Association which represents close to 200 hospitals and health systems in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. In this role, she supports hospitals in streamlining their clinical operations and in their response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. She has been working closely with hospitals, the New York State Department of Health, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and other stakeholders on all aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine program.

SPEAKERS



Sandi Vito

Executive Director, 1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds

Sandi Vito is the Executive Director of the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds (TEF). TEF provides training, job placement, and quality improvement programs to over 700 healthcare employers and 250,000 workers in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Florida.

Ms. Vito joined TEF in 2011 as the Director of the 1199SEIU League Training and Upgrading Fund (TUF) and the 1199SEIU Greater New York Education Fund (GNY). Jointly governed by labor and management, these organizations provide front-line healthcare workers with an array of education and training benefits, including foundational skills and healthcare-related certificates and degrees.

Before joining TEF, Ms. Vito served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, where she oversaw unemployment compensation, labor law, workers' compensation and workforce development programs.

Ms. Vito received a Bachelor of Arts from Richard Stockton College and a Master of Arts in Labor Studies at the City University of New York and has studied Urban Studies and Community and Regional Planning at Temple University.



Marc Z. Kramer

President, League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes

Marc Z. Kramer is the current President of the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes. In addition, he is the Principal Managing Director of Port Media Solutions, LLC. Port Media provides management consulting, principally in labor relations, and restructuring.

From 2006 to 2010, Marc was the CEO of the *Daily News*, the most widely read newspaper in the nation's largest media market. Before being named CEO at the *Daily News*, Marc held several positions at *The New York Times*, including Senior Vice President of Circulation, Senior Vice President of Production, and Vice President of Labor Relations. From 1990 until 1993, Marc was an associate at Proskauer Rose. From 1985 until 1990, he also served as the Deputy General Counsel and subsequently the General Counsel at the New York City Mayor's Office of Labor Relations.



Maria Castaneda

Secretary-Treasurer, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Maria Castaneda was first elected Secretary-Treasurer of 1199SEIU United Health Care Workers East in 2007, and has twice been re-elected. She holds the second highest position in her union, representing over 450,000 healthcare workers. Maria is the highest ranking Asian American woman labor leader in the United States.

Born in the Philippines, Maria migrated to the US in 1984. She worked as a volunteer community organizer in New York, assisting Filipino nurses with their immigration issues and helping promote Philippine cultural heritage.

Within 1199SEIU, Maria leads in promoting a culture of health and wellness among members through workplace wellness programs. Members and the employers are engaged as wellness champions and help foster healthy eating choices, exercise and smoking cessation to combat chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension.

Maria is a Vice President of the 2.1 million-member Service International Union. Last year, she formed the Haiyan/Yolanda relief work group, together with other SEIU leaders. The work group raised almost \$600,000, and another \$1.3 million worth of food, medicines, infant formula, water, and wipes.