

PHYSICIANS FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Speaker Biographies

Philippe Bourgois, PhD Keynote Speaker (Lunch)

Philippe Bourgois is professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Social Medicine and Humanities at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He is a cultural and medical anthropologist who has conducted fieldwork on the political mobilization of ethnicity, immigration, labor relations, and political and intimate violence Central America, as well as the political economy of inner-city apartheid and the carceral and psychiatric management of poverty and unemployment the U.S.

Prof. Bourgois' applied public health and social medicine research documents how macro-structural power relationships affect health and quality of life and how punitive law enforcement priorities have come to dominate the delivery of clinical and social services in the U.S. He has been the principal investigator on dozens of National Institutes of Health grants, including a 21-year continuous study of the inner-city HIV risk environment faced by indigent, street-based drug users and sellers. From an applied perspective, he is dedicated to fomenting a more productive dialogue between qualitative, epidemiological and clinical approaches to a critical understanding of the social determinants of health and quality of life. Currently, Prof. Bourgois is co-authoring a book entitled "Cornered," based on years of collaborative participant-observation fieldwork in a violently-policed, segregated Puerto Rican neighborhood dominated by open-air narcotics markets in North Philadelphia.

Linda Rae Murray, MD, MPH Keynote Speaker (Dinner)

Dr. Linda Rae Murray has been a voice for social justice and health as a basic human right for more than fifty years. She spent her career serving the medically underserved in a variety of settings, including at a workers clinic in Canada, residency director for occupational medicine at Meharry Medical College, bureau chief for the Chicago Department of Health, as medical director of the federally funded health center serving Cabrini Green public housing in Chicago, and as Chief Medical Officer-Primary Care for the Cook County Health System. In December 2014, she retired from her position as the chief medical officer for the Department of Public Health of the Cook County Health & Hospital System.

Dr. Murray has been a leader in of a wide range of local and national organizations including the board of scientific counselors for ATSDR, the board of scientific counselors for NIOSH, and the board of directors of Trinity Health (a large Catholic Health system), NACCHO's health equity and social justice team, and the national executive board of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Murray served as the president of APHA in 2011.

Today, Dr. Murray practices as a voluntary general internist in one of Cook County's health centers and is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Illinois School of Public Health. She serves on the board of the Chicago-based Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, and the community advisory committee at the University of Illinois.

Carol Paris, MD Meeting Chair

Dr. Carol Paris is the president of PNHP. A recently retired psychiatrist, she worked for more than 25 years in private practice, community mental health, prison psychiatry, and academia. In May 2009, Dr. Paris and seven others stood up at a U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing on health care reform, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus, to ask why there wasn't a single advocate for single-payer health care on the 41-member panel. She then toured the country as part of the "Mad as Hell Doctors," and spent a year as a consultant psychiatrist in New Zealand, where she experienced a single-payer system firsthand. She resides in Nashville, Tenn. Her interests include mentoring medical students and early career physicians for leadership positions within PNHP, and building coalitions to strengthen the single-payer movement's impact on the national health care debate. Dr. Paris earned her medical degree from West Virginia University School of Medicine.

David Himmelstein, MD Plenary Speaker

Dr. David Himmelstein is a distinguished professor in the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College, adjunct clinical professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and lecturer in medicine at Harvard Medical School. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 journal articles and three books, including widely cited studies of medical bankruptcy and the high administrative costs of the U.S. health care system. His 1984 study of patient dumping led to the enactment of EMTALA, the law that banned that practice. Dr. Himmelstein received his medical degree from Columbia University and completed internal medicine training at Highland Hospital/University of California San Francisco and a fellowship in general internal medicine at Harvard. A co-founder of Physicians for a National Health Program, Dr. Himmelstein co-edits PNHP's newsletter and is a principal author of PNHP articles published in JAMA and the NEJM in conjunction with Dr. Steffie Woolhandler.

Steffie Woolhandler, MD, MPH Plenary Speaker

Dr. Steffie Woolhandler is a practicing primary care physician, distinguished professor in the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College, adjunct clinical professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and lecturer in medicine at Harvard Medical School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Stanford University; her medical degree from Louisiana State University; her master's degree from the University of California, and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation health policy fellow at the Institute of Medicine and the U.S. Congress. Dr. Woolhandler is a frequent speaker and has written extensively on health policy, administrative overhead and the uninsured. She has authored more than 150 journal articles, reviews, chapters, and books on health policy. A co-founder and board member of Physicians for a National Health Program, Dr. Woolhandler co-edits PNHP's newsletter and is a principal author of PNHP articles published in JAMA and the NEJM in conjunction with Dr. David Himmelstein.

Alex Lawson, Plenary Short Presentation

Alex Lawson is the executive director of Social Security Works, the convening organization of the Strengthen Social Security Coalition, a coalition made up of 340 national and state organizations representing over 50 million Americans. Mr. Lawson has appeared on numerous

TV and radio outlets and is a frequent guest host of The Thom Hartmann Program. He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Mr. Lawson is also the owner of We Act Radio, a media corporation that combines broadcast and new media to deliver independent progressive voices in the formats people use most.

Claudia Fegan, MD, CHCQM Plenary Panel Moderator

Dr. Claudia Fegan is national coordinator of PNHP, chief medical officer for the Cook County Health & Hospital System and John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County. She is also president of the Chicago-based Health and Medicine Policy Research Group. In 2016, she was named one of “10 Minority Executives to Watch,” by Modern Healthcare, noting her achievements in the medical profession and her single-payer activism. She is a co-author of the book “Universal Healthcare: What the U.S. Can Learn from the Canadian Experience” and a contributor to “10 Excellent Reasons for National Health Care.” Dr. Fegan received her undergraduate degree from Fisk University and her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. She is also certified in health care quality and management and is a diplomate of the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians.

Altat Saadi, MD, MSHPM Plenary Panel Speaker

Dr. Altat Saadi is a health sciences clinical instructor of medicine and fellow at the National Clinician Scholars Program at UCLA, where she focuses on promoting leadership in health policy, health services, and community-partnered research. She completed her neurology training at the Partners Neurology Program at Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women’s Hospitals, where she served as chief resident. She currently serves as a volunteer member of the Physicians for Human Rights’ Asylum Network. Dr. Saadi’s research and advocacy focuses on health inequities and disparities among racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, as well as enhancing diversity within the medical workforce. She is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Medical School, where she graduated cum laude and received the Dean’s Community Service Award.

Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN Plenary Panel Speaker

Charlene Harrington is a professor emeritus of sociology and nursing at the University of California San Francisco. She was elected to the American Academy of Nursing and the Academies of Medicine. Her research has included designing and managing a model California long-term care consumer information system website; studying state Medicaid home- and community-based service programs and policies; directing the National Center for Personal Assistance Services, and assisting with a new Community Living Policy Center. Her recent research has focused on the corporate ownership and financing of long-term care and its negative effect on quality, access, and costs. She has testified before the U.S. Congress on long-term care research and policy, written many articles and books on nursing homes and long-term care, and lectured widely in the U.S. and internationally.

Scott Goldberg, MD Plenary Panel Speaker

Dr. Scott Goldberg is a resident in internal medicine-primary care at the UCSF and San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Goldberg is a member of the board of directors of Physicians for a National Health Program and previously served a student representative on PNHP’s board and as a leader of Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP). He is an active member of the Society of General Internal Medicine and serves as a union delegate for the UCSF chapter of Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR). Dr. Goldberg received his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and bachelor’s degree from Brown University.

Bonnie Castillo, RN Plenary Panel Speaker

Bonnie Castillo, RN, is executive director of National Nurses United (NNU), California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (CNA/NNOC), an all-RN professional organization and union with a membership of more than 150,000. Ms. Castillo has been with CNA/NNOC for almost two decades in a number of important capacities, including director of government relations, director of health and safety, and director of the Registered Nurse Response Network (RNRN), a disaster relief program run by NNU that places registered nurse volunteers where they are needed after catastrophes.

Wendell Potter Plenary Panel Speaker

Following a 20-year career as a corporate public relations executive, Wendell Potter left his position as VP of Communications for Cigna, one of the nation’s largest health insurers, to advocate for meaningful health care reform. In widely covered Congressional hearings, he disclosed how insurance companies engage in practices that have forced millions of Americans into the ranks of the uninsured, and use deceptive PR tactics to undermine health care reform. Wendell is author of “Deadly Spin” and “Nation on the Take.” His newest project is Tarbell.org, which examines how money in politics impacts millions of Americans

Dylan Dusseault Plenary Panel Speaker

Dylan Dusseault is the senior associate for policy and communications at the Business Initiative for Health Policy, an organization that advocates for a single-payer Medicare-for-all system on behalf of small and mid-sized business owners and their workers. He came to the organization after managing a successful campaign for House of Delegates in Virginia. Prior to that, he worked on campaigns, on the Hill, and as a state policy researcher while completing his undergraduate degree at Florida State University and his masters at Georgetown.

Augie Lindmark Plenary Panel Speaker

Augie Lindmark is a fourth year medical student at the University of Minnesota Medical School, a student representative on the board of PNHP, and a leader in its student arm, Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP). In 2017, Augie paused his medical education to work as an Oryema Fellow in Social Medicine where he developed health professional curriculum in the U.S., Uganda, and Rwanda, which focused on organizing students in right to health movement. Augie was a 2018 WordSprout GrandSlam Champion and has been featured on various storytelling platforms including The Moth.