Alumni Participant Bios

Public Health

**Don Operario** - Brown University, *Associate Professor (Moderator)*

Don Operario is Associate Professor of Public Health in the Department of Behavior and Social Sciences, and currently serves as Associate Dean of the Graduate School. He was trained as a Social and Health Psychologist (BA, UCLA; MS, PhD, UMass Amherst; Postdoctoral Fellow, UC San Francisco). He was previously on the faculty of the University of Oxford (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) and before that was at the University of California San Francisco (Center for AIDS Prevention Studies - Department of Medicine).

His research addresses two inter-related areas. The first general area is the social context of HIV transmission and the social sequelae of HIV/AIDS in affected communities, with an emphasis on developing and evaluating theory-based social and behavioral interventions in high-risk groups. A second research area is the lived experiences associated with social inequality, with an emphasis on understanding the perspectives of disadvantaged group members and addressing associated health and psychosocial disparities. He conducts research addressing both U.S. domestic and international public health issues.

**Lauren Alexanderson ‘06** — John Snow Inc., *Communications Manager*

Lauren is a knowledge management and health communication advisor at John Snow, Inc., a public health consulting firm. In this role, she manages a large team and portfolio of knowledge management activities for international health projects focusing on HIV, malaria, family planning, and other issues. Lauren is finalizing graduate work in business and behavioral economics at Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of the Brown University Class of 2006, where she concentrated in community health.

**Kimberly Bertrand ‘99** — Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University, *Assistant Professor of Epidemiology*

Kim Bertrand concentrated in Biology at Brown and holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Boston University School of Public Health and a Doctor of Science degree in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is currently Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University and is an investigator on the Black Women’s Health Study. Kim’s research focuses on the epidemiology of breast cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with an emphasis on understanding environmental, nutritional, and lifestyle factors that may influence risk. Previously, she worked at Massachusetts Department of Public Health and The Lewin Group, a health care policy and research firm in the Washington, DC area. Kim lives in Boston with her husband and two children (ages 3 and 6).

**Sarah Nguyen ‘11, MPH ‘12** - RI Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, *Principal Policy Associate*

Sarah Nguyen graduated from Brown with her Bachelor’s in Community Health in 2011 and with her Masters in Public Health in 2012 with a focus on health policy and healthcare reform. After graduating, she supported Rhode Island’s Health Insurance Exchange as an analyst at Wakely Consulting Group, with projects focused on strategy development, consumer assistance, health insurance plan design, stakeholder engagement, and reporting. She is currently the Principal Policy Associate at the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, the agency responsible for health insurance regulation and reform in the state. In this role, she manages state review of insurance premiums, coordinates implementation of the Affordability Standards—the Office’s healthcare delivery and payment system reform initiatives—and serves as the liaison for the Office’s Health Insurance Advisory Council.
Emily Taylor ‘07 — Vecna Cares Charitable Trust, Program Manager & Business Development Manager
Emily Taylor is a project manager with a focus on supporting and strengthening patient-centered maternal and neonatal health services in LMICs. She has spent the last decade in healthcare consulting focusing on clinical quality improvement, process improvement and digital health initiatives. She has particular experience in proposal and grant development, business development, project management, strategic planning and board development. As a Program Manager and Business Development Manager at Vecna Cares, Emily is responsible for the execution of digital health projects in Kenya and Nigeria. She also leads business development efforts by cultivating partnerships, designing programs, writing proposals and contributing to thought leadership efforts. Her personal areas of interest are cultural competency in healthcare, equity in the quality of healthcare delivered to mothers and babies, and the transformational power of access to information technology. Emily graduated from Brown University with an honors degree in Development Studies where she was Fellow of the Watson Institute for International Relations. She is also a graduate of the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership at Boston University, where she earned a certificate in Nonprofit Management, and is a DONA trained labor doula.

Mike Yepes ’13 — Fenway Health, Clinical Health Navigator
Mike Yepes received his B.S. in Neuroscience in 2013 and has focused in work in analyzing health disparities in chronic conditions along the axis of race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.