

7th Annual Asian Health Symposium Speaker Biographies:



Kanchana Bhat, MPH, joined Tufts CTSI in January 2022 as Executive Director. In this role, Kanchana manages day-to-day operations and guides implementation of research services. Kanchana previously worked at Yale New Haven Hospital's Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation for 15 years, engaging in the development, reevaluation, and public reporting of outcomes measures for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with the goal to improve quality of care. She is experienced in project management, and providing structure and process improvements for matrixed, multidisciplinary teams. Kanchana earned her MPH in environmental and occupational health from Loma Linda University, and a BS in psychobiology from UCLA.



Geumhee Cho is a Korean Client Navigator at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK). She has served in this role since 2016. She participated in the Asian CARES research project as a community field worker.



MyDzung T. Chu, PhD, MSPH, is the Director of the [ADAPT](#) (Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research) Coalition at Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She is also Faculty Investigator at the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine in the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies at Tufts Medical Center. Trained as an environmental and occupational epidemiologist, she is invested in community-engaged research on social-contextual and environmental determinants of health for Asian and immigrant populations, particularly in the built environment (e.g., home, neighborhood, workplace). Currently, she is collaborating with community partners on several projects, including investigating the influence of acculturation and environmental risk factors on gestational diabetes risk for Chinese women, and evaluating cultural responsiveness of existing mental health trainings for Asian populations in Greater Boston. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the George Washington University where she examined the impact of federal housing assistance on residential environmental exposures. Dr. Chu received her PhD in Population Health Sciences from Harvard University, MSPH in Environmental Health and Epidemiology from Emory University, and BA in Neuroscience from Smith College. She is a first-generation Vietnamese American scholar and a native of Springfield, MA.



Mark Gottlieb, JD, is the Executive Director at Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University. After graduating from Northeastern University School of Law in 1993, Dr. Gottlieb joined the staff of the school's [Public Health Advocacy Institute](#) (PHAI). His efforts have focused on researching tobacco litigation as a public health strategy as director of the Tobacco Products Liability Project, reducing the harm caused by secondhand tobacco smoke through a variety of legal and policy approaches, fostering scholarship using tobacco industry documents, and, more recently, examining legal and policy approaches to address obesity. He teaches and operates the Public Health Legal Clinic.



Ben Hires, MS, MATS, joined the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) in June 2020. Ben has significant experience in nonprofit leadership and serving young people and families. He held leadership positions in programs, strategy, and external relations. Prior to being the CEO, Ben volunteered as a mentor for BCNC's College Access Program for youth and as a member of the Pao Arts Center Advisory Committee. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Political Science, a Master of Theological Studies, and a Master of Science in Arts Administration all from Boston University.



Mark Vander Linden, MSW, has served as Director of Research and Responsible Gaming for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) since 2013. In this role he manages an extensive research agenda to advance an understanding of responsible gaming, gambling disorders and the social and economic impacts of casino gambling in Massachusetts. Additionally, he works collaboratively with casino operators and other stakeholders on a range of casino and community-based initiatives to build a sustainable and socially responsible industry in the state. Prior to joining MGC, Mark was the Executive Officer of the Office of Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention with the Iowa Department of Public Health. Mark serves on the Board of Directors of the International Center for Responsible Gaming. He received his master's in social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Mark has clinical experience in community-based settings with addiction, HIV/AIDS issues, and children and family mental health.



Frank Poon has been involved in serving the Asian community for over 20 years. He has volunteered and partnered with service organizations in providing assistance to the Chinese community, especially Chinese seniors, including elder services, community services, cultural activities, citizenship, and leadership programs. Frank co-founded the Civic Education Alliance (CEA) and has served as the director since 2016. The mission of CEA is to “empower the grassroots community in improving livelihood and civic participation through Education, Engagement and Leadership Development”. Frank’s life-long commitment to community services and extensive volunteer engagement in civic and cultural activities, including serving on the City of Quincy Human Right Commission (4 years), the Board of Quincy Asian Resources Inc. (11 years), the Board of Quincy Community Action Program (5 years), have earned him numerous recognitions and awards over the years.



Heang Leung Rubin, EdD, MA is principal and founder of CHIC Community Engagement Consulting. The mission of CHIC is to uplift our communities through the values of compassion, healing, imagination, and celebration. Currently, Dr. Rubin is a community engagement facilitator for Project RISE and Chinatown HOPE, two action-oriented projects that focus on health equity in immigrant communities. She is also conducting community storytelling projects for the PRX Podcast Garage, the Design Studio for Social Intervention, and Residence Lab, a project of Pao Arts Center and the Asian Community Development Corporation. Her practice of deep, authentic community engagement is informed by over twenty-five years working with Asian American and Pacific Islander groups across the country and twenty-years as a teacher and researcher in higher education.



Alice M. Rushforth, PhD, has over two decades of experience in industry and academia supporting innovative research and education initiatives. She is currently the Associate Dean of Programs and Partnerships for Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) having formerly served as the organization's Executive Director for nearly eight years. Prior to joining Tufts CTSI, Dr. Rushforth served in diverse roles including Director of Biotechnology Education Programs at the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation and Managing Director of Emergent Behaviors of Integrated Cellular Systems, a NSF-funded Science and Technology Center at MIT, which focused on bringing engineers and biologists together to build biological machines. She holds a PhD in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and earned a BA in Biology from Earlham College.

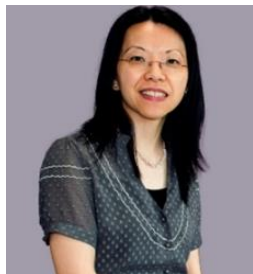


Dawn Sauma, MSW, LICSW has been the Co-Executive Director and Clinical Director of Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence ([ATASK](#)), for the past 11 years, overseeing direct services, collaborating with stakeholders, and community partners, and authoring grants. She has worked in social services for 30 serving Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities in Hawaii and Massachusetts as a provider, educator, manager, and administrator within mental health, crisis intervention, academic, and non-profit systems. She is a Board Member and President-Elect of, [Jane Doe Inc \(JDI\)](#), the MA Coalition against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence; Community Co-Chair of [ADAPT](#), Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations Through Translation Research; member of the [Tufts CTSI Stakeholder Expert Panel](#); and partner in [Asian CARES](#), Asian Center for Addressing Research, Education, and Services. She is a bi-racial, bi-cultural, advocate/activist, from Hawaii, whose work blends personal and professional experience.



Carolyn Wong, PhD, studies social and health inequities, civic participation, and intergenerational communication in Asian American communities. Her current work aims to reveal pathways to and engage immigrants in community-based public health campaigns. She recently completed a study of Asian American experiences in the Covid-19 pandemic. With Giles Li, former executive director of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Dr. Wong led the first community-based study of gambling behavior among low-wage workers and residents of Boston Chinatown. Dr. Wong led a developmental pilot study on the effectiveness of neighborhood educational intervention in Boston Chinatown, *Visualizing Highway Pollution: A Study of*

Inter-Generational Health Communication, funded by the NIH-Grant R21LM011919-02. Dr. Wong is a research associate at the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston.



Man Yung (Yoyo) Yau, MA, LMHC, is the Chief Program Officer at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and adjunct professor at Lesley University. Yoyo is a licensed mental health counselor with a background in early intervention, mental health counseling, gambling addiction counseling, and brain injury recovery. She has worked with non-profits, hospital settings, and state agencies to provide assessment, therapy, treatment, and crisis intervention.

She was appointed by the Massachusetts Governor in 2021 as a member of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee. She was selected as a member of Anna Faith Jones & Frieda Garcia Women of Color Leadership 2020. She graduated from the emerging leaders' program of Leadership Education for Asian Pacific, Inc in 2016. She is an alumnus of the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership at Boston University's (BU) School of Management. In 2013-2014, she was selected for the Boston-Haifa Exchange Learning Program which she had firsthand experienced the dimensions of social justice and leadership in America and Israel. She was trained as a facilitator by Cordoba Group International LLC in 2012 and conducted a series of Boston Public School student assignment community meetings. Yoyo has a bachelor's degree in social work from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a master's in expressive therapy from Lesley University, and post-graduate training in the Existential Psychotherapy Institute and the American Neuro Arts Therapy Institute.



Shirley Zhen, MPH, MSN, PMHNP-BC, is a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at South Cove Community Health Center. She is a graduate of Yale School of Nursing and Yale School of Public Health. She completed her clinical training at various organizations across the lifespan, including the Yale Child Study Center and Community Health Center, Inc. in CT. She has additional experience working with the Asian community in the Greater Boston area as a previous case manager and AmeriCorps volunteer at South Cove.