

## 2021 TxSUS Speakers Bios and Disclosures

### In Order of Appearance

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#### **Jennifer Sharpe Potter, PhD, MPH • *Symposium Chair***

Vice Dean for Research & Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio

Jennifer Sharpe Potter, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Vice Dean for Research at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio.

Dr. Potter joined UT Health San Antonio from Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. She completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship and research fellowship at Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia and her Master of Public Health from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Dr. Potter is a national expert in opioid use and opioid use disorder. Her research focuses on the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, with emphasis on opioid use disorders and chronic pain in civilian and military populations.

Dr. Potter served as the National Project Director for the CTN Prescription Opioid Addiction Treatment Study (POATS), the largest multisite clinical trial conducted to examine treatment of prescription opioid dependence. She is the San Antonio Site principal investigator and a co-investigator with the Texas Node of the NIDA National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network.

**Disclosure:** Dr Potter has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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#### **Lucas G. Hill, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP**

Clinical Associate Professor  
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy

Dr. Hill graduated from the UMKC School of Pharmacy and completed a combined residency/fellowship in the UPMC Department of Family Medicine. He is now a clinical assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy where he founded the PhARM Program and led implementation of Operation Naloxone. His research is focused on clinician-community collaborations to address substance use disorders through evidence-based treatment and harm reduction strategies.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Hill receives financial support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission via the Texas Targeted Opioid Response. This program is funded in part by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission via the Texas Targeted Opioid Response

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**Daniel Ciccarone, MD, MPH**

Professor, Family Community Medicine  
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine

Dr. Dan Ciccarone is a board certified clinician in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine. In his position as Professor of Family and Community Medicine at UCSF he has been principal or co-investigator on numerous NIH sponsored public health research projects including his current Heroin in Transition study. He is a recognized international scholar on the medical, public health and public policy dimensions of substance use, risk and consequences. He is Associate Editor for the International Journal of Drug Policy and recently edited an IJDP special issue on the “triple wave crisis” of opioids, heroin and fentanyl in the US.

For over 20 years "Dr. Dan" has been actively involved in expanding the use of clinical harm reduction technologies and services, e.g., naloxone and buprenorphine. He has provided harm reduction based clinical services at several SF syringe exchanges and was on the Board of Directors for the SF Homeless Youth Alliance.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Ciccarone has the following relevant financial relationships, potential or perceived, with commercial or conflicts of interest to disclose:

- Consultant: Scientific Advisory Board: Celero Systems
- Other: Expert witness in opioid supply litigation: Motley-Rice LLP

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**Bonzo Reddick, MD, MPH, FAAFP**

Chair and Professor of Community Medicine  
Professor, Family Medicine  
Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion  
Mercer University School of Medicine, Savannah

Bonzo is the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the Chair of the Department of Community Medicine, and a professor in the Community Medicine and Family Medicine departments at Mercer University School of Medicine in Savannah, GA—the city where he was also born and raised. After receiving his BS degree (Biology) from Morehouse College and MD degree from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA, Bonzo moved to NC to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed a family medicine residency, two faculty development fellowships, and an MPH degree with an added Interdisciplinary Certificate in Health Disparities. He practices at the JC Lewis Primary Health Care Center, a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and designated healthcare for the homeless (HCH) site.

Bonzo is well-known for his unique, innovative teaching methods, and he has been recognized with 14 teaching awards in his career. He is on the board of trustees for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Foundation, and he writes questions for the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) board exams and in-training exams. His other professional interests include: (1) prevention, early diagnosis, & management of HIV & Hepatitis C in primary care and emergency care settings; (2) application and teaching of social determinants of health and

health equity; and (3) use of test-enhanced learning to improve academic performance & medical knowledge.

**Disclosure:** Dr Reddick has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Gilberto Perez, MPH**

Co-Executive Director

Texas Harm Reduction Alliance

Gilberto is a queer, chicanx native of El Paso, TX who is also in recovery. Since 2012, Gilberto has worked with people who use drugs (PWUD), primarily along the U.S.-Mexico Border Region; intersecting social equitable prevention and intervention strategies for substance use disorder, infectious diseases, and mental health. He has a background in psychology and public health, earning his Masters in Public Health from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2020.

Gilberto began his career as an intern with the only HIV prevention program in El Paso that served PWUD, where he encouraged people to get tested for HIV and seek substance use disorder and medicated assisted treatment. Realizing that abstinence/treatment-based models do not align with everyone's need, Gilberto began a harm reduction movement in El Paso. As a result, Gilberto formed the first binational syringe service program and naloxone dispensary for PWUD. Furthermore, he has developed and led different community-based participatory research programs that have shaped the way community organizations deliver harm reduction services.

Gilberto represents and empowers gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic minorities by disrupting the status quo and influencing systems change.

**Disclosure:** Gilberto Perez has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**David A Miramontes , MD, FACEP FAEMS NREMT**

Assistant Clinical Professor

UT Health San Antonio School of Public Health

Medical Director San Antonio Fire Department

Dr David Miramontes started as a volunteer Firefighter-EMT while still in high school and went on to the level of EMT-II, Registered Nurse (he worked a total of ten years as a Registered Nurse in ER and ICU), Mobile Intensive Care Nurse, and then received his BS in Physiology at UC Davis. He attended the Medical College of Ohio and Emergency Medicine Residency at the St Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo Ohio, where he also was a Lifeflight Physician. He served as the Pre-hospital EMS Director at St Vincent Mercy Medical Center and provided medical direction for the City of Toledo Fire Dept. and 18 rural and suburban EMS agencies. He was the Assistant Fire Chief and Medical Director for District of Columbia Fire Department (Wash. DC) from 2011-14 and currently serves at EMS Medical Director for the San Antonio Fire Department.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Miramontes has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Crystal Walker, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C**

Director of Substance Use Disorder Clinical Services  
My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County

Dr. Walker practices medicine as a Physician Assistant in Fort Worth, Texas. She is the Director of Substance Use Disorders Clinical Services for My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County. She obtained her Doctor of Medical Science from the University of Lynchburg, her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, and her Bachelor of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University. Her career as a PA has been dedicated to the underserved and indigent populations, including providing primary care of individuals in the Tarrant County Jail, the John Peter Smith homeless clinic, and substance use treatment centers. She is also an Adjunct Clinical Instructor for the University of North Texas Health Science Center PA Studies program. In 2018, she was the recipient of the NIDA Mentored Outreach Award in Substance Use Disorders Treatment Dissemination. She is also active with the TxMOUD, Project Echo, and Get Waivered Texas projects.

**Disclosure:** Crystal Walker has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Yajaira J Johnson-Esparza, PhD**

Assistant Professor/Clinical  
Family Medicine Residency Program  
Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio

Dr. Yajaira Johnson-Esparza is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. She is a Behavioral Health Consultant at the Robert B. Green Family Health Center. Prior to her current role, Dr. Johnson-Esparza was the Director of Medication Assisted Treatment at a large Federally Qualified Health Center, where she oversaw buprenorphine services for patients with opioid use disorder. She is also the co-author of a curriculum for behavioral health providers working with patients with opioid use disorder as part of a statewide initiative. In her current role, she continues to work with patients with substance use disorder in a primary care setting.

**Disclosure:** Dr. **Johnson-Esparza** has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Gabriela Lopez, PsyD**

Assistant Professor/Clinical  
Family Medicine Residency Program  
Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio

Dr. Gabriela Lopez is a licensed clinical psychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. Prior to her current role, she completed a behavioral health fellowship at a family medicine residency in Central Washington and an internship at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In her time there, she trained at an addiction and rehabilitation center where she facilitated intensive outpatient groups and conducted psychological assessments. In her current role, she continues to work with patients and helps teach family medicine and psychology residents how to assess and treat various behavioral health conditions, including substance use disorders.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Lopez has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Robert D. Ashford, MSW**

Recovery Scientist and Researcher Center for the Studies of Addiction, University of Pennsylvania  
Substance Use Disorders Institute  
University of the Sciences

With over 10 years of experience, Robert Ashford is a recovery scientist focused on substance use, recovery communities, recovery support services and institutions, integrated behavioral health systems, linguistic patterns, and technological interventions for behavioral health disorders.

Robert holds a Bachelor of Social Work with minors in Addiction Studies and Psychology from the University of North Texas, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2). Currently, Robert is pursuing his PhD in Health Policy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Robert has also completed fellowships with the Treatment Research Institute and is currently a graduate research assistant at the Center on the Continuum of Care in Addictions at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the Substance Use Disorders Institute at the University of the Sciences.

Robert has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, most notably NADAAC's Young Emerging Leader Award (2014), and the University of Pennsylvania Provost's Citation for Excellence in Service (2017). He is also the founding editor for the Journal of Recovery Science, a national recovery planning partner for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and serves as an appointee to the Philadelphia Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic.

**Disclosure:** Robert Ashford has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Jose Nicolas Flores, LCDC**

TTOR Recovery Support Program Specialist  
Texas Health and Human Services

Jose Flores spent almost 13 years incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, for burglary, robbery and various substance related charges. Jose spent 8 of those years in solitary confinement and was released in January 2012. Jose currently works with the State of Texas in addressing the opioid epidemic and assuring that those individuals with opioid use disorder receive treatment, prevention, and recovery support services. Jose also spent time at the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition in Austin, TX, where he was a Youth Justice Policy Analyst. He is a strong advocate for individuals living with substance use and mental health disorders and brings his own lived experience to any environment, in order to break the stigma of the formerly incarcerated. Jose is also a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional, Recovery Support Peer Specialist, Community Health Worker, and has experience working in residential and outpatient addiction treatment programs, as well as, medication assisted treatment. Jose is a graduate of the University of Texas A&M-San Antonio, where he earned a B.A.A.S in Social Sciences, and he is currently working towards a graduate degree in mental health counseling.

**Disclosure:** Jose Nicolas Flores has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Richard Hamner, LMSW, RSPS**  
Clinical Research Project Manager  
UT Health San Antonio

**Disclosure:** Richard Hamner has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose

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**Claire Zagorski, MSc, LP**  
Program Coordinator of Pharmacy Addictions Research & Medicine  
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy

Ms. Zagorski earned a Bachelor's Degree at The University of Texas at Austin and a Master's Degree at The University of North Texas Health Science Center. She has practiced clinically as a paramedic in multiple treatment settings, including as a member of the Austin Harm Reduction Coalition. She founded Longhorn Stop the Bleed and is committed to supporting healthcare professionals who seek to integrate harm reduction principles in their practice.

**Disclosure:** Claire Zagorski receives financial support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission via the Texas Targeted Opioid Response.

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**Michael Mackert, PhD**  
Director, Center for Health Communication  
Professor, Stan Richards School of Advertising & Public Relations  
Professor, Department of Population Health  
Moody College of Communication

Dell Medical School  
The University of Texas at Austin

Michael Mackert, Ph.D., is the Director of The University of Texas at Austin Center for Health Communication and Professor in the Stan Richards School of Advertising & Public Relations and Department of Population Health. His research focuses primarily on the strategies that can be used in traditional and new digital media to provide effective health communication to low health literate audiences. He leads projects on a variety of public health issues – including tobacco cessation, opioid overdose prevention, and men's role in prenatal health – that generate evidence-based health communication strategies for our partners and contribute to health communication scholarship.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Mackert has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose

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**Van L King, MD**

Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Medical Director Behavioral Wellness Clinic  
Medical Director  
Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TxMOUD)

Dr. King received his BS in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin- Madison, and his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He completed his general psychiatry training at the Harvard Medical School-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital. He was a member of the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for 25 years, most recently as the medical director of Addiction Treatment Services and the Center for Addiction and Pregnancy, before accepting a professorship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2016. He is a highly trained general psychiatrist specializing in the treatment of severe and chronic opioid use disorder. In addition to his daily clinical activities, he has been involved extensively in treatment services research related to patients with severe substance use disorder and how best to manage these frequently chronic conditions. He is a nationally recognized treatment expert in patients with severe opioid dependence (including pregnancy) and co-occurring psychiatric conditions. He is the Medical Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences: 1) Behavioral Wellness substance use disorder treatment program and 2) the Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TXMOUD) program that provides opioid treatment education and support to health care providers throughout the state. TXMOUD also provides opioid use disorder treatment services to uninsured Texans and conducts research on the outcomes of TXMOUD initiatives. Dr. King leads substance use disorder education and participates in general psychiatry training for medical students and residents at UT Health San Antonio.

**Disclosure:** Dr. King has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose

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**Sidarth Wakhlu, MD**

Professor of Psychiatry

Distinguished Teaching Professor  
Clinical Director Addiction Psychiatry Service  
Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Director  
Chair, Student Assistance Committee (SAC)  
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dr Wakhlu is the Clinical Director of the Addiction Psychiatry Service in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern. He is also the Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Director. He has been a Faculty member since 2003 with the rank of Professor. He is active in patient care and medical student/resident/fellow teaching and has been the recipient of several teaching awards. He is a member of the Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT). He has presented at national and regional conferences including conducting buprenorphine training seminars & published articles and book chapters on substance use disorders. He has been an investigator in several clinical trials.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Waklu has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose

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**Richard Bottner, PA-C**

Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine  
The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Richard Bottner, DHA, PA-C is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. Bottner is also a physician assistant in the Division of Hospital medicine at Dell Seton Medical Center. Bottner is the Director of the Buprenorphine Team (B-Team), a full-service consultation team that provides patients who are hospitalized and have opioid use disorder access to treatment and linkage to appropriate outpatient care. The program also works to reduce stigma of patients with substance use disorders. Bottner is also the Director of Support Hospital Opioid Use Treatment (SHOUT) Texas, a TTOR-funded program seeking to increase access to opioid use disorder treatment in hospitals across the state.

**Disclosure:** Richard Bottner has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Jennifer Ann Papac, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Co-Medical Director  
Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TxMOUD)  
Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio

Dr. Papac is a Clinical Assistant Professor at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Originally from Northern California, she graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a bachelor's in molecular and cellular biology and received her MD from the University of California Davis. She completed general psychiatry residency at Stanford University followed by a fellowship in addiction psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco. Her clinical interests include

medical education, psychopharmacology, and reducing barriers to treat substance use disorders. As UT faculty, she spends her time treating individuals with substance use disorders, teaching medical students and residents, as well as contributing to the clinical training and development of Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TxMOUD).

**Disclosure:** Dr. Papac has no relevant financial relationship(s) with commercial interests or conflicts of interest to disclose

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**Matthew Perez**

Research Area Specialist – Associate  
Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TxMOUD)

**Courtney Denton, MPH**

Senior Project Coordinator  
Texas Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (TxMOUD)

**Catherine Craven, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio

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**Review of Conflicts Policy:** The UT Austin College of Pharmacy has a very strict policy to ensure against commercial conflicts of interest in CE programming. For this conference, the planning committee picks two committee members who have appropriate backgrounds to review content, and report any potential conflict of interest to the CPE Director. If conflict issues are discovered, they are addressed with speakers to make appropriate changes. Evaluations are collected from all participants with specific questions around the listed conflicts of commercial interest.

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