

# Spring 2026 Speaker Bios



**Anna Bralow, RN** has been doing birth work for the past 8 years, first as a Labor and Delivery and Postpartum RN and now also in the outpatient setting seeing patients prenatally. During this time, she has had two babies of her own, one of them at home. She feels passionate about helping birthing people access the care that is right for them within the complicated backdrop of our current medical system and society.



**Dr. Allison Bryant** is the Associate Chief Health Equity Officer for the Mass General Brigham integrated health system and is the Frederick D. Frigoletto, MD Endowed Chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her work seeks to achieve equitable health outcomes across the entirety of Mass General Brigham's clinical enterprise. She also has the great honor of chairing Massachusetts' Maternal Mortality Review Committee.



**Janet Carey Guarino, MSN, RN**, is the Nurse Director of Labor and Delivery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, with over 30 years of experience in women's health. She holds a BSN from Northeastern University and an MSN from Simmons University, and has served in a variety of clinical, educational, and leadership roles. Janet is a certified perinatal leader and has contributed to publications and presentations focused on improving outcomes in the perinatal population. She is passionate about advancing high-quality, individualized care and strengthening partnerships across hospital and community birth settings.



**Jessie Colbert** is the Coordinator of the MA Mind the Gap Coalition, a group of health care organizations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, mental health and maternity care providers, survivors of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs) and/or pregnancy and infant loss and other advocates working to improve state policies impacting perinatal mental health. Under Jessie's leadership, MA Mind the Gap was successful in passing the Moms Matter Act – legislation investing in community-based organizations supporting perinatal mental health, particularly in marginalized communities – as part of the state's 2024 omnibus maternal health law. Previously, Jessie was the Founder and Executive Director of the Mass. PPD Fund, a nonprofit focused on education, training, and advocacy around PMADs. She was also the first Director of the Ellen Story Special Legislative Commission on Postpartum Depression, now a national model.



**Dr. Ivana Culic** is a neonatologist with 25 years of clinical experience dedicated to the care of newborns across diverse healthcare settings. She completed both her residency and fellowship training at Tufts University Floating Hospital for Children. She currently practices at Beverly Hospital and within the Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) and Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) networks. Her professional work focuses on delivering high-quality care in community and tertiary units, advancing quality improvement initiatives, and strengthening communication between care teams and families.



**Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA**, serves as the Bureau Director for Family Health and Nutrition at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is the Executive Sponsor for the Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure Initiative. She brings deep expertise in maternal and child health and a career grounded in improving outcomes for children and families through sustainable, community-informed solutions. Her background includes nearly 30 years of operational leadership, consensus building, and partnership development across government, nonprofit, and international sectors. She is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and holds advanced degrees from Boston University and Columbia University.



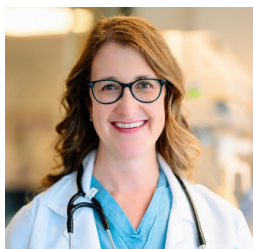
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**Angela Fowler, MD, MPH** is the Associate Medical Director for Vaccine Preventable Diseases in the Bureau for Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at the MDPH. She is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Medical School and completed residencies in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and in preventive medicine at UNC Chapel Hill, where she also earned an MPH. Her diverse career spans clinical practice, research in obesity medicine, and community service. She has served as a primary care provider in the US Air Force, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and MIT Health. At the Bureau, Dr. Fowler oversees vaccination programs, provides consultation on outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, directs the perinatal Hepatitis B program, and is a strong advocate for vaccine confidence and health equity.



**Karissa M. Giovannini, MSW, LICSW**, is the Clinical Program Manager for Project RESPECT at Boston Medical Center, where she leads multidisciplinary initiatives to deliver trauma-informed, recovery-affirming care for pregnant and postpartum individuals impacted by substance use. She earned her MSW from the Simmons University School of Social Work in 2018 and brings extensive experience in crisis intervention and family-centered program development. Her work is grounded in systems-level quality improvement, with a focus on advancing equitable, sustainable, and person-centered approaches to care. Karissa has a specialized interest in supporting cross-sector partners in strengthening coordinated responses, aligning policies and practices, and building capacity to better serve families affected by substance use across systems.



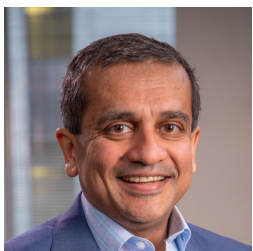
**Nicole Grady, MD, FAAP** is a Board-Certified Neonatologist. She is the Medical Director of the Special Care Nursery and the Interim Chair of Neonatology & Newborn Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital.



**Dr. Jessica Gray** is a dually board-certified family medicine physician and addiction specialist. She completed her residency and fellowship at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Gray is the former Medical Director and co-founder of the Mass General Hospital (MGH) HOPE Clinic, where she continues to care for women with substance use disorders and their families from time of conception through the first two years postpartum. She is Interim Program Director for the MGH Addiction Medicine Fellowship, sees patients at the MGH Bridge Clinic, is a physician consultant for the State-funded MCSTAP (Massachusetts Consultation Service for Treatment of Addiction and Pain) and is current president of the MA Society of Addiction Medicine (MASAM). Dr. Gray is passionate about caring and advocating for marginalized populations and supporting clinicians and others who care for patients with substance use disorders.



**Dr. Traci Green** is an epidemiologist whose research focuses on drug use, opioid use disorder, and drug-related injury. She earned a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University and a PhD in Epidemiology from Yale University. She is Professor and Director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University where she oversees research on the drug supply, overdose prevention, and risk mitigation following law enforcement and policy actions. She also co-directs the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) on Opioids and Overdose at Brown University Health's Rhode Island Hospital, and is an Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University and the Brown School of Public Health.



**Munish Gupta, MD, MMSc** is a staff neonatologist and the Director of Quality Improvement for the Department of Neonatology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), and Assistant Professor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. His academic work focuses on quality improvement and patient safety, including the development of state-based perinatal quality collaboratives and the rigorous use of data for quality improvement. He helped lead PNQIN's Perinatal Opioid Project from 2017-2022 and continues to support PNQIN as an advisor and member of the Awards Committee.



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**Dr. Marissa Hauptman** is a practicing board-certified primary care pediatrician and environmental medicine physician, co-director of the Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Environmental Health Center the Region 1 New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, and inaugural Chief Medical Advisor of the Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health at the MDPH. Her career is dedicated to mitigating environmental and climate injustices for pediatric populations through the intersection of public health and medicine. Dr. Hauptman has leveraged her expertise as a physician-scientist in pediatric environmental medicine to make important clinical advances and innovations in the field of childhood lead poisoning, extreme heat, and geospatial science. She is the 2025 recipient of the Academic Pediatric Association Research Early Career Faculty Award and was honored at the 2025 City of Boston Climate Leadership Awards.



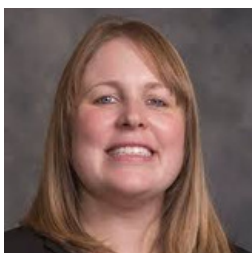
**Dr. Helen Healy** is an Associate Director for the Department of Neonatology at BIDMC and an Instructor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Healy leads clinical practice in neonatal respiratory care and care of extremely low birth weight infants, with a particular focus on care processes for the most immature infants. She also leads regional Quality Improvement Collaboratives in both areas, for the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts (PNQIN).



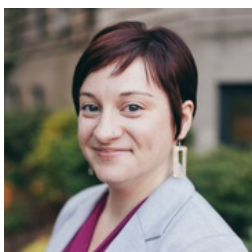
**Sarah Hodin Krinsky, MPH (she/her)** is a passionate maternal and perinatal health advocate who began her career studying women's birth experiences in East Africa. A trained doula and childbirth educator, Sarah has served in various roles spanning the domains of academia, advocacy, program design and implementation, and policymaking. She is currently the Deputy Director of Perinatal and Maternal Health Policy at MassHealth, Massachusetts' Medicaid and CHIP program, which covers nearly 40% of births in the Commonwealth. Sarah spends most of her spare time chasing after her toddler and dog.



**Dr. Uruj Kamal Haider** is Medical Director of MCPAP for Moms and Medical Director of Women's Mental Health Clinical Services at U Mass Memorial/Chan Medical School. As a perinatal psychiatrist, her expertise is in caregiving support and sleep, perinatal OCD, perinatal psychosis and mental health challenges related to IVF.



**Dr. Laura Kattan** is a Certified Nurse Midwife/Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner with 22 years of experience in Women's/Reproductive Health. She is a medical records abstractor for the Massachusetts Maternal Mortality Review Committee.



**Andrea Kelley, MSW/MPH, LICSW** is a public health social worker who joined the PNQIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee. Professionally, she is a therapist working with adolescents and adults in an outpatient practice, with a particular focus on the LGBTQ+ population. Previous work has included integrated behavioral health in a pediatric setting, working with juveniles in the state's public defender's office, and researching hoarding disorder. Personally, Andrea is mom to two spirited kiddos. Her high-risk pregnancies, time spent with one child in the NICU, and experience with postpartum depression helped inspire her interest in the work of PNQIN.



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**Cate Kokonowski, CNM** started studying midwifery in 1993 with the MA Midwives' Alliance Homebirth Midwifery Course. She attended Maternidad La Luz, a free standing birth center and MEAC-accredited midwifery training site in Texas. She received her MSN/CNM at Yale in 2010. She has been working as a CNM in Western MA for the past 16 years and is the Lead midwife at Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Pioneer Women's Health. Cate transported from home to hospital during labor with both of her healthy children!



**Zuzanna Kubicka, MD** is the medical director at the South Shore Hospital NICU. She is engaged in multiple Massachusetts state-wide quality improvement projects with a particular focus on respiratory care and family engagement.



**Brooke LaMere, MPH**, is a Maternal Mortality Review Team Epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, conducting analyses to improve understanding of pregnancy related deaths and prevent future loss. She holds an MPH in Global Health Epidemiology and a Certificate in Social Epidemiology from the University of Michigan. Her background emphasizes analytic rigor and translating findings into action for maternal health improvement. Her public health interests include racial equity, quality improvement, global health, and medical sociology.



**Dr. Karen McAlmon** is a board-certified neonatologist who serves at the medical director of the Level IIB Special Care Nursery at Winchester Hospital. She also attends in the NICUs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital. Besides clinical work she serves on several MDPH committees and is an advocate for health equity.



**Phaedra Moore, CARC**, is a Certified Addiction Recovery Coach working in Project RESPECT at Boston Medical Center. Phaedra is a communicator, and leader who believes recovery is about healing the whole person—mind, body, relationships, and purpose. Drawing on lived experience and evidence-based, trauma-informed practices, she supports individuals and families in building meaningful lives driven by their own personal values.



**Alex Procaskey, MD**, is a neonatologist at Boston Children's Hospital affiliate St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford with clinical and research interests in quality improvement. They completed their training at the University of Massachusetts. Alex has contributed to multidisciplinary initiatives primarily within the Level 2 NICU setting focused on improving outcomes in the NICU and emphasizing family centered care.



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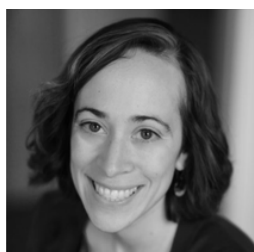
**Tanya Rapinchuk, CPM, LM** has been attending home births since 1991. She is a passionate believer in the transformative possibility of an empowered birth experience. She is deeply committed to building bridges to connect home and hospital to better care for birthing people... and also to make more friends and the world a kinder place.



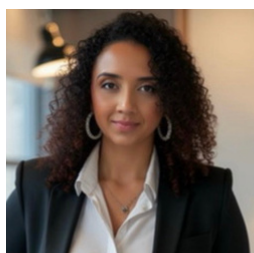
**Julia Reddy, PhD, MA** is adjunct assistant professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Social Work, and a research and implementation specialist for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Julia's scholarship focuses on child protection system functionality and public health-oriented responses to prenatal and parental substance use. Her doctoral research, for which she was awarded an F31 fellowship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, evaluated the performance of a discretionary child protection reporting policy for substance exposed births in California. Previously, Julia served as coordinator of women and families services for BSAS at MDPH.



**Dr. Daphne Remy Gomes** is a neonatology attending physician at Boston Children's Hospital and Neonatology Executive Director for the Southcoast Health System, where she also serves as Newborn Medical Director at Charlton Memorial Hospital. Her clinical and academic interests include neonatal resuscitation, simulation-based education, and interdisciplinary team training to improve perinatal outcomes. She is committed to advocacy and health equity through global health work, community engagement, and her role with the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.



**Davida M. Schiff, MD, MSc** is a general academic pediatrician, addiction medicine physician, and health services researcher focused on improving care for families impacted by substance use disorder (SUD). She is the Director of Perinatal and Family-based SUDs Care at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she founded the HOPE Clinic, a multidisciplinary program caring for pregnant and parenting people with substance use disorder and their families from the time of conception through the first two years postpartum.



**Desiree Rivera Decoo** serves as the Director of Women and Family Services for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services within the MDPH, where she leads initiatives that strengthen treatment and recovery-oriented systems of care for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting women and families across the Commonwealth. Desiree is a Mental Health and Marriage and Family Therapist and holds a certification in Project Management Professional (PMP) and Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C). Desiree has experience working in behavioral health, substance use treatment, and public health. She leverages her experience professionally and personally to support the management of complex systems and program implementation across behavioral and public health systems. She is deeply committed to advancing equitable, recovery-oriented, and family-centered care for women and families across MA.



**Kim Shapiro, LICSW** is the Director of the Substance Use Unit at the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF). She began her social work career over 30 years ago as a DCF frontline social worker and, after earning her MSW, provided in-home intensive clinical services to families affected by trauma, domestic violence, and substance misuse. Before returning to DCF in 2014, she worked across multiple levels of care delivering clinical services to adolescents, adults, and families with substance use disorders, including inpatient detoxification, acute residential, and intensive outpatient programs.



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**Rebecca Skye Herman** is the Director of MA Department of Public Health's Community Birth & Doula Initiative, housed at Education Development Center. A midwife and public health specialist with more than 20 years of experience advancing reproductive health and rights around the world, Rebecca also serves as the current Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Midwifery and has provided home-based midwifery care to the communities of eastern Massachusetts since 2009.



**Dr. Elisha Wachman** is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, an attending neonatologist at Boston Medical Center (BMC), and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center (BMC). She is co-Lead of the Massachusetts Perinatal Neonatal Quality Improvement Network Perinatal Opioid Project (PNQIN POP). Dr. Wachman is an internationally recognized leader in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) and substance use disorders in pregnancy, conducting clinical and translational research and leading quality improvement interventions in this area funded by the NIH, CDC, and various foundations.



# PNQIN Core Team Bios



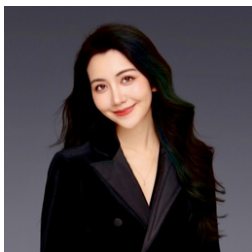
**Molly Fraust-Wylie (mollypnqin@gmail.com)** joined the PNQIN team in January 2024 as the Patient & Family Engagement Coordinator. She brings extensive experience as a NICU Family Advocate & NICU Parent to her role, demonstrating a deep commitment to health equity, family integrated care, maternal health and wellness, reproductive/fertility challenges, loss, and grief. Her approach revolves around healing through shared experiences, storytelling, and amplifying marginalized voices. Molly's professional background also includes marketing and communication experience. In her PNQIN role, Molly leads the Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), which comprises of three community members with lived expertise.



**Dr. Ronald Iverson (riverson@bidmc.harvard.edu)** is an OBGYN at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, vice chair of quality and safety for the OBGYN Department, and a current Obstetrics Co-Chair of PNQIN. He has led departmental and hospital-level QI at Boston Medical Center, implementing obstetric care bundles and need driven change. He has experience in the use of simulations to build and reinforce quality efforts. He has participated in national level coordination of POCs and led in the development of the AIM "Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder" bundle.



**Kristen Leeman, MD (kristen.leeman@childrens.harvard.edu)** is an accomplished neonatologist with over fifteen years of experience providing neonatal care and is PNQIN's Neonatal Co-Chair. Currently serving as the Associate Medical Director of the Boston Children's Hospital NICU and Director of Quality for the Division of Newborn Medicine at BCH, Kristie's commitment to quality improvement and safety has been evident throughout her career. She leads a team focused on improving the safety and quality of care provided to critically ill newborns as the Director of Quality for Newborn Medicine. Kristie is also dedicated to trainee education and serve as the Program Director of the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program and Co-Director of the Harvard Newborn Medicine Summer Student Research Program.



**Genevieve Lemaire, MPH-Epi, MS (glemaire@pnqinma.org)** is a Harvard-trained epidemiologist and public health advocate undergoing MD/MBA training. She enjoys serving the state of Massachusetts through PNQIN as the Program Manager for Neonatal Initiatives.



**Emilia Mannstadt, MSPH (emannstadt@pnqinma.org)** joined the PNQIN team in November 2025 as the Perinatal Opioid Project (POP) Coordinator. She earned her BA and MSPH from the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with training in maternal and child health and adolescent health. Growing up in Massachusetts, Emilia is committed to strengthening equitable, family-centered care through collaboration across clinical and public health systems.



**Mimi Pomerleau, DNP, RNC-OB (mpomerleau@bwh.harvard.edu)** brings over 30 years of clinical, educational, and leadership experience as a highly skilled and focused nurse. She excels in managing and facilitating successful projects, demonstrating a keen focus on the macro level and outcome measurements. Mimi has served AWHONN on their Board of Directors and as President in 2013 and continues her involvement in state-level activities. Mimi has also completed a fellowship in Quality and Safety with the VA and continues to advocate for improvement in maternal and newborn health. Mimi is currently a postpartum staff nurse and lactation consultant at Mass General and is leading the Baby Friendly re-designation at Brigham & Women's Hospital. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren.



# PNQIN Core Team Bios



**Christin Price, MD (christin.n.price@mass.gov)** joined the PNQIN team in March 2022 as the inaugural Administrative Director. She is an administrative physician leader with over 9 years' experience driving strategy and implementation of care management and community and public health programs focused on improving healthcare quality, decreasing costs, and achieving health equity. She has extensive experience with accountable care organizations, substance use disorders, population health management and community health initiatives.



**Cheryl Slater, MSN-ED, RN, NPD-BC, RNC-NIC (cheryl.slater@bmc.org)** is a PNQIN Neonatal Co-chair, and brings a wealth of experience as a neonatal nurse with a strong commitment to neonatal education nationally and globally. With 22 years of experience as a nurse educator in NICUs at Boston Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital, Cheryl has been involved in numerous neonatal QI projects. As a passionate advocate for the care of opioid-exposed newborns, Cheryl's involvement in projects like Eat, Sleep, and Console at Boston Medical Center reflects her commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by this vulnerable population. Currently pursuing a DNP PMHNP at Boston College, Cheryl's academic pursuits align with her desire to contribute to equitable care for opioid-exposed neonates and pregnant individuals.



**Kali Vitek Espinola, MPH (PNQINAdmin@pnqinma.org)** is PNQIN's Senior Project Manager. She joined PNQIN in September 2020 after graduating from the Boston University School of Public Health. Kali participated in research and practical opportunities related to pregnancy and childbirth throughout her higher education and also became a certified Childbirth Educator in December 2023. Kali leads the planning and execution of PNQIN summits and manages the MA Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Initiative, which implements patient safety bundles to reduce severe maternal morbidity and mortality. She is passionate about using education, public health frameworks, and quality improvement to help people grow their families safely, joyfully, and equitably. Kali loves to spend her free time reading books, eating good food, and enjoying the outdoors with her husband and their two dogs.

