

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Joseph I. Abrahams, MD** was born in Dallas Texas, 1916. Residence thereafter in schooling in Hartford Connecticut, New York City and Atlanta. MD, Emory University 1939, Graduate: Washington School of Psychiatry, Washington Psychoanalytic Institute. Member of Washington Psychoanalytic Center and San Diego Psychoanalytic Center.

**Tazma Ahmed-Datta, MS, LPC, PhD** Special clinical interest in nonordinary or extreme states. Personal experience with Graves' Disease catalyzed decision to become a therapist, and to successfully find "alternative" ways towards healing. Former academic.

**Matt Allen, MA** is an Intensive Psychotherapist, and Co-Assistant Director of Admissions at Windhorse Community Services in Boulder, Colorado. Matt received his MA in Buddhist Studies from Naropa University in 2000.

**Jessica Arenella, PhD** has for over 15 years dedicated herself to working with people in severe psychological distress in a variety of settings and has had the opportunity to teach, present and write about these experiences.

**Chelsea H. Bagias, PsyD** is a licensed psychologist in Northern California specializing in Thought Disorder and Voice Hearing for the past 10 years. She currently works at an outpatient program with an integrated treatment team.

**Claude B. Barbre, PhD** is Full Professor, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and is a five-time recipient of the International Gradiva Award. He is in private practice in Chicago, Illinois.

**Colleen Barron, LPC** is an editor, researcher and mental health professional. She is an advocate for consumers with severe mental illness.

**Barri Belnap, MD** is a psychiatrist on staff at the Austen Riggs Center. Her clinical investigations focus on understanding how symptoms address themselves to current developmental needs in a family context.

**Julie R. Bermant, RN, MSN, APRN**, psychiatric nurse practitioner, works with PREP program in Holyoke to provide medication management for young people with early onset psychosis and provides (pediatric) psychiatric care through Baystate Health.

**Beatrice Birch, HAT**, Founder/Director, Inner Fire: proactive healing community offering choice in recovery from traumatic challenges without using psychotropic medications. She has 40 years of experience as Hauschka Artistic therapist/counselor.

**Cynthia Rubin Brown, PsyD, LMFT** is a parent, marriage family therapist, and psychoanalyst. Her clinical experience and meditation practice informed her family through her son's acute period of psychosis and into his recovery.

**Nybelle Caruso** works as a peer support specialist and is strong advocate for reducing mental health stigma and educating community members on how to best support individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

**Georgia Case** is the principal of Idea Group, a PR, marketing and fundraising consultancy for nonprofits and social enterprises. She holds a BA in Journalism-Public Relations from California State University, Long Beach.

**Marilyn Charles, PhD, ABPP**, a psychologist and psychoanalyst at the Austen Riggs Center, has published over 100 articles and book chapters and six books, including *Psychoanalysis and Literature: The Stories We Live*.

**Serena Chaudhry, LCSW, MPH** is a licensed clinical social worker and provides individual counseling to patients at EPIC-NOLA and is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Social Work at Tulane University.

**Martin A. Cosgro, PhD** has helped clients struggling with psychosis for over thirty years in out-patient, in-patient, residential and forensic settings. His experience continues to benefit clients, clinicians and families.

**Françoise Davoine, PhD** Psychoanalyst in private practice. Now retired from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Member of the ex Ecole Freudienne founded by Jacques Lacan, Member of ISPS-US.

**Anne Marie DiGiacomo, MSW, LCSW** has worked with the Windhorse project since 1995, both in Northampton, MA and Boulder, CO. Since 2011 she has been co-director/owner and Director of Admissions for WCS.

**Sascha Altman DuBrul, MSW** is a writer and educator that has been facilitating workshops and community dialogues at universities, conferences, community centers and activist gatherings for more than a decade. He is currently a trainer and recovery specialist at OnTrackNY.

**Gogo Ekhaya Esima** is an initiated Sangoma Traditional Healer in the Zulu culture of South Africa. She is a certified Peer Recovery Specialist in mental health, a trauma survivor, and a spiritual teacher. Gogo Ekhaya is a strong advocate for challenging standardized mental health concepts in America, she has written for the forthcoming ISPS series book, *Women and Psychosis: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, and her shamanic journey of healing and recovery is featured in the documentary *CRAZYWISE*. Her gifts include seeing and hearing voices of the ancestors, mediumship, and earth based medicinal healing. Gogo Ekhaya has a full-time shamanic healing practice in Southern California. [www.sangomahealing.com](http://www.sangomahealing.com)

**Alberto Fergusson, MD**, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, developed the approach of Accompanied Self Rehabilitation. Has published and presented on topics of therapeutic community, psychoanalysis, and Accompanied Self Rehabilitation.

**Bret J. Fimiani, PsyD** is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst working in San Francisco. He is working toward creating a psychoanalytically informed multidisciplinary approach to psychosis in an urban public clinic setting.

**Michael D. Garrett, MD** is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst with 35 years experience in public psychiatry. His particular interest is the combination of CBT and psychodynamic techniques in the psychotherapy of psychosis.

**James E. Gorney, PhD**, a psychoanalyst, is in independent practice in Knoxville, Tennessee. He has authored papers on innovations in psychoanalytic technique and served on the staff of the Austen Riggs Center.

**Michael Haines** is a peer support specialist lead for the Lane County EASA and Young Adult Hub Programs. He is also a graduate of the EASA program.

**Jennifer Hanley, DNP** is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. In 2014 she experienced psychosis for over 2 years. She owes her recovery to a psychologist who approaches psychoses as stressor induced crises.

**Elahe Hessamfar, PhD** is a former business executive and has a PhD from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She is the author of *In the Fellowship of His Suffering: A Theological Interpretation of Mental Illness—A Focus on “Schizophrenia.”*

**Ruth Israeli, LCSW** is a graduate of Ackerman Institute for the Family, and Yeshiva University. She serves as Family Therapist at Parachute, faculty at Ferkauf, and founder of Glassleaf, an international hub for mental health training, and treatment.

**Janis Hunter Jenkins, PhD** is a psychological/medical anthropologist and leading international scholar in culture and mental health. She has taught on the faculty at Harvard University, Case Western Reserve University, and UCSD.

**Jason Jones** is an 18-year member of the Portland Police Bureau and is the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator. He is a CIT officer and an inaugural member of the “ECIT” program. He teaches crisis intervention, criminology and ethics courses.

**Nev Jones, PhD** is a community psychologist and currently clinical assistant professor in psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on transformative change within early intervention services and youth/service user involvement.

**Sarah Kamens, PhD** is a psychologist and interdisciplinary researcher whose work focuses on psychotic experiences. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Yale Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP) program.

**Bertram P. Karon, PhD, ABPP** Professor Emeritus (2010), Psychology, Michigan State University; Former President, Division of Psychoanalysis, APA.

**Brian Koehler, PhD** teaches in the Dept. of Social Work and Postdoc Program in Psychotherapy and Psychosis at NYU, at CUNY in the Graduate Psychology Department and at Columbia University, Teachers College. He maintains a private practice.

**Neely Anne Laurenzo Myers, PhD**, an Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University, is a medical and psychological anthropologist engaged in mixed methods projects with people experiencing extreme states in the US and Tanzania.

**Dorin Levy Painter**, living and working in NYC. Transitioned from art to art therapy and is currently getting an MA in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Casadi “Khaki” Marino, PhD, LCSW** is mad identified and has worked in both mainstream community mental health and peer advocacy. She appreciates the Hearing Voices Movement and Open Dialogue.

**Erin McIntyre, OTR/L, OTD** is the Assistant Director of Admissions and Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy for the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Dr. McIntyre’s expertise is a range of acute and community based adult mental health settings.

**Ryan Melton, PhD, LPC, ACS** is the director of the EASA and a Professor. He consults, publishes and presents on early psychosis. His research is on interventions with psychosis, diagnosis and feedback-informed treatment.

**Wendy O'Leary-Mair** works as a family advocate and is the parent of an adult child who has struggled with multiple diagnostic labels. Through her journey she has developed an inspiring perspective on "helping."

**Narsimha R. Pinninti, MD** is Professor of Psychiatry at Rowan University school of Osteopathic Medicine in New Jersey and Chief Medical Officer at Twin Oaks Community Mental Health Services, Inc. in Cherry Hill, NJ. Dr. Pinninti is a clinician, administrator, educator and researcher working at the interface of clinical practice and research into psychosocial treatments for psychosis. As a clinician he is the psychiatrist for Camden County Assertive Community Treatment Team and uses Cognitive Behaviour therapy routinely in his medication monitoring visits.

**Michelle Roberts** graduated from Portland State in 2015 with a Master's in Counseling. Since then, she has been working as a therapist and screener with the Washington County EASA team.

**Judy Schermer, MPH** is a Job Coach for Job Point, an agency that helps people with disabilities research, find and sustain employment. She has three adult children and lives with her husband in Columbia, MO. She has experienced depression and has a loved one with lived experience of mental illness.

**Alexander W. Smith, MA** coordinates a community mental health program in Vermont where over the past 4 years he has also helped to facilitate pilot applications of Open Dialogue.

**Emily Soule** has an Associate's Degree from Lower Columbia College. She has worked as a cashier, and customer service. She is interested in being an advocate for change around mental illness.

**Steve Spiegel** is an independent natural scientist living in the Pacific Northwest; he recently retired from blue-collar work that supported himself, his family, and an independent education in psychology and neuroscience.

**Ira Steinman, MD** treats psychosis with an Intensive psychotherapy. He is the author of *TREATING the 'UNTREATABLE': Healing in the Realms of Madness* and with David Garfield, *SELF PSYCHOLOGY and PSYCHOSIS*.

**Trevor Temmen** has been interviewed by many prominent psychologists around the world to report on his telepathic experiences.

**Ron Unger, LCSW** is a therapist specializing in CBT for psychosis, and an educator with a special interest in the intersection of trauma, spirituality, creativity, and psychosis.

**Elizabeth A. Waiss, PsyD** is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice. She is past president of MCPP, has taught for MCPP and community colleges, and has several published papers.

**Melissa D. Weise, MSW, LICSW** currently directs the PREP West Program, a small group private practice and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses while completing her PhD at Smith College School of Social Work.

**Ashley Weiss, DO, MPH** is an adult and child psychiatrist, faculty in the Tulane Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She developed and is medical director of Early Psychosis Intervention Clinic (EPIC-NOLA).

**Pat Wright, M.Ed.** has been teaching parent education in the twin cities for over 25 years and been a state, national and international advocate for 20+ years.