WCAHS Fall Symposium Speaker Bios

TERESA ANDREWS, MS, Education and Outreach Specialist, WCAHS, UC Davis

Ms. Andrews has extensive experience developing educational materials and delivering trainings to farmers, supervisors, and farmworkers.

BLANCA A. BAÑUELOS, JD, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA)

Ms. Bañuelos is the Director of the Migrant Unit for CRLA. She represents agricultural workers in wage and hour, wrongful termination, and sexual harassment cases.

JOE DEL BOSQUE, CEO, Del Bosque Farms

Located on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley, Del Bosque Farms is family-owned and grows organic and conventional crops, including melons, almonds, asparagus, and cherries.

MONICA COOPER, PhD, Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Napa County

Dr. Cooper specializes in viticulture and pest management. She received WCAHS funding to conduct research on organizational factors and sexual harassment of female agricultural workers in Napa.

FADI FATHALLAH, PhD, Associate Director, WCAHS, UC Davis

Dr. Fathallah is a professor in Biological and Agricultural Engineering and directs the USDA California AgrAbility Project and the UC Agricultural Ergonomics Research Center. His research focuses on biomechanics and ergonomics with an emphasis on agricultural settings.

JESUS FERNÁNDEZ BAYO, PhD, Assistant Researcher, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

Dr. Fernández Bayo's research focuses on soil biosolarization and anaerobic digestion. He was funded by WCAHS to develop outreach materials based on this research and the experiences of growers.

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Associate Secretary, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

With an extensive background in non-profit farmworker and immigrant advocacy, Ms. Hernandez serves as the Associate Secretary for Farmworker and Immigrant Services where she focuses on farmworker and labor issues.

FARZANEH KHORSANDI, PhD, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

Dr. Khorsandi's research focuses on engineering controls, agricultural machine systems, and agricultural mechanization. She received WCAHS funding to examine cannabis worker health and safety as well as ATV safety.

EMANUELLE KLACHKY, Research Assistant, UC Cooperative Extension, Napa County

Ms. Klachky contributes to a WCAHS-funded project examining farmworker satisfaction and sexual harassment.

MICHELLE KO, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Public Health Sciences, UC Davis

Dr. Ko's research examines how policy, healthcare, and social structure are interconnected, and their impacts on disadvantaged communities. She was funded by WCAHS to investigate healthcare for agricultural workers.

BILL KRYCIA, Senior Safety and Health Consultant, Zenith Insurance Company

Previously a regional manager with Cal/OSHA, Mr. Krycia is a member of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program council and is the chair of the WCAHS External Advisory Board.

BRYAN LITTLE, Director of Labor Affairs, California Farm Bureau Federation

Mr. Little also serves as Chief Operating Officer of Farm Employers Labor Service and is a member of the WCAHS External Advisory Board.











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SAVANNAH MACK, PhD student, Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology Graduate Group, UC Davis

Ms. Mack's research focuses on air quality in the Imperial Valley and incorporates a community-based participatory research component in close collaboration with Comite Civico del Valle.

STEPHEN MCCURDY, MD, MPH, Emeritus Professor, Public Health Sciences, UC Davis

Dr. McCurdy's research has focused on occupational hazards for farmworkers in California. He is currently studying the prevalence of sexual harassment of female farmworkers. He previously served as the WCAHS Director of Outreach.

SANJAI PARIKH, PhD, Associate Professor, Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis

Dr. Parikh's research focuses on biogeochemical processes at solid-liquid interfaces in the soil and water environment. He was funded by WCAHS to investigate potential health risks associated with wildfire ash and biochar.

KENT PINKERTON, PhD, Director, WCAHS, UC Davis

Dr. Pinkerton is a professor in the School of Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Center for Health and the Environment. His research focuses on the health effects of inhaled environmental air pollutants to alter respiratory, cardiovascular, and neurological structure and function.

KIMBERLY PRADO, MPH, PhD student, Epidemiology Graduate Group, UC Davis

Ms. Prado's research examines workplace sexual harassment in agriculture and incorporates focus group and survey data from farmworkers in California and Mexico. She has received WCAHS funding to conduct this work.

CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS, PhD, Director of Outreach and Research, WCAHS, UC Davis

Dr. Simmons is an associate professor in Food Science and Technology in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science. His research focuses on improving energy and water use efficiency in food processing in ways that also benefit the health of farmworkers and agricultural communities.

JAMES STAPLETON, PhD, Plant Pathologist, UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

Dr. Stapleton works in the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center and is a co-investigator on a WCAHS-funded research project investigating biosolarization as an alternative to fumigation.

ALENA MARIE ULIASZ, MS, Language Justice Manager, California Rural Legal Assistance

Ms. Uliasz completed her master's degree in the Community Development Graduate Group at UC Davis. Her research focused on indigenous immigrants and language access in California.

XIAOMING WAN, PhD, Visiting Scholar, Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis

Dr. Wan contributes to a WCAHS-funded project examining the chemical compositions of Thomas fire ash and its potential health risks to farmworkers during agriculture recovery.









