



**June 08, 2022**

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

## **Symposium: LONG COVID AND THE ROAD TO RECOVERY**

DOHMH and NYC Health + Hospitals are co-hosting a symposium on Long COVID, focusing on patients' care coordination as they interact with medical and social support systems. The symposium is open to all care providers and staff members of community-based organizations providing support for patients with Long COVID.

### **Objectives**

- **Objective 1:** Participants will learn best practices for assessment, referral and treatment of long COVID in the context of on-going research
- **Objective 2:** Participants will have an enhanced understanding of the specific social support and benefit needs of patients with long COVID
- **Objective 3:** City leadership will have community input regarding needs for their sectors

### **Audience**

- Patient care providers
- Members of community-based organizations and public health practitioners

### **Emcees**

**Charon Gwynn, PhD** | *Deputy Commissioner, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

**Ted Long, MD, MHS** | *Senior Vice President of Ambulatory Care and Population Health, Executive Director of NYC Test & Trace Corps, NYC Health + Hospitals*

### **Moderators**

**Olusimbo Ige, MD** | *Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Health Equity Capacity Building, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

**Justin List, MD** | *Assistant Vice President of Ambulatory Care, NYC Health + Hospitals*

**Amanda Johnson, MD, MBA** | *Assistant Vice President of Care Models, NYC Health + Hospitals*

### **Panelists**

**Maura Boldrini, MD, PhD** | *Director, Human Brain Biology Institute*

**Gail Bower, LMSW** | *Assistant Program Director, NYC Well/Vibrant Emotional Health*

**Reia Dixon** | *Patient Panelist*

**Claudia Henriquez, Esq** | *Director of Litigation, Department of Consumer and Worker Protection*

**Leigh Jerome, Ph.D** | *Body Politic*

**Jonathan Jimenez** | *Interim Executive Director, NYC CARE*

**Emily Kaminsky** | *Aftercare Navigator, NYC Health + Hospitals*

**Emma Kaplan-Lewis, MD** | *HIV Clinical Quality Director, NYC Health+Hospitals COVID Center of Excellence*

**Fabianne Laraque, MD, MPH** | *Medical Director, Department of Homeless Services*

**Wilmer Petite, MD** | *Physician, NYC Health+Hospitals COVID Center of Excellence*



**Felipe Pires** | *Patient Panelist*

**Rachel Potter** | *Social Worker, Mount Sinai - National Jewish Respiratory Institute*

**Lawrence Purpura, MD** | *Attending Physician, New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

**David Putrino, PT PhD** | *Director of Rehabilitation Innovation, Mount Sinai*

**Joan Reibman, MD** | *Professor of Medicine, NYU Langone Health*

**Gitta Zomorodi**, | *Patient Panelist*

**Agenda**

<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<p><b>Introductory Remarks (to be confirmed):</b>  Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom / Dr. Mitch Katz / Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasani  Facilitated by Dr. Ted Long, SVP of Ambulatory Care and Population Health at NYC H+H</p>
<b>9:30 - 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Patient Perspectives - Experience from People Living with Long COVID</b></p>
<p>Session 1 will begin with testimonials from individuals living with Long COVID sharing their experiences. Patients will discuss their complex experiences as Long COVID survivors, providing insight into how their symptoms impact their daily lives, as well as their experience navigating the medical system and seeking care and support.</p>	<p><b><u>Moderator:</u></b>  <b>Amanda Johnson, MD, MBA</b></p> <p><b><u>Panelists</u></b>  <b>Felipe Pires</b>  <i>(Patient Panelist)</i>  <b>Reia Dixon</b>  <i>(Patient Panelist)</i>  <b>Gitta Zomorodi</b>  <i>(Patient Panelist)</i></p>
<b>10:30 - 12:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Long COVID</b></p>
<p>Session 2 will detail best clinical practice for long COVID, including diagnostic criteria, patient-centered assessments, and treatment approaches.</p> <p>All panelists will have direct patient care experience, in one or more of the following fields: primary care, immunology, rheumatology, rehabilitative medicine and related disciplines (physical therapy, occupational therapy), neurology, mental health, and medical subspecialties such as pulmonology or cardiology.</p>	<p><b><u>Moderator:</u></b>  <b>Justin List, MD, MSc</b></p> <p><b><u>Panelists</u></b>  <b>Maura Boldrini, MD PhD</b>  <i>(Mental/Behavioral Health)</i>  <b>Emma Kaplan-Lewis, MD</b>  <i>(Primary Care)</i>  <b>Wilmer Petite, MD</b>  <i>(Cardiology)</i>  <b>Lawrence Purpura, MD</b>  <i>(Infectious Disease)</i>  <b>David Putrino, PT PhD</b> <i>(Physical Therapy)</i>  <b>Joan Reibman, MD</b>  <i>(Pulmonology)</i></p>
<b>12:00 - 12:45</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>

<p><b>12:45 - 2:30</b></p>	<p><b>Session 3: Policies to Support the Short- and Long-Term Needs of Patients with Long COVID</b></p>	
<p>Session 3 will begin with a community care provider and a navigator from the H+H AfterCare program detailing their experiences connecting individuals with Long Covid to social supports and facilitating Long Covid support groups.</p> <p>Afterwards, panelists will engage in discussion around the landscape of existing policies and programs, centering which policies can and should be enhanced including ways to scale up support and navigation programs. They may also touch on lessons learned from other jurisdictions and disease experiences, as well as gaps NYC needs to address going forward.</p> <p>Topics include: insurance and healthcare coverage, benefits, paid leave, social safety nets, supportive housing, and educational support.</p>	<p><b>Moderator</b>  <b>Olusimbo Ige, MD, MPH</b></p> <p><b>Panelists</b>  <b>Gail Bower, LMSW</b>  <i>(Mental Health)</i>  <b>Emily Kaminsky</b>  <i>(H+H Aftercare)</i>  <b>Claudia Henriquez, Esq.</b>  <i>(Labor Policy)</i>  <b>Leigh Jerome, Ph.D</b>  <i>(Community Support)</i>  <b>Jonathan Jimenez</b>  <i>(Health Insurance)</i>  <b>Fabianne Laraque, MD, MPH</b>  <i>(Housing / Homelessness)</i>  <b>Rachel Potter, LMSW</b>  <i>(Social Work)</i></p>	
<p><b>2:30-2:45</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>	
<p><b>2:45-3:45</b></p>	<p><b>Session 4A: Practical Approaches for Clinicians</b> <i>[Geared towards clinicians providing care for clients with Long COVID]</i></p>	
<p>Session 4A centers on patient care approaches, and provides participants with actionable clinical implementations for caring for people with Long COVID, using a case approach. Facilitators will guide the audience discussing how clinicians and health care settings can provide patient-centered assessment and care, through training providers, linkage to appropriate referrals, and patient care models.</p>	<p><b>Facilitators</b>  <b>Michael Shen, MD</b></p> <p><b>Joy Favuzza-Taylor, FNP-C</b></p>	
<p><b>2:45 - 3:45</b></p>	<p><b>Session 4B:</b>  <b>Practical Approaches for Community Providers</b> <i>[Geared towards CBO members or community partners providing services for clients with Long COVID]</i></p>	
<p>Session 4B centers on community care and social services approaches to Long COVID. Using a case approach, facilitators guide the audience in discussing how community care providers can support people with Long COVID, such as training for service providers and ways to link patients to services.</p>	<p><b>Facilitators</b>  <b>Nellie Kapur, MSc</b></p> <p><b>Adrian Gonzalez, MSc</b></p>	
<p><b>3:45-4:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks:</b>  Dr. Michelle Morse, DOHMH Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Commissioner for the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness</p>	

## Virtual Symposium - Long COVID and the Road to Recovery: Panelist Biographies

### Session One: Patient Perspectives - Experience from People Living with Long COVID

**Amanda Johnson, MD, MBA (Moderator)** is the Director of Take Care Test & Trace where she oversees the strategic planning of Take Care's programs and provides vision and oversight. She is also the Assistant Vice President of Care Models in the Office of Ambulatory Care and Population Health for NYC Health + Hospitals. In this role, she leads a team to deliver innovative programs that serve people exposed to the criminal justice system, experiencing homelessness, or facing other structural barriers that impede access to health care. At the outset of the pandemic, she was serving as interim Chief Medical Officer at Sydenham Health Center. She continues to care for patients at Sydenham Health Center, where she offers integrated primary care and treatment for substance use disorders and participates in Northern Manhattan's Health Justice Network. Dr. Johnson received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and her MBA from Harvard Business School.

**Reia Dixon (Patient Panelist)** was born in Trinidad in September 1973. Reia was the youngest of two children until the age of 17, where her brother Sydney died in a tragic explosion in 1991. Reia is married and has five wonderful children. Reia describes herself as selfless, compassionate, straightforward, persistent and adventurous. Reia is a certified auto and diesel mechanic, HR specialist, executive assistant and an agriculturist. Reia worked as a mechanic repairing trucks for two years then proceeded to work in human resources for an oil refinery for over sixteen years. In 2011, Reia made the decision to work part-time at a healthcare facility in order to dedicate more time to her family and serve as a caretaker for her daughter who has disabilities. Reia worked at the healthcare facility for ten years until she was unfortunately let go from her position due to the effects that Long COVID has had on her physical health.

**Felipe Pires (Patient Panelist)** is a 35-year-old Brazilian who has lived in the United States for 1.5 years. Felipe was born in the extreme southern part of Brazil (close to the border of Argentina and Uruguay) and later lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, (Brazil's largest city), Ningbo, China and Shanghai, China. Felipe graduated from college with a degree in chemical engineering and international business. Felipe worked for global chemical and cosmetic companies in procurement and supply chain before joining the United Nations in NYC. Since January 2021, Felipe has worked for the U.N secretariat as a procurement officer responsible for healthcare procurement worldwide. Felipe has a physically active life, going to the gym five times a week, and enjoys learning something new, which mostly includes work-related things or new languages, something that was greatly impacted after getting Long-COVID. In his free time, he frequently plays video games and hangs out with friends.



**Gitta Zomorodi (Patient Panelist)** lives in Brooklyn, NY. As an independent consultant, she advises non-profits and philanthropic institutions promoting human rights and social justice in the U.S. and globally. She holds a Masters in Social Work from Columbia University and a B.A. from Oberlin College. She enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephew, rock climbing and diving into good fiction.

## **Session Two: Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Long COVID**

**Justin List, MD, MAR, MSc, FACP (Moderator)** is Assistant Vice President, Office of Ambulatory Care and Population Health, at NYC Health + Hospitals with a focus on special and interagency projects. He has held various roles in Gotham Health, NYC Health + Hospitals' FQHC, including Chief Quality Officer, clinical Long COVID lead for Gotham Health COVID Centers of Excellence, and Acting Medical Director of its newest site in Brooklyn. He also sits on the steering committee for the H+H Equity & Access Council. He is a practicing primary care general internist and clinical instructor at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. List previously served as Director of Clinical & Scientific Affairs in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Tobacco Control, overseeing the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Clinical Tobacco Control, and Public Health Detailing Program.

**Maura Boldrini, MD, PhD (Panelist)** is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia Medical College, Director of the Human Brain Biology Institute (Brain QUANT), and the Human Neurobiology laboratory in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She is also a faculty member of the Columbia Doctoral Program in Neurobiology and Behavior, Stem Cell Initiative, Data Science Institute, and Zuckerman Mind Brain and Behavior Institute. Her research focuses on understanding underlying mechanisms of behavioral, cognitive and emotional changes associated with brain diseases. She is interested in understanding how the mind and the brain interact to generate symptoms that make people suffer. In her practice, Dr. Boldrini specializes in affective disorders and suicidal behavior. She has experienced treating a number of emotional and behavioral problems, including depression, anxiety, personality disorders, addictions, and stress reactions. In her laboratory, Dr. Boldrini studies brain circuits at the cellular and molecular level involved in depression, suicide, aging and other neurodegenerative conditions. Most recently, she has been studying how inflammation and COVID affect brain function. Dr. Boldrini has received international recognition for her work on "New Neurons" in the human brain, and her research on brain biology has been published in Cell Stem Cell, Biological Psychiatry, Neuropsychopharmacology and other top journals.

**Emma Kaplan-Lewis, MD (Panelist)** is an Infectious Disease Specialist and the Clinical Quality Director of HIV Services at NYC Health + Hospitals. She is also Assistant Professor of



Infectious Disease at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Kaplan-Lewis attended NYU for medical school, and completed her residency at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Wilmer Petite, MD (Panelist)** is a former attending cardiologist at Harlem Hospital Center with faculty appointment at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. Currently, he treats patients at the Tremont COVID-19 Center of Excellence. Dr. Petite has over 40 years of experience practicing medicine.

**Lawrence Purpura, MD (Panelist)** is an Infectious Diseases physician at Columbia University Medical Center (CUIMC). He was previously an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he worked extensively with Ebola Survivors in Liberia. Based on his experiences with post-Ebola syndrome, he helped design and implement the COVID-19 Persistence and Immunology Cohort (C-PIC) at CUIMC. In addition to studying post-COVID complications among C-PIC participants, Dr. Purpura also leads the post-COVID clinic with the Division of Infectious Diseases at CUIMC.

**David Putrino, MD, PhD (Panelist)** is a physical therapist with a PhD in Neuroscience. He is currently the Director of Rehabilitation Innovation for the Mount Sinai Health System, and an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation and Human Performance at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He develops innovative rehabilitation solutions for adults and children in need of better healthcare accessibility, and in 2019, he was named "Global Australian of the Year" for his contributions to healthcare. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, David has been recognized globally as a leading expert in the assessment, treatment and underlying physiology of Long COVID. His team has managed the care of almost 2000 people with Long COVID and published multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers on the topic.

**Joan Reibman, MD (Panelist)** is the medical director of the World Trade Center Environmental Health Center and director of the New York University/Bellevue Asthma Clinic, as well as professor in the Department of Medicine and Environmental Medicine at New York University Grossman School of Medicine. In 1991, she began the Bellevue Hospital Asthma program under a New York City grant. She uses the research in both research centers to promote the study of airway disease and environmental interactions. Under Dr. Reibman's supervision, these labs were the first to study the environmental impact of the destruction of the World Trade Center towers on the respiratory health of the surrounding community. Dr. Reibman has published several studies addressing the molecular, environment, and clinical aspects of urban asthma and has over 43 years of experience in medicine.





### Session Three: Policies to Support the Short- and Long-Term Needs of People with Long COVID

**Olusimbo Ige, MD (Moderator)** is the Assistant Commissioner at the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW), leading place-based health equity programs, and serving as a key liaison to community leaders across New York City. She also leads the Community Engagement efforts for the COVID-19 resurgence and vaccination program and oversees the Public Health Corps Initiative, a partnership with over 80 community-based organizations and other institutions to address COVID-19 health inequities in priority neighborhoods across New York City. Dr. Ige is a public health doctor, with degrees in Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health.

**Gail Bower, LMSW (Panelist)** has been with Vibrant Emotional Health (formerly Mental Health Association of NYC) for 16 years serving in capacities from crisis counselor through program management. She is currently the Assistant Program Director of NYC Well. Gail holds her MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work and has over 15 years experience in the crisis intervention and information & referral services field. NYC Well serves as the front door to NYC's behavioral health network, connecting New Yorkers to free confidential, high quality behavioral health information, referral, support and crisis intervention services as well as follow-up and peer support services 24/7/365 through phone, text and/or chat. NYC Well is also a member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network.

**Emily Kaminsky (Panelist)** received her Bachelor's degree in Globalization Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Gettysburg College in 2018 and is a recent graduate of the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, where she specialized in Global and Migrant Health Policy. She has completed several research projects on topics including the efficacy of sex education programs in India, distance education methods in rural China, and the global increase in climate change driven migration. Since January 2021, Emily has been serving as a Resource Navigator and more recently an Aftercare Navigator, working with CUNY and New York City Health and Hospitals to provide much-needed physical health, mental health, social service and financial support options for those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its lasting effects.

**Claudia Henriquez, Esq. (Panelist)** is the Director of Litigation at the Office of Labor Policy and Standards of the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. She oversees the Department's enforcement of New York City municipal labor laws, including the NYC Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law. Prior to joining DCWP, Claudia served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Labor Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General enforcing federal and state labor laws. Claudia's prior experience also includes direct services to low-wage and migrant workers at Legal Aid programs in Florida and Virginia. She is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center.



**Leigh Jerome, PhD (Panelist)** is a leading New York clinical Psychologist, with published expertise in pathology; psychophysiology; intersectional collaboration; art, culture and behavior change; empathy; and women's issues. She is also a mixed-media & installation' artist with a working studio in Brooklyn. Dr. Jerome has brought these two passions together as Founder and CEO of **Relational Space** (<https://www.relational-space.org>), a non-profit New York Gallery, that facilitates collaboration between Artists, Scientists, Policy-Makers and Activists, in order to co-curate immersive installations with 'evidence-based narratives' that promote social change. The mission of Relational Space is to build a more just and sustainable world inspired through art and informed by truth. The most recent exhibition was a VR installation: **Long COVID: We Are Here!** a fearless exploration into the long-haul experience aiming to raise awareness, support Long COVID research and treatment, and urge widespread physician training and patient support <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H69vpmcIRf>. She is an administrator-moderator with **Body Politic** and has been challenged with Long COVID since March 5, 2020.

**Jonathan Jimenez, MD, MPH (Panelist)**, is the Executive Director of NYC Care, a healthcare access program ensuring every New Yorker has access to healthcare regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. NYC Care is housed within NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest public healthcare system in the nation, and has over 110,000 members. The program works with 22 CBOs across the city and runs a citywide awareness campaign to ensure all New Yorkers know they have a right to healthcare. Dr. Jiménez trained in family medicine at Duke and holds an MPH from Columbia.

**Fabienne Laraque, MD (Panelist)** is an internist and preventive medicine specialist with training in epidemiology and public health. After a long career at the NYC DOHMH in maternal and infant health, TB, HIV and viral hepatitis, she became the Medical Director of the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS). Under her leadership, DHS became a state-certified opioid overdose prevention program, providing naloxone administration training to shelters and conducting overdose surveillance. In addition, Dr. Laraque and her team are restructuring and standardizing healthcare and behavioral health systems at DHS, creating new innovative and public health programs. Her office was instrumental in supporting DHS in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, from developing guidance to implementing case identification, isolation and quarantine, medical services at isolation hotels, and onsite testing and vaccination services.

**Rachel Potter, LCSW (Panelist)** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in New York State. She is the clinical social worker at the Mount Sinai National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute. Rachel has created and led numerous patient support groups, classes, and special events. She is the developer and facilitator of wellness groups with Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellows and other medical trainees within the Mount Sinai Health System. Rachel is intensively trained in Dialectical Behavior Therapy. Rachel's interests include psychosocial impacts of chronic illness and faculty and trainee wellness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rachel





volunteered as a mental health liaison for front line workers on COVID inpatient units, as well as running support groups for the Pulmonary team and COVID outpatients. Rachel started the COVID Recovery Support Group in June 2020, which continues today.

#### **Session Four: Practical Approaches for Clinicians and Community Providers**

**Joy Faluzza-Taylor, FNP-C (Facilitator)**, received her degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Columbia University Nursing School. Joy worked at Beth Israel's Family Residency Program for 7 years. She subsequently worked at Care For the Homeless where she received the Dr. Philip W. Bricker Visionary Award for her outstanding service to New York City's underserved populations in 2017. In 2021, she started working with the DOHMH, on the shelter COVID team. She then transferred to The Situation Room and is currently working on The Long COVID team.

**Adrian Gonzalez, MSc (Facilitator)** is a Director in the NYC Health + Hospitals Ambulatory Care Operations Department, overseeing the newly-established Independent Practice Association (IPA). Previously, Adrian was the Deputy Director of the Take Care Pillar at NYC Test & Trace Corps. Adrian has over 12 years of experience in NYC government work, beginning his work as a NYC Urban Fellow with the Taxi and Limousine Commission. He has also worked for the NYC Department of Small Business Services, the Mayor's Office of Operations and Department of Homeless Services. Adrian received his Master's Degree from The New School in Urban Policy Analysis and Management and holds a BA in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of Florida.

**Nellie Kapur, MSc (Facilitator)** is the Deputy Director of Take Care, a pillar of the NYC Health + Hospitals Test & Trace Corps. Nellie has over 10 years of experience in the non-profit, government, and foundation spaces. Nellie received her Master of Science in Public Health Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and her BA in Anthropology and Latin American Studies from Cornell University.

**Michael S. Shen, MD (Facilitator)** is a Clinical Leadership Fellow in the Office of Ambulatory Care and Population Health at NYC Health + Hospitals, where he works on programs for people experiencing homelessness, those reentering the community from jail or prison, and people with physical disabilities. He is a hospitalist at Elmhurst Hospital and the incoming director for the Woodhull Primary Care Safety Net clinic. In his free time, he is an artist and the Chief Creative Office of "Core IM", a medical education podcast. He completed his medical training in NYU/Bellevue's Internal Medicine Primary Care track.