



Federal Asian Pacific American Council

FAPAC

HEADLINES

2021 Winter Edition

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Press Release: Launch of WHIAANHPI



the **WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE** ★★★★★

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Secretary Becerra Launches the Biden-Harris Administration's White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Announces USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai as Co-Chair

Washington D.C. – Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra launched the Biden-Harris Administration's White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and announced U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai as his co-chair of both the White House Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. The Initiative, which was created in response to the President's Executive Order (EO) 14031, Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, is charged with driving an ambitious, whole-of-government agenda to advancing equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities in the United States.

Like other communities of color, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to exacerbating long-standing health inequities facing AA and NHPI communities, the language of some political leaders during this public health crisis has also fueled a spike in anti-Asian bias, xenophobia, and violence. To address these inequities, the new WHIAANHPI is housed within HHS, returning this initiative to the Department where it was first launched under the Clinton Administration in 1999.

“Returning the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to HHS, where it originated, represents an important step in reinvigorating this historic initiative,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to tackling a wide scope of challenges impacting communities that have been historically overlooked and underserved. I look forward to working with Ambassador Katherine Tai in leading our federal efforts to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities across the nation.”

“I am honored to Co-Chair the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI),” said Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative. “President Biden, Vice President Harris and the entire Administration are committed to creating a more equal, just, and inclusive America. Leading this initiative with Secretary Becerra will be a critical part of our work across government to expand opportunity,

confront systemic barriers to success, and address the rising violence targeted at the AA and NHPI community.”

“The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders is the embodiment of the longstanding commitment and vision that President Biden and Vice President Harris have for our diverse and growing community,” said Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika Moritsugu. “This Administration has delivered results for AA and NHPI communities with the President's whole-of-government approach to equity, along with the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, and now again with the reinvigoration and expansion of this historic Initiative.”

“With today’s launch of WHIAANHPI’s Interagency Working Group and Regional Network within HHS, we now have the tools to secure resources, promote opportunities, and increase the visibility of AA and NHPI communities,” said WHIAANHPI Executive Director Krystal Ka’ai. “I am honored to serve under the leadership of Secretary Becerra and Ambassador Tai during this pivotal time for our community as we work to build a brighter future for generations to come.”

Under the leadership of Secretary Becerra and Ambassador Tai, the newly-expanded Initiative includes an Interagency Working Group tasked with coordinating the federal government’s efforts to support AA and NHPI communities. It also includes a Regional Network comprised of federal officials in ten federal regions across the country who help to connect AA and NHPI communities with federal grants, programs, and resources.

The WHIAANHPI under the Biden-Harris Administration will focus on helping to coordinate a comprehensive federal response to the rise in acts of anti-Asian bias and violence; address the systemic lack of disaggregated data on AA and NHPI communities; expand language access and language assistance programs for AA and NHPI individuals across federal programs; address educational, health, economic, and housing disparities impacting AA and NHPI communities, and more. For more information on the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, see www.hhs.gov/whiaanhpi.



To ensure you keep receiving emails, please add WHIAANHPI@LIST.NIH.GOV to your address book.



FAPAC Headlines



From the Director: Supporting our Asian American and Pacific Islander Colleagues and Friends

From: NIH Executive Secretariat

Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 8:00 PM

To: List NIH-ALL-STAFF

Subject: From the Director: Supporting our Asian American and Pacific Islander Colleagues and Friends

Dear NIH Family:

I want to respond personally to the troubling reports of violence perpetrated against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. We continue to live through unprecedented times, fueled in part by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the regrettable polarization of our nation. A tragic symptom of this tension is the deplorable increase in acts of violence and intolerance towards AAPI communities. Witnessing acts of violence against AAPI individuals and communities, like the tragic shootings in Atlanta this week, is devastating and utterly unacceptable.

As leaders in our field, we at NIH pursue innovation in enhancing health, lengthening life, and reducing illness and disability. The speed of the development for the COVID-19 vaccine is a testament to the skill and dedication of the scientific community. But it should be noted that the immediate initiation of vaccine development 14 months ago was only made possible by the rapid public disclosure by Chinese researchers of the genetic sequence of the coronavirus. Science has always been, and will continue to be, a global effort, and we are all in this together.

I fully support the White House "[Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States](#)," and denounce acts of discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against AAPI individuals. I commit to working with NIH leadership to create the space and time for us to listen to each other, explore opportunities to support our colleagues, enhance workplace awareness, and to cultivate a diverse, inclusive, equitable, and productive work environment. The journey toward justice is not a fleeting idea, but a lifelong commitment to accountability.

Today, I reach out, not to just share in the frustration and distress that I feel, but to reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that every member of our NIH family, and especially those from the AAPI communities, are treated with respect and consideration. I want my AAPI brothers and sisters to know that NIH deeply recognizes and celebrates your valuable contributions to our society -- including the biomedical health research discoveries you have made at NIH, but extending well beyond that.

I am proud to work alongside my deeply committed AAPI colleagues who have not only dedicated their careers to bettering the lives of others, but have also served on the frontlines of this crisis as healthcare professionals, in supporting their families, communities, and networks. We know that racism is not limited to any one group. I will try to do my part to better understand the unique dynamics, needs, and challenges facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and I ask everyone at NIH do the same.

Wishing you peace, health, and safety.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

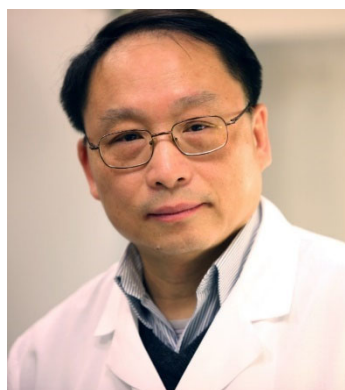
NIH Director

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council Recognizes Outstanding AANHPI Contributions at HHS

Reprinted from the NIH Record

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) recently announced the recipients for two prestigious HHS awards, the 2021 Dr. Howard K. Koh Award for Excellence in Leadership at HHS, and the 2021 Dr. Francisco S. Sy Award for Excellence in Mentorship. The Dr. Koh award recognizes an HHS employee from the Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community who exemplifies outstanding leadership, service integrity, and excellence, and has significantly contributed to the mission of the HHS. The Dr. Sy award recognizes an HHS employee from AANHPI community who has provided exceptional mentorship to others and fostered their professional growth and career development.

One NIH employee was among the award recipients: Dr. Zu-Hang Sheng, Senior Investigator and Synaptic Function Section Chief, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) received the Dr. Sy Award. Two candidates shared the 2021 Dr. Koh Award, Satish Pillai, MD, MPH, Deputy Division Director, Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections, CDC and Jeff Wu, JD, MBA, Deputy Director for Policy in CCIO, CMS.



Dr. Zu-Hang Sheng has been working at NINDS for 25 years. He is a renowned leader in the field of neuronal organelle transport and axonal energy metabolism. Dr. Sheng has made seminal contributions to the axonal transport of mitochondria and endo-lysosomes in maintaining energy and cellular homeostasis. His studies have elucidated important energy mechanisms of synaptic variability and regeneration failure, and conceptually advance knowledge into mitochondrial pathology, energy deficits, and lysosomal dysfunction in brain injury and neurodegeneration. In addition to his scientific contributions, Dr. Sheng is an awarded mentor in training scientists at various levels—both in their research and career development. Many of his trainees have developed their own careers in

academic, industry, or government sectors; this includes ten Asian or Asian American scientists who have successfully moved on to start their own research labs.



CAPT Pillai has served in multiple leadership roles during the past 18 months of the COVID-19 response. He led the CDC team investigating the 1st US domestic COVID-19 case, and then led the CDC Task Force Lead responsible for the development of COVID-19 infection prevention and personal protective equipment (PPE) conservation guidance. These efforts helped inform US healthcare and public health providers early understanding of COVID-19 disease presentation and transmission and were critical in supporting the healthcare system during a period of increasing hospital surge and PPE shortages. He was subsequently assigned as the CDC liaison officer to Operation Warp Speed serving as the senior CDC official in Washington D.C., supporting this interagency

team's vaccine distribution mission. He also served as the Deputy Chief, National Response Coordination Center, as the senior CDC official supporting FEMA's establishment of mass vaccination sites. These

efforts led to the successful distribution of >300M doses COVID-19 vaccines – the largest-ever US vaccination campaign to date. Since July 2021, he has been assigned in a Senior Executive Service equivalent detail as the Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Countermeasures Acceleration Group, providing strategic and operational guidance to an interagency team which has successfully launched the COVID-19 booster campaign and continues to support the planning efforts for launching pediatric vaccine efforts.



Dr. Jeff Wu serves as the Deputy Director for Policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within CMS. He directs policy, communications, analysis, and stakeholder engagement functions related to the Affordable Care Act and No Surprises Act and serves as a principal point of contact to the Department and the White House. Jeff has led the promulgation of dozens of regulations that established the Exchanges and the rules governing health insurance companies under ACA. He co-manages a team of more than 400 employees with a 1.5-billion-dollar budget that governs and manages the individual and small group health insurance markets – through which 30 million Americans receive health insurance coverage. Jeff served as the CMS liaison to the Covid relief effort in 2020, and the acting Principal Deputy Administrator for

CMS in 2021, leading the agency through a full political transition. Jeff has served as a mentor to a host of rising executives and serves as the sponsor of the agency's Asian-American Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group, an affinity group working on mentorship and diversity issues across CMS. He is a former mergers and acquisitions lawyer and public-school teacher, and after years of training in judo, has very recently taken up Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and mixed martial arts.

FAPAC Celebrates AANHPI Heritage Month

Reprinted from the NIH Record

In observance of 2021 Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, the NIH chapter of the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) and partners from other federal agencies at the Department of Health and Human Services organized two events in May. The national theme was “Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service.”

Virtual Panel on Leadership

The first event, “Conversations with AANHPI Leaders at NIH: Tips on Leadership and Empowering the Next Generation,” was a panel discussion featuring Dr. Noni Byrnes, director of the Center for Scientific Review; Dr. Michael Chiang, director of the National Eye Institute; and Dr. Rena D’Souza, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. The event recognized AANHPI leaders who have made significant contributions to public health and provided insights about leadership and vision for the future.

The three institute/center directors shared their personal journeys, particularly cultural impact on their decisions, encounters with discrimination and how they overcame and persevered. Their work and leadership have focused on empowering the emerging generation of leaders.

NIH principal deputy director Dr. Lawrence Tabak gave opening remarks, highlighting the UNITE initiative to increase inclusivity and diversity in biomedical science. Dr. Christina Liu, chief of the Biomedical Technology Branch at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, served as moderator. NIH’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion co-organized the virtual event that attracted more than 870 attendees.

The leadership discussion has been archived and can be viewed at <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=41843>.

Inaugural Murthy Lecture Series

The inaugural Dr. Vivek H. Murthy Distinguished Lecture Series for Public Health Leadership occurred on May 27.

This was the first in a series of fireside chats and lectures in honor of Murthy, the 19th and 21st U.S. surgeon general. The goal of the series is to recognize a public health leader whose enduring efforts have made a significant impact on advancing public health.

At the first lecture, Murthy recognized internationally renowned cardiologist and global health expert Dr. Victor Dzau, president of the National Academy of Medicine and former chancellor for health affairs at Duke University, for his public health efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

After opening remarks by NIMHD director Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable, NIMHD deputy director Dr. Monica Webb Hooper moderated a conversation between Murthy and Dzau. They shared their personal experiences as immigrants from India and China, respectively, their encounters with discrimination and how they persevered. Their stories covered themes of managing doubt and taking risks (both personal and professional), holding onto personal values and developing one’s own destination.

Murthy and Dzau also reflected on the unprecedented challenges during the pandemic and discussed the root causes of health disparities. They noted the importance of the country coming together to recognize our shared values.



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They discussed the underrepresentation of AANHPI individuals in leadership positions and how cultural differences in leadership styles may be a potential cause. Cultural factors were also touched upon when discussing mental health issues, which have increased during pandemic times.

Murthy offered helpful strategies for those experiencing emotional distress: spend 15 minutes a day reaching out to your loved ones, offer quality time over quantity and serve others. Finally, in addressing how public health leaders can build trust within our country and the world, Dzau said that they need to rely on science, recognize when they may not have the answer, communicate clearly and consistently and prioritize the welfare of others above their own.

Along with NIH's FAPAC, NIMHD organized the event in partnership with the USPHS Asian Pacific American officers committee, FAPAC's FDA and Parklawn chapters, AAPI groups at CDC and HRSA and NIH's EDI.

The conversation can be viewed at <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42089>.

Conversations with AAPI Leaders at NIH: Tips on Leadership and Empowering the Next Generation

Over 600 people attended this celebration. Another record for our May AAPI Heritage Month observance. Thank you for your excellent and meaningful conversations

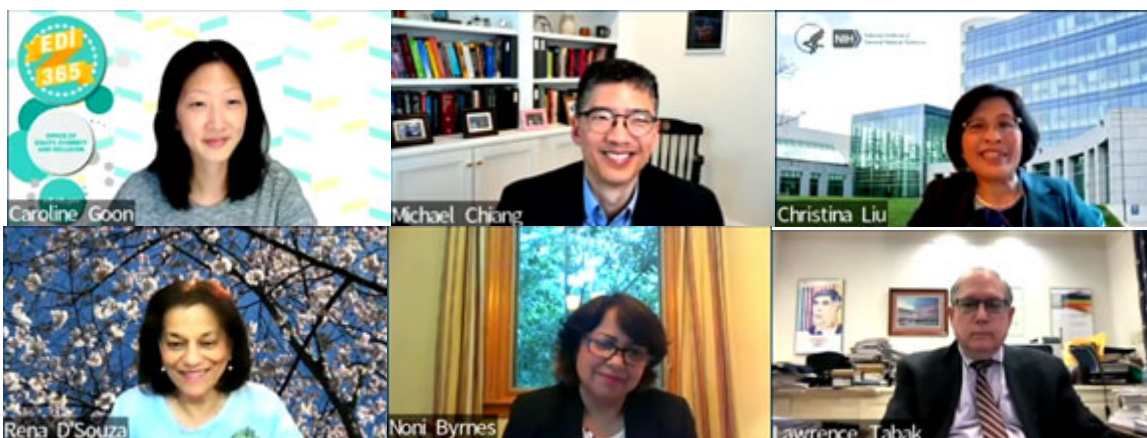


AGENDA
Opening remarks: Dr. Lawrence Tabak
Panel Moderator: Dr. Christina Liu
Panelists:
Nori Byrnes, PhD
Michael Chiang, MD
Rena D'Souza, DDS, MS, PhD

CONVERSATIONS WITH AAPI LEADERS AT NIH: TIPS ON LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

We will be getting started shortly!

NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Federal Asian Pacific American Council
FAPAC



Vivek H. Murthy Distinguished Lecture Series for Public Health Leadership Launched in May 2021

Reprinted from COA Frontline

by CAPT Curi Kim, MD, MPH & CDR Yoon Kong, PharmD, BCGP, RAC



May is Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, during which we celebrate the contributions of AANHPIs to science, the arts, industry, government, and commerce. To commemorate AANHPI Heritage Month this year, the inaugural Vivek H. Murthy Distinguished Lecture Series for Public Health Leadership was launched on May 27. This was the first in a series of fireside chats and lectures in honor of Dr. Murthy, the 19th and 21st Surgeon General of the United States. The Federal

Asian Pacific American Council's National Institutes of Health chapter (FAPAC NIH) and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) organized this event in partnership with the USPHS Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC), FAPAC's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) chapter, FAPAC's Parklawn chapter, the Association of Asian Pacific Islander Employees of CDC/ATSDR (AAPIECA), the Health Resources and Services Administration's Asian American and Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group (HRSA AAPI ERG), and NIH Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). The goal of the series is to recognize a public health leader whose enduring efforts have made a significant impact on advancing public health. At this first event, Dr. Murthy recognized Dr. Victor J. Dzau, President of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, prior Chancellor for Health Affairs at Duke University, an internationally renowned cardiologist, and expert on global health, for his public health efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This event featured opening remarks from Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, NIMHD Director, followed by a conversation between the two distinguished speakers moderated by Dr. Monica Webb Hooper, NIMHD Deputy Director. During the chat, Dr. Murthy, and Dr. Dzau shared their personal experiences as immigrants, their encounters with discrimination, and how they persevered. Their stories covered themes of managing doubt and taking risks (both personal and professional), holding onto personal values, and developing one's own destination.

Dr. Murthy and Dr. Dzau then reflected on the unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Dzau identified systemic racism as the root cause of the pandemic's disproportionate impact among communities of color and called for policy change to address socioeconomic inequities. He also cited higher case fatality rates of COVID-19 in AANHPI populations when data is collected, but AANHPI communities are often overlooked, and their racial or ethnic data are not systematically captured. To mitigate health disparities, Dr. Murthy noted the importance of the country coming together to recognize our shared values.



FAPAC Headlines



Next, they discussed the underrepresentation of AANHPI individuals in leadership positions and how cultural differences in leadership styles may be a potential cause. Cultural factors were also touched upon when discussing mental health issues, which have increased during this pandemic. Dr. Murthy offered three helpful strategies for those experiencing emotional distress: 1) spend 15 minutes a day reaching out to your loved ones, 2) offer quality of time over quantity of time, and 3) serve others. Finally, in responding to how public health leaders can build trust within our country and the world, Dr. Dzau articulated that they need to rely on science, recognize when they may not have the answer, communicate clearly and consistently, and prioritize the welfare of others above their own.

This remarkable conversation has been archived and can be viewed here:

<https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42089>

Stay tuned for next event in the Vivek H. Murthy Distinguished Lecture Series for Public Health Leadership!

Giving a collective voice to Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) staff

New NIH group connects and empowers AANHPI communities

By: Caroline Goon, MS, MBA, Principal Strategist, AANHPI Portfolio, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion & *Gabriel Lai, PhD*, Program Director, Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute



Screenshot of the Federation of AANHPI Network (FAN) kick-off meeting in April 2021, which was attended by leaders of AANHPI-focused ERGs, including NIH FAPAC, NIH India, NIH Taiwanese Association, NIH Korean Women in Science and Engineering, Korean Scientist Association, NIH Asian Pacific American Organization, NIH Chinese Student and Scholar Association, and Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America. Not pictured: Japanese Scientists Association.

What is the NIH Federation of AANHPI Network (FAN)?

The NIH Federation of AANHPI Network (FAN) aims to address issues and policies impacting the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) workforce across NIH. FAN was established

when leaders from several NIH AANHPI-focused Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) gathered virtually in April 2021 in response to the rising number of acts of violence and intolerance towards AANHPI communities fueled in part by the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfortunate polarization of our nation. The NIH Chapter of FAPAC has also been actively involved, with current President Xinzhi Zhang, and Vice President, Rina Das, in attendance at the inaugural kick-off meeting. The group's initial discussion centered around [how ERGs could support one another during these times of crisis](#).

As FAN gained momentum and membership grew, the conversation expanded towards sustainable action surrounding NIH's recruitment, retention, and advancement of AANHPIs. While AANHPIs are not considered underrepresented compared to other groups such as Blacks and Hispanics, we noted a distinct lack of visible AANHPIs in NIH leadership. Thus, one of FAN's current priorities is to address the underrepresentation of AANHPIs at leadership levels and identify actionable solutions for every step of the career ladder, representing all parts of the NIH workforce.

Bridging the AANHPI leadership gap

In a Facebook Live interview, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said, "Hold us accountable. I do not think the status quo is where we need to be. We're missing out on enjoying the talents of so many folks who currently don't see our research agenda as theirs, and we need to change that.¹"

We know there is AANHPI leadership disparity that extends across industries – beyond the federal government – and with an academia/research-focused lens, the disparity is clear:

- "Asian Americans are the least likely among all women to be promoted to leadership positions and make up less than 1% of top earners at those universities engaging in the highest level of research activity²."
- "[In medicine] Asian Americans are underrepresented in leadership positions, which affects their voice, visibility, and acceptance into American culture and organizations.³"

The pandemic, social justice movement, and anti-Asian sentiment and attacks underscore more needs to be done. We recognize that these issues exist within a context of multiple and dynamic social and cultural factors that intertwine with each other. Raising awareness about these issues among all will certainly help address racial inequities. AANHPIs at the leadership level, AANHPIs are often not sufficiently represented at the decision-making tables for these positions.

Growing FAN's grassroots efforts

We are thrilled that T. Jake Liang, M.D., NIH Distinguished Investigator, Chief of the Liver Diseases Branch, and Deputy Director of Translational Research at NIDDK, has taken on the role as the new Executive Sponsor and Champion for the NIH Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion's AANHPI Engagement Committee and as the Founding FAN Chair. Like a grassroots organization, FAN has grown membership to include AANHPI ERG members and other individuals from across the NIH Community representing many Institutes, Centers, offices, and departments – all who share a joint commitment to supporting AANHPI and other underserved communities.

You, too, can support the Portfolio for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and get involved to help address the outreach, recruitment, retention, and advancement of AANHPIs and other

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/43331696829/videos/300000478430630>

² <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6537/8>

³ <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.M99.0000688732.01865.74>



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diverse populations at NIH. For more information about the AANHPI Portfolio, please contact Caroline Goon in EDI's Special Emphasis Portfolio Branch at <https://www.edi.nih.gov/people>.

Additional Resources

To learn more about the leadership gap facing AANHPIs:

- [Race, Gender & The Double Glass Ceiling: An Analysis of EEOC National Workforce Data](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusiveness in Health Care Leadership: Three Key Steps](#)
- [Why Asian-American Women Aren't Advancing into Senior Leadership Positions](#)

NIH Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group

***Reprinted and Modified from NIH AAPI-HSIG November 9th, 2021 Newsletter**

By: Dan Xi, PhD

(NIH AAPI-HSIG website: <https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>)

(Contact: Dan Xi, Chair, AAPI-HSIG, xida@mail.nih.gov)

NIH AAPI-HSIG Facts & Inaugural Seminar

The NIH AAPI-HSIG was established in 2021 (<https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>) and was approved by Dr. Michael M. Gottesman, Director of the NIH Office of Intramural research. The NIH AAPI-HSIG is open to all in the intramural and extramural NIH community, as well as HHS staff. It provides a scientific exchange and collaboration platform for assemblies of scientists and staff at NIH, HHS, extramural academia, or other Federal and Non-Federal entities who have an interest and passion in advancing the NIH mission and improving AAPI-health and research; and serves as NIH high-quality trusted resources for AAPI-health research and education. The AAPI-HSIG hosted a very successful inaugural seminar on September 23, 2021. There was 500+ registered and 250+ live attendees. Dr. Dan Xi, Program Director at National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Chair of the NIH AAPI-HSIG gave a brief introduction of the mission, goals, and vision. She also highlighted a few ongoing initiatives or projects, such as hosting the first-ever focused scientific seminar series on AAPI-health research at the NIH, planning the first-ever annual AAPI heritage month health research symposium, and establishing AAPI-health research PubMed MeSH search term in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine. Many staff from various NIH ICs* were acknowledged for their contributions and supports in the development of the AAPI-HSIG and inaugural webinar.

Past Event

NIH Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group Inaugural Seminar - September 23, 2021



Host: Dan Xi



Co-host: Anil Wali



Eliseo Perez Stable



Grace Ma

Outstanding remarks from Dr. Eliseo Perez Stable, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, set the stage nicely for the inaugural seminar by Dr. Grace Ma, the speaker, Associate Dean for Health Disparities at Temple University. Dr. Perez Stable discussed the disaggregation of data, priority health issues, and use of interpreters in language-discordant encounters for AAPI. Dr. Grace Ma is the Founding Director of the Center for Asian Health and Laura H. Carnell Professor at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine. In this lecture, Dr. Ma outlined several issues: diversity among AAPI Populations, 'model minority' invisibility in scientific research, multilevel barriers to healthcare, disparities impacting AAPI

health, examples of multilevel approaches to population health equity. Dr. Ma also presented priority health concerns for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as hepatitis B, diabetes, and lung cancer. Last but not least, she emphasized the often-invisible effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on AAPI health.

Finally, the webinar ended with interactive discussions in the panels of program officers and intramural senior investigators, including attendees from NIH and extramural communities. These discussions covered issues such as research funding needs, improvement of statistical power, needs in clinical research and clinical trial recruitment, and reduction of aggregated data by separating Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians and Asians American in clinical research data collection.

Click here <https://nci.rev.vbrick.com/#/videos/7581037a-a8a6-4c5a-afa2-4cb0c6d72f9a> to watch the recording.

Acknowledgements

NIH Office of Intramural Research: Dr. Michael Gottesman and Christopher Wanjek

NIMHD: Director, Dr. Eliseo J. Perez-Stable

NCI: LeeAnn Bailey, Anthony Tedder, Anil Wali, Dan Xi, Catherine Yu. NHGRI: Paul Liu. NHLBI: Xinzhi Zhang, Keji Zhao. NIA: Ramesh Vemuri. NICHD: Karen Lee. NIDDK: Yihong Ye. NIGMS: Lei Ming. NIMH: Karen Qi. NIMHD: Kelvin Choi, Rina Das, Elizabeth Garofalo, Phuong-Tu Le.

All Others: NIH colleagues and staff who provided input and support, and

FAPAC NIH Chapter

Other AAPI-HSIG Webinar Series News

By Dan Xi, PhD



November 30, 2021

“Incidence of Lung Cancer Among Never-Smoking Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Females” by Mindy DeRouen, PhD, MPH, University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. DeRouen presented the first study to show increased burden of lung cancer among most groups of AANHPI females who never smoked; pneumonia, tuberculosis, and residing in a neighborhood with limited English proficiency may confer increased risk, and the results of this study inform screening, further targeted research and public health priorities. Through this webinar, NIH AAPI-HSIG aims to further stimulate research in identifying risk factors. Mutation characteristics across different diverse AANHPI ethnic groups and non-AANHPI ethnic groups may inform cancer etiology, subtype identification and precision

treatment development for never-smoking lung cancer AANHPI female. Details found <https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAP-HSIG>.



January 18, 2022

1st NIH AAPI-HSIG Webinar Specific Topic: “AANHPI Mental Health and Well-being Seminar Series”.

“AAPI Mental Health: Progress and Prospects” by Y. Joel Wong, Ph.D., Professor, Counseling & Counseling Psychology Chair, Department of Counseling & Educational Psychology, Indiana University Bloomington.

Registration WebEx Event Link:

<https://cbiit.webex.com/cbiit/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8034ed12d3aff761b84af7615d6ab50e>

To join the AAPI-HSIG mailing list, please visit the group's listserv home page, <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=AAPI-HEALTH-SIG> and click the “Subscribe or Unsubscribe” link in the right sidebar.

I've Come Home

Dr. Rena D'Souza, Reflects on Her Career and First Year as National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Director

Interviewed and edited for clarity and conciseness by Starsky Cheng, Phalla Messina, and Catherine Evans



On October 13, 2020, Rena N. D'Souza, DDS, MS, PhD, was sworn in as the new director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director, Dr. Francis S. Collins. Dr. D'Souza succeeded Dr. Martha J. Somerman, DDS, PhD, who retired as director at the close of 2019. A licensed dentist and scientist, Dr. D'Souza is recognized for her research in craniofacial development, genetics, tooth development, and regenerative dental medicine. She is deeply committed to advancing NIDCR's mission to advance fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease and translate these findings into prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies that improve overall health for all individuals and communities across the lifespan.

What are the most exciting opportunities you have discovered as NIDCR director during your first year at the NIH?

I discovered the importance of developing human connections in a virtual setting. With a changing world and with the COVID-19 pandemic bringing to our notice the systemic irregularities in our society, we really learned to always plan for the future. There's a good quote, "Never let a good crisis go unnoticed." For NIDCR, the crisis underscored the fact that the people who are the most adversely affected by the pandemic are the same people who do not have access to oral health care. Health disparities came up as a huge issue during the pandemic, and that has become the biggest opportunity for us at NIDCR—to improve oral health for all through research excellence.

Is there anything you would change in your career? Is there anything that you might have done differently to reach your goals?

If you're very goal oriented, you tend to be locked up in your own ecosystem. I think I would have had a smoother ride if I had paid more careful attention to environmental cues—I could have been more proactive than reactive in certain situations. I would say that is one of the several lessons I've learned along the way. The other one is that I think it is important to know what your goals are in 5-year increments. If you want to keep a goal in mind, then cater your behavior towards achieving that goal while always being true to yourself - making sure you are value driven. Achieving the true potential is my definition of success in life. Keep in mind your goals and be able to resolve differences as you go along.

Please discuss the role of mentorship in your career development.

My family is the center of my life. I always felt that role modeling was the most valuable lesson that my children could learn from me. As I've progressed through my career, I've come to the realization that we can only make a difference one step at a time. Just taking that step itself makes the next generation advance into a brighter future. I once saw a beautiful sculpture of a man climbing up a mountain with every muscle tense in one arm as he was reaching for the next stone, but his other arm was leaning down to help the next person climb up; and that has always been the mentoring model I have used. You can not only give back, but you can be enriched by people you mentor. You always remain on a journey of learning from others who are more experienced and more knowledgeable, so that two-way continuum keeps you in balance. I'm a passionate mentor.

As a person with various important identities, what advice would you share with aspiring AAPI and/or female leaders in public health?

Female leaders do not have to give up their gender identity. Women have native instincts and talents that are set apart from male colleagues, and we often approach situations differently. Many women are more empathetic, perhaps more compassionate, less risk-taking, and more emotionally attuned. We can capitalize on those talents as leaders. I want to empower every woman on our campus to feel that they have a place here at NIH. You can lead in whatever you're doing by inspiring someone around you. There is often someone less experienced who is watching how you act. That feeling of being looked up to keeps you responsible about the future. Each of us can turn on that inner switch to lead with confidence, not arrogance, and to acknowledge our mistakes. Especially in the AAPI community, because of our cultural upbringing, many of us feel grateful for what we receive, and we often feel we've gotten more than we deserve. That has to be balanced with "Okay, I am all of that, but I have the right to want to succeed." I want to see that happen at NIH. There's a lot of AAPI people who populate NIH campus at so many levels, but they are not proportionately represented in the higher echelons of leadership—that has to change.

What is your leadership style and philosophy?

To be an effective leader, you have to know where you're going and draw people towards that vision so that it becomes a shared vision. I try to inject the sense there's a human process when we're faced with bureaucracy or conflict between people. I want people to feel that they have a voice, and I want to listen to it. My leadership style is to be consultative, open, transparent, and to really value the uniqueness of individual humans. During COVID it was critical for us to make sure that people were keeping okay. I reached out to individuals whose family members had passed away or suffered from COVID; I took that personally because it's that sense of family that you bring to the workplace that makes the community closer knit. It is also helpful to get feedback that's not always positive. We should be open to change, to continually grow. I think Thomas Edison said, "there's always a better way – just find it." So that applies to our personal and professional growth.



FAPAC Headlines



How do you manage your work-life balance? What do you like to do when you are not working?

I have a different view of what balance is. I have very enriched activities in my personal time. When you come on as a new director and it is virtual, you do end up with a lot on your plate, so I do work very long hours. I love the outdoors. I stay healthy with long walks, yoga, Pilates, and a little bit of gym and weight training. I am a musician. I love to sing and play the piano. I love people and love to entertain. I've met many new friends in this new part of the country. Again, my husband, kids, dog, and a grandchild keep me centered and always loving. So, I remain a fun-loving person.

History Corner

See: <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/> for heritage month history.

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced [House Joint Resolution 540](#) to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, [Senate Joint Resolution 72](#). Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced [House Joint Resolution 1007](#). This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become [Public Law 95-419](#) (PDF, 158kb). This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed [Public Law 101-283](#) (PDF, 166kb) which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed [Public Law 102-450](#) (PDF, 285kb) which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

NIDCR's Park Retires After 42 Years at NIH

Reprinted from the NIH Record

By Tiffany Chen



Dr. Myung Hee Park, a senior investigator in NIDCR's molecular and cellular biochemistry section, was clearing out her lab ahead of her retirement when she found a notebook from the 1980s. On the lines of the yellowed pages lay the beginnings of her unexpected journey unraveling a previously unknown biological pathway vital to nearly all life on Earth. Her work opened a new field of research, and 42 years later, is revealing important clues about certain neurodevelopmental disorders.

"Nobody knew about this pathway—we stumbled on it by accident," says Park, who retired June 30 after our decades of service at NIDCR. "This is often how progress is made in science—you cannot plan on discovering certain things."

Such was the case in 1979, when, as a visiting fellow, Park joined the Laboratory of Biochemistry at the National Institute of Dental Research, NIDCR's predecessor. She was tasked initially with studying the activity of an enzyme called transglutaminase, which is involved in wound healing, blood clotting and hair formation. But a serendipitous discovery led her down a new path.

In an experiment to pinpoint proteins modified by transglutaminase, one candidate containing an as-yet unidentified molecule showed up. Further analysis suggested that, contrary to the team's hypothesis, this protein candidate was not actually modified via transglutaminase reactions, but by some other reaction.

Park relayed her suspicions to her mentor, NIDR biochemist Dr. John Folk. "He asked me, 'If it is not a transglutaminase reaction, then what is it? You figure it out,'" recalls Park.

Within a couple of months, Park answered that question when she discovered the reaction that formed the mysterious molecule, which she identified as hypusine, an unusual and little-studied amino acid.

Unlike most other amino acids, hypusine is found in only one protein, which Park and collaborators later identified as eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A (eIF5A). Park's experiments showed that hypusine is formed in the eIF5A protein via a series of reactions catalyzed by enzymes in the so-called hypusine modification pathway.

In contrast to most other enzyme modifications, which often occur in many different types of proteins, the hypusine modification process acts only on eIF5A. Without it, the protein does not become activated to carry out its function.

"The cell devised this complicated pathway to modify a single protein," says Park. "From the very beginning, we knew this had to be a vital process in the cells. Otherwise, it's not economical for the body to develop these complex mechanisms."

From then on, Park made it her mission to understand the pathway and its biological significance. She spent her career characterizing each step, identifying the proteins and enzymes involved and defining their functions in cell growth and animal development.

Park's research showed that eIF5A indeed plays a crucial role in cells by regulating protein production, cell growth and tumor formation. Mice and yeast cannot survive without the eIF5A protein or the enzymes that help activate it. People with impaired eIF5A or hypusine modification enzymes exhibit developmental

delays, intellectual disabilities, seizures and mild abnormalities in facial features, according to a recent study by Park and her collaborators at Columbia University.

“From the very basic science discovery of the hypusine pathway to now understanding its connection to human health, it feels like a full circle,” Park says.

She’s now working to publish her team’s research on new animal models they developed. The mice, which are engineered to express low levels of hypusine modification enzymes or eIF5A in the brain, display learning, memory and cognitive impairments. The animal traits reflect characteristics of patients with neurodevelopmental disorders linked to the hypusine pathway.

The animal models that Park leaves behind could help scientists find and test potential therapeutic compounds for these disorders. Her lifelong research findings could also serve as a foundation for studies to develop cancer interventions. Based on the pathway’s important role in tumor formation, reducing its activity could curtail the growth of cancer cells.

While pioneering science at the lab bench, Park also has been a leading figure among the Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities and women scientists at NIH. She served as president of the NIH Korean Scientists Association and the NIH chapter of the Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering group, providing opportunities for collaboration and guidance in career development to a new generation of scientists.

“Science is exciting and being a scientist is a 24-7 calling,” says Park. “It’s always in my brain and I even dream about it.”

While she welcomes the change of pace retirement brings, Park is not walking away entirely. She will serve as a special volunteer at NIH, following the latest scientific developments and providing her expertise to collaborators.

“Because of NIH’s support, I was able to blossom as a scientist and carry out my ideas,” Park concludes. “NIH is probably the best place in the world for scientists to get training, if they’re willing to work hard.”

New Member Spotlight: Dr. Manami Bhattacharya



Dr. Manami Bhattacharya is a post-doctoral fellow in the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), a multidisciplinary training program focused on cancer control and prevention research. She holds a doctorate in public health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has spent most of her training working on and learning about issues of health equity from a structural standpoint. She currently works in inequities in cancer outcomes, especially in breast and cervical cancers, and is interested in racial and ethnic disparities, disparities in immigrant populations, and people with mental illnesses. She is particularly interested in quality of care and quality of life disparities in these populations. She has just begun her four-year fellowship in June and is new to the NCI. At FAPAC, she will be assisting with the 2021 Future Star program.

New Member Spotlight: Dr. Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava



Dr. Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava joined NCATS' [Division of Clinical Innovation \(DCI\)](#) in November 2017. She oversees and provides programmatic direction and management for several [Clinical and Translational Science Awards \(CTSA\) Program](#) hubs. She also serves as the NCATS lead on the national CTSA Program Lifespan Domain Task Force that focusses on integrating translational science across the entire lifespan to attain improvements in health for all and promotes collaboration among more than 50 CTSA Program hubs. She represents NCATS on the Federal Working Group on Dietary Supplements, the Trans-NIH Coordinating Committee for Lymphatic Research and is a member of the Trans-NIH FDA Medical Devices Research Interest Group. Before joining the DCI, since 2006, Gopal-Srivastava was the Director

of the Extramural Research Program in the Office of Rare Diseases Research where she led and provided scientific & programmatic oversight and coordination to the [Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network \(RDCRN\)](#)— a multidisciplinary national program. RDCRN program is a collaborative effort with ten NIH Institutes. In addition, as NCATS representative she collaborated with the FDA on Medical Device Needs Assessment Project.

Dr. Gopal-Srivastava has worked at NIH since 1989 and has a diverse background in rare diseases, biochemistry, molecular biology, and basic and translational research. Her experience includes conducting and overseeing basic and translational research, managing extramural research programs, conducting scientific review of research grant applications, managing public-private partnerships, and leading and facilitating trans-NIH collaborations. She joined NIH as a laboratory researcher at the National Eye Institute and studied transcriptional regulation of alphaB Crystallin in various tissues, and in 1998 was appointed as a health scientist administrator at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In 2003, she became a program director for a national translational research program, Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE), for breast cancer research in the Office of Director at NCI. She also managed a special program for the Avon Foundation–NCI partnership to support clinical research in breast cancer through the SPORE Program.

Gopal-Srivastava holds a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a past recipient of the Virginia Commonwealth fellowship and has received a research fellowship from the U.S. National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

She has served as the President of NIH Asian Pacific American Organization (APAO) from 2008 to 2010 as well as served twice as the Chairperson, Education and Awards Committee and a Council Member for NIH APAO.

Gopal-Srivastava has received numerous NIH Individual Merit Awards. She also has received recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for outstanding community services and NIH's Asian Pacific Islander American Organization's outstanding achievement award for excellence in science. She is an advocate for women in science and recently has been interviewed for the "Women of Color Scientists at NIH" and featured and showcased in "Women in Science at the National Institutes of Health 2007-2008." Gopal-Srivastava has served as a keynote speaker at many national and international conferences. In addition, since 2016 she is the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the new journal "Translational Science of Rare Diseases" (IOS Press).



FAPAC Headlines



Professional Interests: Gopal-Srivastava is focused on clinical and translational science research and in bringing more and better treatments faster to more patients, especially to rare disease patients. She enjoys helping younger generation in providing guidance to develop their careers.

New Member Spotlight: Dr. Anita Yu Szajek



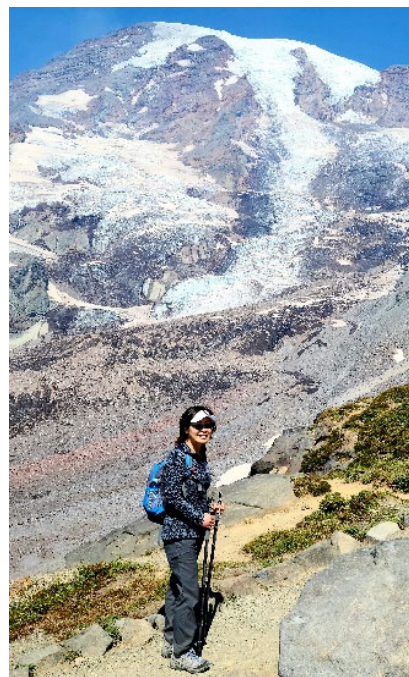
Scientific Review Officer
Biological Chemistry and Macromolecular Biophysics (BCMB) IRG
Division of Basic and Integrative Biological Sciences (DBIB)
Center for Scientific Review

Telephone: 301-827-6276
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Dr. Anita Y. Szajek serves as the Scientific Review Officer (SRO) for Center for Scientific Review's (CSR) Synthetic and Biological Chemistry A (SBCA) study section. She is responsible for reviewing grant applications in the areas of chemical synthesis and chemical biology research that may contribute to advances in biology and medicine, either at a fundamental or applied level. Areas reviewed by SBCA study section include synthetic methodology development, nucleic acid chemistry, carbohydrate chemistry, medicinal chemistry, supramolecular chemistry, and the chemistry of metals.

Dr. Szajek received her Ph.D. in bioinorganic chemistry from University of Wisconsin in Madison, and she did postdoctoral work at Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals and NIH National Cancer Institute on matrix metalloproteinases. She then joined Emergent BioSolutions as a scientist working to develop diagnostics, vaccines and pharmaceuticals for chronic bacterial infections and infectious diseases. She subsequently joined Human Genome Sciences as a senior scientist focused on purification process development activities, scale-up and analytical assay development from preclinical to Phase III. Dr. Szajek next moved to United States Pharmacopeia, where she served as a principal scientific liaison for over 10 years. She worked closely with FDA and WHO to develop public standards for heparins, blood products, proteins, and synthetic peptides.

An avid hiker, Dr. Szajek loves the US National Parks and goes on a couple of hiking trips per year. Other hobbies include baking (especially yeast breads), reading and traveling.



New Member Spotlight: Christa Lin Zamora



Work Number: 602-603-8507

Email: christa.zamora@hhs.gov

Christa Lin Zamora is a Supervisory Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Phoenix, Arizona. In that capacity, she adjudicates the third level of appeal of Medicare denials. Prior to that, she was an Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration and a Supervisory Administrative Judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She began her law career in American Samoa, where she had the privilege of representing a class action of 250 Vietnamese- and Chinese- foreign nationals who had been trafficked to work in a sweatshop. It was the first class-action lawsuit in American Samoa. Subsequently, the Department of Justice prosecuted the sweatshop owner, in what was the largest ever human trafficking prosecution.

Christa's parents immigrated from Taiwan to the United States. She was born in Alabama and raised in the suburbs of Houston, Texas. She has an older brother. Although he passed away in 2018, he continues to play an integral part in shaping Christa to who she is today.

Christa is married, with two children. Now that she is a parent, she is even more appreciative of and grateful for the sacrifices and risks that her own parents made.

Christa is a graduate of University of California at Berkeley and University of Washington.

Virtual 5K in Maryland

Reprinted from COA Frontline

by LCDR Jen Eng, RDH, BSDH



From left, LCDR Oliver Ou, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Becca Wong and LCDR Jen Eng

Thank you, COA/COF, for sponsoring the 2021 Surgeon General Virtual 5K. What a great way of getting exercise by running alongside likeminded officers. When the Maryland mask mandate was lifted, it allowed a few officers to gather for the first time in a long while. We boosted morale and reconnected with old friends. The Walter Reed Campus was the perfect venue to allow this to happen. What a fun day!

Nominations for 2021-2022 FAPAC Future Star Program



In support of Executive Order 13583 on establishing a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce, Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), including NIH, FDA and Parklawn chapters was excited to launch Future Star Program (FSP) in 2019. This will be the second year of FSP to offer individual mentoring and career counseling for high schoolers to promote professional development opportunities and expand the program across all FAPAC chapters.

FSP is open to all Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) high school students and aims to assist next generation of young AANHPIs for youth internship opportunities, training, and volunteer opportunities in federal, state, and local governments. The FSP program is focused on the development of leadership skills for the individuals and promotes contribution to the community. FSP will help attract the best and talented young generation AANHPI leaders into the 21st century public service workforce, improve workforce diversity, and serve the American people. The first-year program was successfully carried out from October 2019 through September 2020. We are currently accepting the applications for the second cohort. The program is anticipated to run from July 2021 to August 2022.

The FSP is a tuition-free program that offers high school AANHPI students pairing with senior government employees (GS14 equivalent or above) in federal, state, or local government through mentorship. There will be monthly communication with minimum four face-to-face meetings in a year. Fellows are responsible for fulfilling all components of the FSP for successful completion of the program, which includes a community project with all the fellows in the same cohort. Both mentors and mentees should reserve a minimum of 12 hours of individual mentoring sessions. Optional workshops may be provided. The mentor will provide practical mentorship and career development advice for the AANHPI students and assist them in overcoming significant barriers to attain career development opportunities (e.g., internship, summer training camp) in competitive environments. The mentors will also demonstrate typical public service environment to the students, and help the student set higher career goals. The FSP will conclude with a Certificate of Future Star from FAPAC after one year and the opportunity for competing for FAPAC Future Star award presented in May AANHPI Heritage Month.

Topics covered by include the following, but are not limited to –

- How to find a government internship?
- How to communicate effectively?
- How to write & improve your CV?
- How to stand out in an interview?

For more information, please visit FSP website at <https://fapac.org/page-1862288> or 2019-2020 FSP community project at <https://www.covid9teens.org/>. For further questions, please contact FSP Executive Officer, Ye Yan at fapac.fsp@gmail.com. To submit a nomination, please email your parent-sponsor form, a copy of Curriculum Vitae and a career goal essay (word limit: 200) to fapac.fsp@gmail.com. Deadline to mail the package will be April 30, 2021. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.



FAPAC Headlines



FAPAC Announces the 2021 Award Recipients

Congratulations to LCDR Nancy Tian for receiving the FAPAC Uniformed Services Award for the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

<https://fapac.org/pressreleases/10314269>

2021 NIH FAPAC Awards Ceremony

AANHPI Champion Award



Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable

For continuously promoting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community health and supporting workforce diversity and inclusion at NIH

Dr. Howard K. Koh Award for Excellence in Leadership at HHS



CAPT Satish Pillai

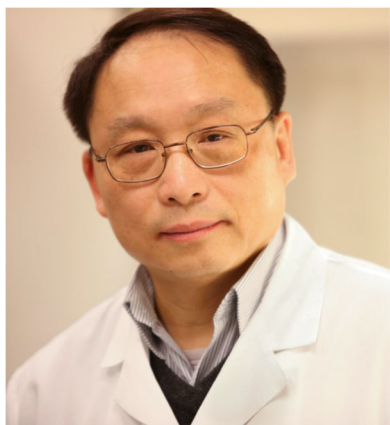
CAPT Pillai is Deputy Division Director, Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections, at CDC. He has served in multiple leadership roles during the past 18 months of the COVID-19 response. He led the CDC team investigating the 1st US domestic COVID-19 case, and led the CDC Task Force for the development of COVID-19 infection prevention and personal protective equipment (PPE) conservation guidance.



Jeff Wu

Jeff is the Deputy Director for Policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within CMS. He served as the CMS liaison to the Covid relief effort in 2020, and the acting Principal Deputy Administrator for CMS in 2021, leading the agency through a full political transition.

Dr. Francisco S. Sy Award for Excellence in Mentorship at HHS



Dr. Zu-Hang Sheng

Dr. Zu-Hang Sheng is a renowned leader in neuroscience research and is an exceptional mentor in training scientists in the AANHPI community at various levels—both in their research and career development; many of his trainees have developed their own careers in academic, industry, medical health, or government sectors.

FAPAC President's Award



Huaying Zhao

For exceptional leadership and significant contributions to the AANHPI community at NIH

Innovation Award



Rina Das

For exemplary leadership in developing and implementing Vivek H. Murthy Distinguished Lecture Series for Public Health Leadership



Flora Qian

For sustainable leadership and outstanding contributions to the next generation of AANHPI community –Future Star Program



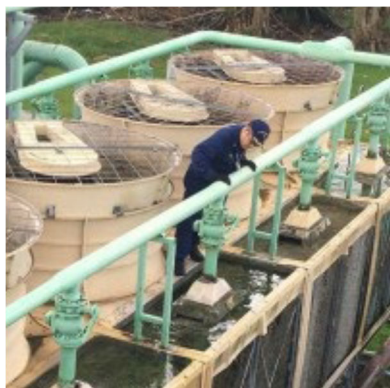
Ye Yan

For sustainable leadership and outstanding contributions to the next generation of AANHPI community –Future Star Program



Caroline Goon

For exemplary leadership in initiating Federated Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Network at NIH



Andrew Yang

For exemplary leadership in designing and publishing FAPAC newsletter HEADLINES at HHS



Christina Liu

For exemplary leadership in organizing AANHPI heritage month observance and events addressing anti-AANHPI discrimination in the workplace



Phuong-Tu Le

For exemplary leadership in organizing AANHPI heritage month observance and events addressing anti-AANHPI discrimination in the workplace



Jue Chen

For exemplary leadership in organizing AANHPI career development and education series at NIH



Catherine Yu

For exemplary leadership in organizing AANHPI career development and education series at NIH



Adelaida Rosario

For exemplary leadership in organizing AANHPI career development and education series at NIH



Dan Xi

For exemplary leadership in initiating Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group at NIH



Phuong-Tu Le

For exemplary leadership in initiating Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group at NIH



Xujing Wang

For exemplary leadership in implementing Dr. Howard K. Koh Award for Excellence in Leadership and Dr. Francisco S. Sy Award for Excellence in Mentorship at HHS



Jean Yuan

For exemplary leadership in implementing Dr. Howard K. Koh Award for Excellence in Leadership and Dr. Francisco S. Sy Award for Excellence in Mentorship at HHS



Anil Wali

For exemplary leadership in implementing Dr. Howard K. Koh Award for Excellence in Leadership and Dr. Francisco S. Sy Award for Excellence in Mentorship at HHS

Service Excellence Award



Joy Liu

For outstanding service in maintaining and managing NIH FAPAC programs



Starsky Cheng

For outstanding service in maintaining and managing NIH FAPAC programs



Edgar Esmabe

For outstanding service in organizing NIH FAPAC nomination and election



Chuan-Ming Li

For outstanding service in organizing NIH FAPAC nomination and election



Melissa Park

For outstanding service in community engagement and networking



Mary Zhang

For outstanding service in community engagement and networking

Volunteer Excellence Award



Jian Yang

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



Dar-Ning Kung

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



Josef Rivero

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



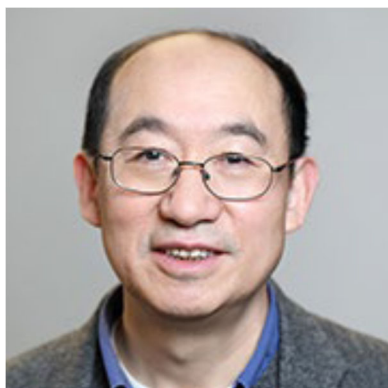
Soju Chang

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



Chunzhang Yang

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



Zhongzhen Nie

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community



Jatin Raj Matta

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community

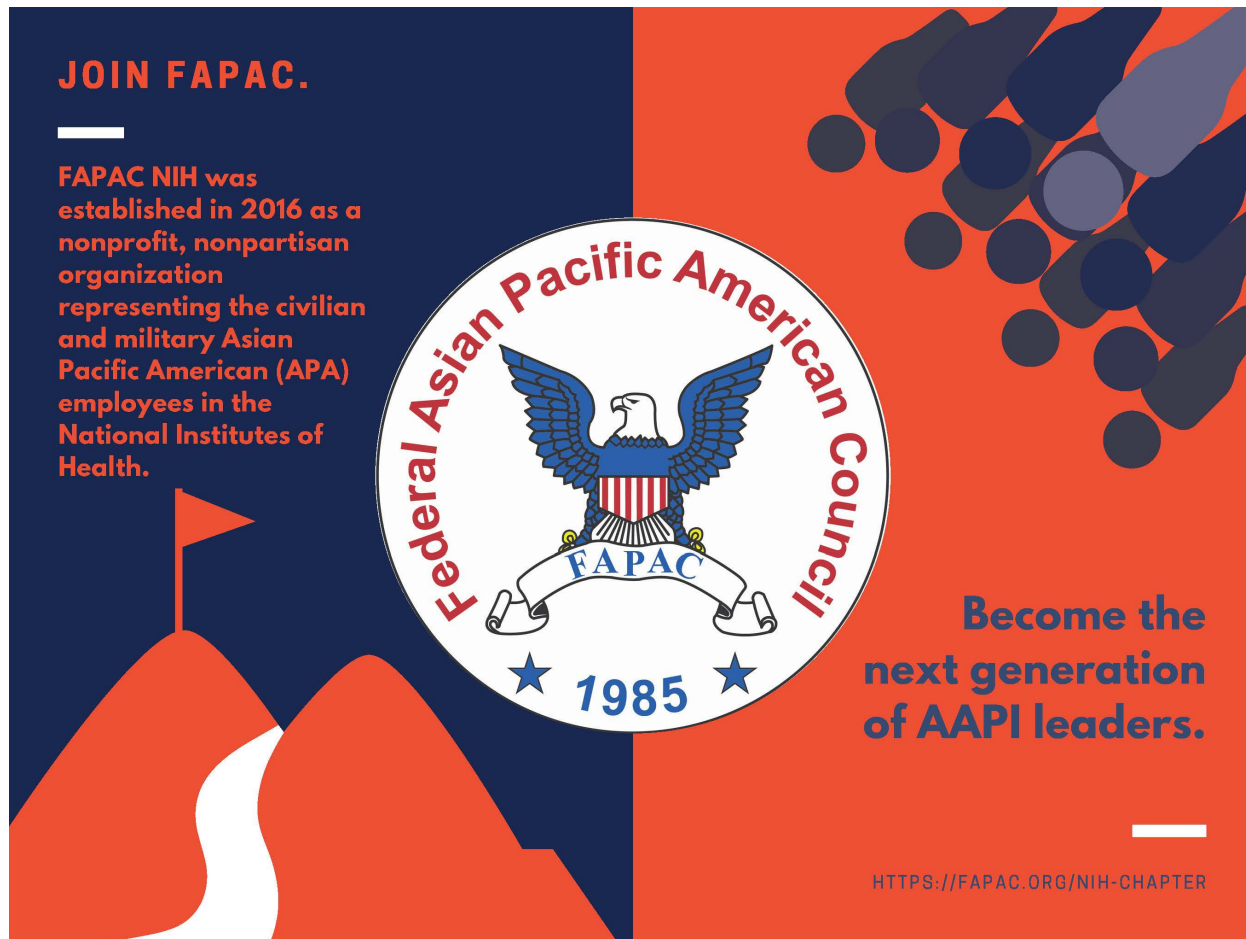


Minkyung (Min) Song

For excellent contributions to NIH FAPAC and AANHPI community

New FAPAC NIH Promotional Material

By Catherine Yu



JOIN FAPAC.

FAPAC NIH was established in 2016 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the civilian and military Asian Pacific American (APA) employees in the National Institutes of Health.

Federal Asian Pacific American Council

1985

Become the next generation of AAPI leaders.

[HTTPS://FAPAC.ORG/NIH-CHAPTER](https://fapac.org/nih-chapter)

The graphic features a central circular seal with an eagle and the text 'Federal Asian Pacific American Council' and '1985'. The background is split into dark blue and orange sections with abstract shapes. The text 'JOIN FAPAC.' is in orange, and the rest is in white or dark blue.



Federal Asian Pacific American Council

FAPAC

P.O. BOX 23184 | Washington, D.C. 20026-3184 | www.fapac.org

THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS.



**Join FAPAC.
Become the
next
generation of
AAPI leaders!**

Who We Are

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) was founded in 1985. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the civilian and military Asian Pacific American (APA) employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments. FAPAC is the oldest and largest AAPI affinity group for federally employed Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Our Mission

FAPAC is an organization that promotes equal opportunity and cultural diversity for APAs within the Federal and District of Columbia governments. FAPAC encourages the participation and advancement of APAs in the Government work force.




Our Vision

FAPAC will be a nationally recognized organization that serves as a conduit through which the interests, issues and representation of Asian Pacific Americans in the Federal, State, County, City and District of Columbia governments are addressed. It will also promote partnerships with the public and private sectors in the community it serves.


NIH Chapter President: Xinzhi Zhang - xinzhi.zhang@nih.gov
NIH Chapter Vice President: Rina Das - dasr2@mail.nih.gov
Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Jue Chen - jue.chen@nih.gov
Catherine Yu - catherine.yu@nih.gov

<https://fapac.org/nih-chapter>

FAPAC NIH Chapter has its own page at FAPAC.ORG

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FAPAC
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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CHAPTER (FAPAC NIH)



Based in Bethesda, Maryland, the FAPAC NIH was established in 2016. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the civilian and military Asian Pacific American (APA) employees in the National Institutes of Health.

NIH Chapter [Constitutions and Bylaws](#).

Recent Accomplishments:

- Hosted and organized FAPAC HHS Forum on NIH campus in 2016 and 2017
- Hosted and organized leadership workshops on NIH campus since October 2016
- Established new Award Committee and Advisory Council for strategic planning in 2018
- Created FAPAC NIH membership recruitment flyer
- Initiated networking lunch series between two HHS FAPAC chapters in April 2018
- 2018 May AAPI Heritage Month Observance with collaborations from NIH EDI, FAPAC HHS Parklawn Chapter, USPHS Asian Pacific American Officer Committee, Association of Asian Pacific Islander Employees of CDC and ATSDR, NIH APAO, and FDA colleagues

PRESIDENT: XinZhi Zhang

VICE PRESIDENT: Rina Das

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS: Joy Zhao

VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA

COMMUNICATION: [Flora Qian](#)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Ye Yan

TREASURER: Joy Liu

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Christina Liu; Phuong-Tu Le

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Andrew Yang; [Dan Xi](#)

NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Edgar Esmabe; Chuan-Ming Li

AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Dar-Ning Kung; Minkyung (Min) Song

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Jue Chen; [Catherine Yu](#)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR: Jatin Raj Matta

ETHICS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Zhongzhen Nie; Chunzhang Yang

AWARD COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Xujing Wang; Jean Yuan

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORKING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Melissa Park; Mary Zhang

FAPAC NIH ADVISORY COUNCIL: Caroline Goon; Jian Yang; Josef Rivero; Soju Chang

FAPAC NIH HEADLINES Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief: Andrew Yang
Associate Editor: Dan Xi




[November 2020 Issue](#)
[October 2020 Issue](#)
[September 2020 Issue](#)

FAPAC UPCOMING EVENTS


[FAPAC 1st Friday Webinar: Life Insurance](#)
 December 04, 2020 15:00
 Zoom Webinar

<https://fapac.org/nih-chapter/>

FAPAC FDA Chapter has its own page at FAPAC.ORG



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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER

PRESIDENT: Nancy Tian

VICE PRESIDENT: Ruiqing Pamboukian

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Daniel Lee

TREASURER: Hongmei Li

AUDITOR: Rebecca Wong

PROJECTS AND RESOURCES

[Future Star Program](#)

[NIH Chapter](#)

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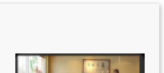

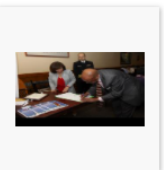
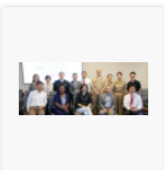
FAPAC UPCOMING EVENTS

[Navigating USAJOBS](#)
September 17, 2020 11:00
(EST) Online Workshop for Current Students or Recent Graduates Only.

[Writing a Federal Resume](#)
September 18, 2020 10:00
(EST) Online Workshop for Current Students or Recent Graduates Only.

[Federal Interview Techniques](#)
September 18, 2020 13:00
(EST) Online Workshop for Current Students or Recent Graduates Only.

4 photo(s) Updated on: July 18, 2020



<https://fapac.org/fda-chapter/>