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P. Kay Coleman

California ACS CAN State Lead Ambassador

ACS CAN National Board of Directors



P. Kay Coleman (pronouns she, her, hers) is President & CEO of Del Mar Venture Group, LLC, an angel investment firm that she co-founded in 2005 to help startups get the capital and management expertise they need to grow in the early years. Ms. Coleman has over thirty years of management consulting experience in strategic planning, business transformation, process improvement, and change management. Her work has covered a broad spectrum of industries including consumer products, energy, financial services, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and educational services.

Ms. Coleman earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and Strategic Planning from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. She received a Master of Science (MS) in Educational and Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English with High Honors from the University of Tennessee.

Ms. Coleman currently serves on the national board of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. (ACS CAN) and as ACS CAN's 2021-23 State Lead Ambassador for California. She is the Chair Emerita of the Society's Southern California Area Board of Directors and served as the last Board Chair of ACS' California Division while helping to lead the transition to ACS' new regional structure. She is a founding member of ACS' Corporate Partnership Council in San Diego, and a member of ACS' CEOs Against Cancer. She received the St. George National Award in 2019, ACS' highest volunteer recognition, for making a significant impact on the Society's strategic goals and mission driven programs.

In addition to her volunteer roles with ACS and ACS CAN, Ms. Coleman currently serves as the Board Chair of The San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center, a partnership between the Brookings Institution, The County of San Diego, and San Diego Foundation. She is the current Vice Chair and Immediate Past Board Chair of San Diego Foundation, a \$1.4 billion community foundation. Ms. Coleman was recently appointed to the San Diego Human Relations Commission. In addition, she is President of the Board of Directors of the Westin Mission Hills Resort & Villas in Rancho Mirage, CA and is also Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas in Maui, HI. Ms. Coleman resides in Encinitas, CA.

Tammy Boyd

Vice-President, Federal Advocacy & Strategic Alliances

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



Tammy Boyd previously worked at the Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and wellness of Black women and girls where she has served as Chief Policy Officer and Senior Counsel. In this role she has overseen the implementation of BWHI's national advocacy program and has led federal government affairs. Boyd also launched the Sickle Cell Disease Diversity Alliance and Rare Disease Diversity Coalition, a multicultural coalition to identify solutions to alleviate the burden of rare diseases in communities of color.

Prior to joining the BWHI, Boyd held government affairs leadership roles at TKB Global Strategies, DaVita, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. She was also Legislative Director for the late Congressman John Lewis, handling Ways and Means Committee issues with a strong health care focus. While in that position, Boyd served an essential leader in legislative efforts to establish the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. She is a member of the American, National, and Mississippi Bar Associations with a law degree from Washington College of Law at American University.

James Williams

Director, Federal Relations- Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Screening

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



A native Washingtonian, James M. Williams, Jr, is a graduate of Fisk University with a degree in African History and Public Administration. He is currently director of federal affairs for cancer prevention, early detection and screening with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). Before joining ACS CAN, he was director of federal affairs for Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, where he helped secure the only branch of NIH outside Bethesda, MD on their campus. Between 1988 – 2011 James served as a top staffer on Capitol Hill to six different members of Congress, including as Chief of Staff to Rep. John Lewis and Legislative Director/Appropriations

Staffer to Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick. He currently serves on over six different non-profit boards with a primary

focus on the differently-abled and recently retired after 10 years from West Point's Board of Admissions. He and his wife Patrice share five adult children.

Jim Knox

Managing Director California/Hawaii

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



Jim Knox has served as the Managing Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), which is the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, since 2004. In that capacity he is responsible for directing the organization's federal, state and local advocacy efforts in California and Hawaii. He has more than 40 years of experience in non-profit public interest advocacy in California. Previously he served eight years as the Executive Director of the political reform group, California Common Cause. Prior to that he worked for the Planning and Conservation League, a statewide environmental lobbying group. Knox has been a registered lobbyist at the

state capitol for 30 years and has directed numerous statewide ballot measure campaigns. He has an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, is a graduate of the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs, and has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Claremont Graduate School. A New Jersey native, Jim has a grown daughter and son and resides in Sacramento.

Lance Barbour

Director, State & Local Campaigns- Health Equity

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



Lance Barbour, MPH earned his undergraduate degrees in Biology and Psychology from Virginia Tech. He then later pursued a master's in public health with a concentration in Health Promotion. While studying for his master's degree in Public Health, he worked as a Psychiatric Counselor for children and adolescents in Baltimore, MD. During this time, he also served as an intern for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network assisting the Maryland and Washington, DC advocacy teams. He and his wife moved from Baltimore, MD to Lake Charles, LA where he served as the Marketing Director for the Vein Center of Southwest Louisiana. Passionate about health and reducing the cancer burden in Louisiana, Lance found his way back to ACS CAN and served as the Grassroots Manager for

the state of Louisiana for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network from 2016 to 2017. He then served in a new role as the Louisiana Government Relations Director from 2017 to 2019. Since 2019, Lance has served on the State and Local Campaigns team for ACS CAN where he has helped to support state teams working to pass legislation in cancer prevention and access to care issues. Lance currently serves as the Director of Health Equity on the State and Local Campaigns team.

Patricia A. Ganz, MD

Associate Director for Population Science

[Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Patricia A. Ganz, M.D., a medical oncologist, has been a member of the faculty of the UCLA School of Medicine since 1978 and the UCLA School of Public Health since 1992. Since 1993 she has been the Associate Director for Population Science at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. In 1999 she was awarded an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professorship for “Enhancing Patient Outcomes across the Cancer Control Continuum.” Dr. Ganz was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2007, now National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She served on the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors from 2002-2007 and on the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Board of Directors from 2003-2006. She received the American Cancer

Society Medal of Honor in 2010. Dr. Ganz received the Komen Professor of Survivorship Award 1999-2000 and was a Komen Scholar from 2009 to 2019. Her research program has been funded by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) since 2001 and she has been a member of the BCRF Scientific Advisory Board since 2012. In 2005, she received the Jill Rose Award from the BCRF.

Dr. Ganz has served on four NAM consensus committees: *From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor*, 2005; *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient*, 2008; and *Delivering High-quality Cancer Care*, 2013, which she chaired, and in 2021 on a Consensus Study Report on Diagnosing and Treating Adults Cancers, a report prepared for the Social Security Administration, 2019-21. Dr. Ganz is a pioneer in the assessment of quality of life in cancer patients and has focused much of her clinical and research efforts in the areas of breast cancer and its prevention. At the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, she leads Cancer Control and Survivorship Program. Her major areas of research include cancer survivorship and the late effects of cancer treatment, measurement of patient reported outcomes in clinical treatment trials, and quality of care for cancer patients. From 2017-2022 she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Phillip Ituarte, PhD, MPH

Assistant Research Professor Department of Surgery

[City of Hope](#)



Philip H. G. Ituarte has been Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Surgery at City of Hope since August 2013. He earned a doctoral degree in Social Ecology from UC Irvine in 1995. His dissertation focused on changes in personal relationships among newly diagnosed cancer patients and was funded in part by an American Cancer Society pre-dissertation research fellowship. He was a postdoctoral fellow in behavioral medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, where he also completed a Master's of Public Health in epidemiology. In 1997, Dr. Ituarte accepted a position as lead biostatistician for an internationally recognized group of endocrine surgery faculty at UC San Francisco Medical School. He moved to UCLA to help establish a new endocrine surgery and

research center at UCLA in 2007 with Dr. Michael Yeh and colleagues. He was granted membership in the

American Association of Endocrine Surgeons in 2011 in recognition of his contributions to this field. His studies include health services research focused on outcomes from surgical procedures and adjuvant therapies for breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancers, thyroid cancer, neuroendocrine cancers, and metastatic tumors of the liver. His work in epidemiology has included studies on the incidence of primary hyperparathyroidism, and colorectal liver metastases. Dr. Ituarte has published over 100 studies, many of which have led to changes in medical and surgical practice.

Loraine A. Escobedo, PhD

Research Scientist

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



Dr. Loraine A. Escobedo is a Research Scientist at the Community Outreach and Engagement and the Cancer Research Center for Health Equity, at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Southern California with a dissertation that focused on the application of geospatial methods on cancer surveillance data to improve cancer prevention and control. As a Senior Service Fellow and a Statistician at the CDC National Center for Health Statistics, she worked on USALEEP (*U.S.A.-leep*), a project that delivered the first-ever, tract-level estimate of life expectancy for the nation that showed major geographic variations at the community level. In her current role with the Community Outreach and Engagement at Cedars-Sinai

Cancer, she works to push invisible health issues to the forefront and guide the Center's catchment area priorities, through a multilevel approach to catchment area assessment. She likes work that has practical applications in the development of evidence-based health interventions and that produce measurable behavior changes and health improvements.

Autumn Ogden-Smith

Director, California State Legislation

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



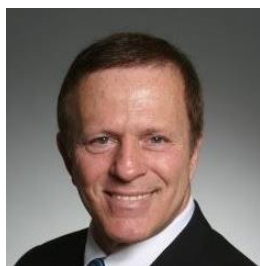
Autumn Ogden-Smith joined the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in February of 2015 as California's State Legislative Director. Autumn brings more than 15 years of experience in the California Legislature, as a Policy Analyst for a local non-profit, California Coverage & Health Initiatives, and as the Director of State Legislation for ACS CAN.

Her combined experience includes health care and human service issues ranging from access to quality care, disease prevention, and affordability. Her time in the State Capitol has given her the experience of researching and developing policy, working with stakeholders, and understanding the intricacies of the legislative process. Autumn holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of California, Davis. Autumn resides in Sacramento, California and has one child.

David Veneziano

Former Executive Vice President West Region

[American Cancer Society](#)



David served as the CEO of the American Cancer Society's California Division from 2006-2012, and then as the Executive Vice President of the West Region, a territory encompassing Alaska, California, Hawaii, Guam, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, retiring in 2017. Over the course of his 30-year history with the organization, David's work has been expansive including statewide management of cancer control and fundraising programs, corporate communications and outreach, diversity plans, and both volunteer and staff development. David served as a member of the Advisory Committee at the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control and Education and even played a key part in tobacco control policy changes in Australia and in Asia.

Punita Khanna

Cancer Survivor & Donor Relations Manager, Westside Family Health Center

[Punita's Biomarker YouTube Video](#)



Punita Khanna is Donor Relations Manager for Westside Family Health Center, which provides comprehensive, high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services to underserved communities. Prior to working in healthcare philanthropy, Punita held managerial positions for over 25 years in business development, managed care, marketing and strategic planning for healthcare organizations including at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, SecondOpinionExpert, UniHealth America, PacifiCare/ United HealthCare and others.

After her breast cancer diagnosis, Punita transitioned to a Second Act career, fundraising for healthcare services and breast cancer research. Punita is a breast cancer patient advocate and an Oncotype Dx Patient Ambassador, sharing her experience in the hope of inspiring others to explore their own treatment options.

Punita's volunteer activities include serving on the Membership and Engagement Committee at the Southern California Association for Healthcare Development, on the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Committee at the Association for Fundraising Professionals, Greater Los Angeles Chapter. She is a South Asian Family Affinity Group Parent Liaison at Brentwood School. She has served on the board of the Southern Asian Art Council at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. She is a past president of the University of Chicago Club of Greater Los Angeles, is currently on the Advisory Council of the Division of the Humanities at the University of Chicago and on the Steering Committee of the PanAsian Alumni Group at the University of Chicago. She is also involved in several Indian American organizations. Punita has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago, an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA and a Fundraising Certificate from UCLA.

Leslie Ferreira, MPA

Associate Director, Grassroots Alliances - Health Equity

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



Leslie Ferreira joined ACS CAN as the Associate Director Grassroots Alliances, Health Equity in November 2021. Leslie has a long career in advancing health equity for underserved communities through tobacco control and working with youth advocates. She began her tobacco control work as a youth advocate volunteer during California's Prop-99 efforts, where as a teenager she learned the importance of using your voice to make change. This led to professional time spent with the American Lung Association/Breathe California of Sacramento and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, where she led youth programs, grassroots initiatives at the local and state

levels and training. Leslie also served as the Chief of Health Equity for the California Tobacco Control Program. In this role she managed and facilitated partnerships with state agencies, community-based organizations, and traditional and non-traditional partners to develop and advance an evidence-based health equity plan. Most recently, Leslie worked for ETR Associates where she directed the Communities Energized for Health project that pursues commercial tobacco-free policies in communities most impacted by tobacco through a broad range of innovative approaches and partners. In these roles, Leslie has brought together vast partners impacted by tobacco use, and translates that experience in her work at ACS CAN. She has received training from the MidWest Academy in Direct Action Organizing and has volunteered with her local Relay For Life for many years with her large extended family. Leslie holds a BA in Sociology from Sonoma State University and a Master's in Public Administration from Golden Gate University. Leslie lives in Lathrop, CA.

Gladys Arias, MPA

Principal for Health Equity Policy Analysis and Legislative Support

[American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#)



Gladys Arias, MPA is a Principal for Health Equity Policy Analysis and Legislative Support at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate. In this role she works to advance public policy that will advance health equity across the cancer care continuum. Prior to ACS CAN, Gladys served as a Policy Advisor for the Mayor's Office of NYC where she led and supported various citywide programs in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH), which serves 8 million New Yorkers, as well as the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (H+H), the

largest public hospital system in the U.S. In this role, Gladys worked to improve health care delivery systems and implement governmental programs and initiatives with a focus on community-based care, health equity and behavioral health. Gladys has also previously worked in global health in Sub-Saharan Africa, coordinated health education programs in NYC schools, and advised healthcare clients across the U.S. Gladys received a Master of Public Administration from New York University as well as a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.