

**APHA 2014  
Speaker Bios  
Session 4359.0  
Define It, Design It, Do It!**



**Gita Rampersad, JD, MHA (Moderator)**

Gita is a healthcare executive and native of Chicago, IL. She oversees health equity initiatives that provide access to comprehensive medical services for underserved residents in IL. Gita is an expert in Hispanic health improvement strategy and is a member of The Alliance for Health, a team of experts charged with executing Illinois' health reform initiative. Gita was the Founding Director of the Blue Island Community Health Coalition, a public/private partnership she formed in an effort to improve health outcomes for a medically underserved region outside Chicago. In 2011, Gita received the Excellence in Health Equity Award at the 3rd Annual Minority Health in the Midwest conference and has since completed the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health, a competitive applied leadership development program offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She holds a JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and a Masters in Healthcare Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. In 2013, the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health appointed Gita to its prestigious Alumni Board of Directors. Gita is passionate and committed to making a difference and driving change.



**Adam Becker, Ph.D.**

Adam B. Becker, PhD, MPH is Interim Co-Director of the Maryann and J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research Program at the Children's Hospital of Chicago Research Center, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and Executive Director of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). CLOCC is a nationally recognized organization with a coordinated, multi-sector and multi-level approach to preventing childhood obesity. Dr. Becker received his Master of Public Health in 1994 and his Ph.D. in 1999, both in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health, and his BA from Tufts University in Medford, MA. Dr. Becker has extensive training and experience in the practice of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and has written a number of book chapters and articles on this approach to examining and addressing public health problems. Dr. Becker was a member of the faculty for six years at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and taught courses in community organizing, qualitative methods and CBPR, program evaluation, and community change strategies. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC), Dr. Becker was the Director of Evaluation and Research at the Louisiana Public Health Institute in New Orleans.

**Fil Guipoco, MA (no picture available)**

Fil Guipoco is the American Heart Association's (AHA) Health Equity Director for the Northern Illinois, Southeast Wisconsin and Northwest Indiana territories. After 13 years with AHA, Fil can count many victories that advance community health. These include: support for the passing the Clean Indoor Act in Chicago/Illinois, the Colleen O'Sullivan Law mandating automated external defibrillators in locations of high cardiac exertion, and funding for "CPR in Schools" in Chicago Public Schools. Fil continues to work closely with a network of volunteers and alliance partners to advocate for Latino health issues. He is a champion of Latino initiatives within the health equity field at local, regional and national levels and has established several successful alliances, including Sigma Delta Theta, Consulate General of Mexico and the Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association. Fil is a recipient of the AHA's Midwest Affiliate Outstanding Health Strategy Award (2011, 12) and received the Hispanic Center of Excellence Award from the University of Illinois, Chicago in 2012. In 2013, Fil was awarded the AHA's prestigious Rome Betts Award. This national award recognizes outstanding staff members for their leadership, professionalism and dedication. Fil's goal is to continue to grow community awareness related to cardiovascular disease and stroke and to increase the number of participants engaged in this life saving effort.



**Scott Ulrich, AICP, CNU-A**

Scott Ulrich is an urban planner who currently serves as the Healthy Places Program Coordinator at Columbus Public Health. In this role, he works closely with other agencies on land use and transportation planning efforts to ensure that health considerations are addressed through a "Health in All Policies" approach. In addition, he oversees programs that conduct walkability assessments throughout the city and encourage more residents to walk and bike. Scott is a regular speaker at national, regional, and local conferences on healthy community design strategies. He has a passion for urban design and placemaking for people and has several years of experience in community planning, active transportation, public space, parks, and conservation while working for the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Scott holds a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from The Ohio State University, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and an accredited member of the Congress for New Urbanism.