

The Office of  
Sustainability & Center for  
Critical Care presents

# **HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**A HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE**

**Oct. 6-7, 2026**

Uniting healthcare partners regionally and globally  
to develop sustainable practices that help protect the  
environment and its influence on health and well-being.

## ACCREDITATION AND DESIGNATION STATEMENTS

Houston Methodist is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Houston Methodist designates this live activity for a maximum of 9.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Houston Methodist is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Houston Methodist will award up to 9.75 contact hours for this activity. Participants must attend at least one session and complete the corresponding evaluation within 30 days. Credit should be claimed only in amounts commensurate with the extent of participation in the activity.



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: A HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE.

This in-person and virtual conference brings together clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, quality and safety professionals, administrators, educators, and allied health professionals to explore the growing importance of sustainability in healthcare. It offers a unique platform to examine how environmental responsibility, economic efficiency, and high-quality patient care can work together to shape the future of healthcare delivery in the communities we serve.

Through keynote presentations and expert-led panel discussions, attendees will engage with critical topics such as integrating sustainability into team building, exploring the connection between environmental health and food as medicine, and examining research on the relationship between our environment and the risk of dementia, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

The conference will feature insights from leading voices in sustainability, along with real-world examples of successful initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact. Participants will also have valuable opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration with peers who are committed to driving meaningful change.

Whether you are a healthcare professional, sustainability advocate, or someone passionate about making a positive impact in your community, this event offers inspiration, practical strategies, and connections to help you lead the way toward a more sustainable healthcare system.



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# AGENDA | DAY 1

| Time              | Topic / Presentation Title                                                                                                                                                                                    | Speaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:15 a.m.         | <b>Registration, Networking and Snacks</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8:45 – 9          | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                            | Edward A. Jones, President & CEO, Houston Methodist Research Institute                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:05 – 9:55       | <b>Keynote Speaker #1<br/>Green ICU Team: Making It a Dream Team</b>                                                                                                                                          | Nicole Hunfeld, PhD, Erasmus MC ICU Pharmacist and Chief Sustainability Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 – 10:55        | <b>Plenary Speaker<br/>Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service</b>                                                                                                                                      | Chris Gormley, NHS Chief Sustainability Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11 – 11:55        | <b>Panel Discussion and Round Table<br/>Food is Medicine: Healing People, Healing the Planet</b><br>Moderator: Ryan Ramphul, PhD, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rupa Mahadevan, MD, UT Physicians Pediatrics Primary Care; Assistant Professor, General Academic Pediatrics Culinary Medicine Instructor, School of Public Health at UTHealth Houston</li> <li>Renee Stubbins, PhD, RD, LD, CSO, Clinical Oncology Dietitian Educator; Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences in Medicine, Institute for Academic Medicine; Houston Methodist Hospital Faculty Fellow, Center for Health &amp; Nature, Houston Methodist Research Institute, Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center</li> <li>Cath Conlon, CEO and Founder, Blackwood Education Land Institute</li> <li>Lisa Miller, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Second Servings</li> </ul> |
| Noon – 12:55 p.m. | <b>Lunch &amp; Art Showcase featuring Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and Houston Methodist Center for Performing Arts and Medicine</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1 – 1:55          | <b>Keynote Speaker #2<br/>Do No Harm: Healthcare, Sustainability and the Power of Action</b>                                                                                                                  | Amy Collins, MD, Medical Director for Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2 – 2:55          | <b>Session #1<br/>Health for All: Designing Healthier Futures for Everyone</b>                                                                                                                                | Eric Corey Freed, AIA, LEED Fellow, EcoDistricts AP, LFA, ActiveScore AP, Principal, Director of Sustainability, CannonDesign                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3 – 3:20          | <b>Afternoon Break &amp; Networking</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3:25 – 3:55       | <b>Wild &amp; Scenic Film Festival Showcase:<br/>Wild About Houston</b><br>This session is not CE accredited.                                                                                                 | Steve Stelzer, Vice President, Citizens Environmental Coalition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4 – 4:15          | <b>Closing Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        | Faisal Masud, MD, FCCP, FCCM, Chairman, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Mary A. and M. Samuel Daffin, Sr. Centennial Chair, Founding Medical Director, Center for Critical Care, System Medical Director of Sustainability, Houston Methodist Hospital                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4:15              | <b>Reception</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## AGENDA | DAY 2

| Time                    | Topic / Presentation Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Speaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m.               | <b>Registration, Networking and Breakfast</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9 – 9:20                | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Arica A. Brandford, PhD, JD, RN, CHW<br>Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center; Assistant Research Professor of Community Engagement Science in Medicine, Dorothy and Mickey Ables Community Outreach and Engagement Distinguished New Century Chair, Houston Methodist Academic Institute, Houston Methodist Research Institute                                                                                                                            |
| 9:25 – 10               | <b>Session #1<br/>Environmental Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Sadeer Al-Kindi, MD<br>Houston Methodist Cardiology; Medical Director for the Center for Health & Nature and Office of Sustainability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:05 – 10:50           | <b>Session #2<br/>Removing PFAS Permanently From the Environment</b><br>Brought to you by the Houston Methodist Research Institute Sustainability Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Michael S. Wong, PhD<br>Tina and Sunit Patel Professor in Molecular Nanotechnology, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Materials Science and NanoEngineering, Rice University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10:55 – 11:30           | <b>Session #3<br/>Air Pollution: A Potentially Preventable Cause of Dementia</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Gustavo C. Roman, MD, DrHC<br>The Jack S. Blanton Presidential Distinguished Chair for the Study of Neurological Disease, Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University, Houston Methodist Neurological Institute                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11:30 – 11:50           | <b>Abstract Winner Presentation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Adel Khan, MBBS, and Farzan Sasangohar, PhD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:55 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. | <b>Lunch &amp; Art Showcase featuring Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and Houston Methodist Center for Performing Arts and Medicine</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:45 – 1:30            | <b>Session #4<br/>Hook, Line and Sink: Examining the Other Half of Health Among Waterfront Communities</b><br>Brought to you by the Houston Methodist Research Institute Sustainability Committee                                                                                                                                                                        | Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD, Associate Professor & Deputy Center Director, UTHealth School of Public Health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:35 – 2:30             | <b>Houston Methodist Wellness Activity</b><br>This session is not CE accredited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Amanda Beaver, MS, RD, LD, ACE-CPT<br>Alexis Shorts, MPH, CHES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2:35 – 3:10             | <b>Session #5<br/>A Cancer Exposomic Framework to Measure and Ameliorate Cancer Burden in High-Risk Populations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Jennifer Cullen, PhD, MPH, Houston Methodist Academic Institute<br>Professor of Medicine, Associate Director, Cancer Control and Population Science                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3:15 – 4                | <b>Panel Discussion<br/>Community Voices Enacting Change: Advancing Health and Sustainability</b><br>Moderator: Luz Maria Garcini, PhD., MPH, Director of Community and Public Health, Kinder Institute; Associate Professor, Rice University, Department of Psychological Sciences. Brought to you by the Houston Methodist Research Institute Sustainability Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephanie Piper, PhD, Board Member, Citizen's Environmental Coalition; Director of Texas Community Resilience, American Forests</li> <li>Inyang Uwak, MD, MPH, DrPH, Research &amp; Policy Director, Air Alliance Houston</li> <li>Maria Hernandez, Founder and Executive Director, Madres Del Parque</li> <li>Tommy Garcia Pratts, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Small Places</li> <li>Telesha Wells, CHW, CHW-I, Public Health Consultant</li> </ul>               |
| 3:45 – 4:30             | <b>Plenary Speaker &amp; Panel Discussion<br/>Speaker and Moderator:</b><br>Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH Inaugural Director, Houston Methodist Safety, Quality & Well-Being Institute                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jason Fischer, MBA, Director, Office of Sustainability, Houston Methodist</li> <li>Laura M. Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM, Pharmacy Administrative Specialist, Drug Information and Formulary Management, Houston Methodist</li> <li>Daniel P. Mahoney, MD, FAAP, Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Inpatient Medical Director, Pediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT); Director, Medical Humanities Program Co-Chair, Texas Children's Hospital Green Team</li> </ul> |

## COURSE DIRECTOR



### **Faisal N. Masud, MD, FCCP, FCCM**

**Anesthesiology and Critical Care Chairman, Mary A. and M. Samuel Daffin, Sr. Centennial Chair, Founding Medical Director, Center for Critical Care, Medical Director of Sustainability, Houston Methodist Hospital**

Dr. Faisal Masud is chair of the Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care at Houston Methodist Hospital and a nationally recognized leader in critical care medicine and healthcare innovation. He holds the Centennial Chair in Anesthesia and Critical Care and is the founder of the Houston Methodist Center for Critical Care. Dr. Masud also serves in leadership roles in quality, patient safety, and sustainability, and previously served on the Houston Methodist Board of Directors. He is a Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College and holds multiple academic appointments.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Nicole Hunfeld, PhD

Erasmus MC ICU Pharmacist and Chief Sustainability Officer

Nicole Hunfeld is a Dutch pioneer in sustainable healthcare. She works at Erasmus MC as an ICU pharmacist and as chief sustainability officer. She is an associate professor in sustainable healthcare and focuses on greening the healthcare sector both from the clinical frontline (ICU) and at the hospital-wide level. She leads three research projects: ESCH-R (about circular hospitals), Greening healthcare together and Zero Emission Endoscopy. She chairs the Dutch Green ICU network and she is co-chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee of the European Society for Intensive Care Medicine.



### Amy Collins, MD

Medical Director, Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth

Dr. Amy Collins is an emergency physician in the Boston suburbs and a leading sustainable healthcare professional. She serves as the medical director at Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth, where she leads the national Health Care Without Harm Climate-Smart Collective. In this role, she engages health professionals in advancing environmentally responsible, climate-smart healthcare through mitigation, resilience and leadership. Dr. Collins speaks internationally, bringing her medical and sustainability expertise to discussions on the intersection between climate change, health and healthcare, emphasizing the essential role of the healthcare sector in driving climate solutions.

## PLENARY SPEAKERS



### Chris Gormley

**NHS Chief Sustainability Officer**

Chris Gormley has worked in the NHS since 2016 and is currently the chief sustainability officer of the NHS, responsible for its commitment to deliver a world-class, net-zero emission health service. Previously, as director of policy, he was responsible for developing and delivering the Health and Care Act 2022 and negotiating the NHS's annual mandate with government. Prior to joining the NHS, Chris spent 12 years working in government on climate and energy policy, including development of renewables incentives, removing barriers to deployment, implementing emissions trading legislation and oversight of carbon budgets under the UK Climate Change Act.



### Hardeep Singh MD, MPH

**Inaugural Director, Houston Methodist Safety, Quality & Well-Being Institute**

Dr. Hardeep Singh is inaugural director of the Houston Methodist Safety, Quality & Well-Being Institute at Houston Methodist, and leads a portfolio of multidisciplinary quality and safety research. His research has informed several national and international patient safety initiatives and policy reports, including from the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization and the White House. He has helped develop pragmatic resources, including the ONC SAFER Guides, Safer Dx Checklist, Measure Dx and Calibrate Dx to improve patient safety in clinical practice. Dr. Singh's recent contributions include system strategies and policy-level approaches for accelerating climate action and environmental sustainability in healthcare. He also helped develop NAM's "Key Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by U.S. Hospitals and Health Systems" and co-chaired the Technical Expert Panel that developed "Reducing Healthcare Carbon Emissions: A Primer on Measures and Actions for Healthcare Organizations to Mitigate Climate Change," released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

## SPEAKERS



### **Rupa Mahadevan, MD**

**UT Physicians Pediatrics Primary Care; Assistant Professor, General Academic Pediatrics Culinary Medicine Instructor, School of Public Health at UTHealth Houston**

Dr. Rupa Mahadevan is a board-certified pediatrician, integrative medicine physician, and culinary medicine educator. Her work focuses on the intersection of nutrition, food as medicine, lifestyle medicine, and pediatric health, with a particular interest in empowering children and families through practical nutrition and culinary skills. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston and serves as a culinary medicine instructor with the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. Dr. Mahadevan develops and teaches curricula for medical students, residents, physicians and community members, integrating nutrition education, behavioral change and hands-on cooking experiences into healthcare training.



### **Renee Stubbins PhD, RD, LD, CSO**

**Clinical Oncology Dietitian Educator; Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences in Medicine, Institute for Academic Medicine; Houston Methodist Hospital Faculty Fellow, Center for Health & Nature, Houston Methodist Research Institute, Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center**

Renee Stubbins, a native of Houston, Texas, earned her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate in Nutrition Biochemistry and Cancer Metabolism from the University of Texas at Austin. For the past 13 years, she has served as a clinical oncology dietitian educator at Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, where she has significantly expanded the oncology nutrition program. Renee is deeply passionate about nutrition research and its medicinal applications to enhance clinical outcomes in various disease states. Her research interests focus on utilizing medical nutrition therapy throughout the cancer care continuum to improve patient outcomes. Specifically, she investigates the effects of prehabilitation and the tumor microenvironment, as well as the use of personalized therapeutic diets to enhance the efficacy of cancer treatments.

## SPEAKERS



### Cath Conlon

**CEO and Founder, Blackwood Education Land Institute**

For more than two decades, Cath Conlon has championed regenerative agriculture as both a science and a story, one that begins in the soil and extends to every classroom, kitchen, and community table. Guided by the belief that education is an act of stewardship, Cath built Blackwood to model a more reciprocal relationship between people and the planet. Under her leadership, Blackwood has grown from its 33-acre Landfarm in Hempstead to include the rooftop Skyfarm at POST Houston, bridging rural and urban worlds through hands-on learning, food system innovation, and hope for the next generation. A storyteller, mentor, and lifelong environmentalist, Cath continues to inspire students, farmers and changemakers alike to see the land not just as a resource, but as a teacher. Her work reminds us that regeneration begins with the simple act of paying attention - to the soil beneath us, and to the communities that grow from it.



### Lisa Miller

**Director of Strategic Partnerships, Second Servings**

At Second Servings of Houston, Lisa Miller leads initiatives that reduce food waste and expand equitable access to nutritious food across Greater Houston. She develops collaborations with retail and wholesale food distributors, grocers, healthcare systems, hospitality partners, nonprofits and government agencies to strengthen regional food recovery and address food insecurity. Lisa helped develop Second Servings' signature PopUp Grocery Store program, which operates at 48 recurring community locations each month, providing a dignified shopping experience where neighbors select the fresh, nutritious foods that best meet their needs. She is a charter member of the National Food Recovery Alliance and is a frequent speaker on food recovery, sustainability, and the role of surplus food in strengthening communities.

## SPEAKERS



### **Eric Corey Freed, AIA, LEED Fellow, EcoDistricts AP, LFA, ActiveScore AP**

**Principal and Director of Sustainability, CannonDesign**

Eric Corey Freed is an award-winning architect, author, and global keynote speaker specializing in organizational momentum and breakthrough design. As principal and director of sustainability for CannonDesign, he pioneers innovative, high-performance strategies to optimize more than 30 million square feet of space annually across healthcare, education and commercial sectors. For two decades, he was the founding principal of organicARCHITECT, a visionary firm that disrupted traditional architecture through biophilic and regenerative design. Eric's insights on design-driven innovation have been featured in Time, Newsweek, Forbes, Fast Company, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, as well as on Fox News and PBS. His career is defined by scaling cutting-edge paradigms; he has served as an executive for major think-tanks redefining the built environment and currently sits on the board of Design Museum Everywhere. Recognized globally for his visionary leadership, Eric's accolades include being named a Net Zero Trailblazer for Innovation and one of the Top 10 Most Influential Architects in his field.



### **Sadeer Al-Kindi, MD**

**Houston Methodist Cardiology; Medical Director for the Center for Health & Nature and Office of Sustainability**

Dr. Sadeer Al-Kindi is medical director of Environmental Health and Prevention at Houston Methodist Research Institute. He is associate director of Preventive Cardiology, co-director of the Center for Computational & Precision Health, and associate professor of cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine. His research focuses on environmental exposures, cardiometabolic health and artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on how air pollution, climate and the built environment influence cardiometabolic disease and how these insights can be translated into precision prevention.

## SPEAKERS



### Michael S. Wong, PhD

**Tina and Sunit Patel Chair in Molecular Nanotechnology, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Materials Science and NanoEngineering, Rice University**

Michael S. Wong's research program tackles water, sustainability and energy issues through chemical engineering, materials chemistry and heterogeneous catalysis approaches. He develops thermal/photo/electro-catalysis technologies to deconstruct molecules, i.e., treat water of undesirable contaminants like dry-cleaning and industrial solvents, fertilizer runoff and PFAS. He received his education and training at Caltech, MIT, and the University of California, Santa Barbara.



### Gustavo C. Roman, MD, DrHC

**The Jack S. Blanton Presidential Distinguished Chair for the Study of Neurological Disease, Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University, Houston Methodist Neurological Institute**

Dr. Gustavo Román specializes in memory problems, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia in the elderly, including vascular dementia and Lewy body disease. His clinical interests include the evaluation and treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease and normal pressure hydrocephalus, with emphasis on the management of brain blood flow problems.

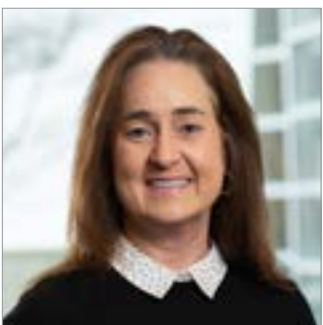
## SPEAKERS



### Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD

Associate Professor and Deputy Center Director,  
UTHealth School of Public Health

Shannon Guillot-Wright is associate professor at UTHealth School of Public Health in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and deputy director of the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. Her program of research focuses on occupational health equity and the use of evidence in policymaking, with an emphasis on precarious employment and environmental determinants of health among low-income and migrant workers. She is particularly interested in investigating how the political economy contributes to health disparities in medically underserved communities using participatory research methods, such as ethnography, photovoice and film. She was recently a visiting scholar in Health Policy at the Robert Graham Center in Washington, DC, and is president-elect of the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR). Her work has been featured in the American Journal of Public Health, National Public Radio, The New York Times, TIME Magazine and Texas Monthly.



### Jennifer Cullen, PhD, MPH

Houston Methodist Academic Institute Professor of Medicine, Associate  
Director Cancer Control and Population Science

Jennifer Cullen is the associate director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences for the Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center. She is responsible for developing a Cancer Prevention and Control Program that will help address the local and regional cancer burden with a goal of identifying high-risk populations and reducing cancer disparities in these regions. Prior to this, Cullen served as the associate director of Cancer Population Sciences at Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, as well as a professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Her longstanding research focus has been on the identification and validation of biomarkers to forecast adverse prostate cancer outcomes with a primary focus on the interplay of biological and social determinants of health that contribute to cancer disparities for a wide range of malignancies.

## SPEAKERS



### Stephanie Piper, PhD

**Board Member, Citizen's Environmental Coalition; Director of Texas Community Resilience, American Forests**

Stephanie Piper works at the intersection of ecology and community resilience, aiming to provide benefits and protection from climate change to all communities. Her research interests include urban ecology, reforestation, extreme heat, and applying science to improve and protect the environment. Before joining American Forests, Piper was a researcher at Houston Advanced Research Center, where she managed the largest single day heat mapping campaign in the US. She completed her PhD in Plant Biology at the University of California, Riverside, where her research focused on urban air pollution and its effects both in the city and in adjacent natural areas.



### Inyang Uwak, MD, MPH, DrPH

**Research & Policy Director, Air Alliance Houston**

Dr. Inyang Uwak is an environmental epidemiologist, public health leader, and advocate whose work sits at the intersection of science, policy, and community health. With more than a decade of experience in environmental epidemiology, human health risk assessment, and community-based participatory research, Dr. Uwak brings a rare and valuable perspective shaped by her work in healthcare, academia, and local and federal government. Today, as research and policy director at Air Alliance Houston, she leads efforts that turn scientific evidence and equity-centered data into public education, advocacy, and policy strategies that protect public health and advance environmental justice. Dr. Uwak holds a Doctor of Public Health in epidemiology and environmental health from Texas A&M University, a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and a medical degree from the University of Calabar in Nigeria. She is also an active member of the American Public Health Association.

## SPEAKERS



### María Hernández

**Founder and Executive Director, Madres Del Parque**

María Hernández arrived in Houston as a migrant 35 years ago. Born in the city of Delicias, Chihuahua in México, María is a passionate community leader and tireless advocate for social and environmental well-being. With a strong background in organizing communities, María has dedicated her life to building safer, more sustainable and inclusive environments for Houston residents, especially in the Gulfton area. As founder and executive director of Madres del Parque, María leads initiatives that transform public spaces into meeting points for the community. Her work includes environmental education campaigns, park cleanups, community garden creations, and collaboration with organizations such as Houston Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Under her leadership, Madres del Parque has strengthened community ties and promoted the active participation of residents in local projects such as the Burnett Bayland Master Plan. In addition, María has played key roles in various organizations, such as the Gulfton Super Neighborhood Council and the Greener Gulfton Plan, where she has been an active voice in advocating for green spaces and community welfare. She has also coordinated immigrant rights workshops, supported families in crisis, and participated in planning strategies to revitalize communities, with accolades including the Texas Impact Enterprise Award, the Houston Mayor's Proud Partner Award, and the 2022 Comcast Agents of Change.



### Tommy Garcia Pratt

**Co-Founder and Executive Director, Small Places**

Under Tommy's leadership, Small Places is a nonprofit that uses high-impact urban farms in limited-resource neighborhoods to provide and foster the tools to cultivate health for their neighbors, regardless of circumstance. Located just east of Downtown Houston, their first farm, "Finca Tres Robles" (3 Oaks Farm in Spanish), centers its immediate East End community striving to be more than just a source of high-quality foods, but a safe, welcoming space to gather, connect and learn together. Tommy draws on more than 15 years' worth of hands-on experience in farming and farm management from his work on farms across the hemisphere. He is also an active resident and member of the East End community, serving on local civic clubs and was honored in Downtown in 2020 as one of Houston's "Unsung Heroes" for the farm's response to the pandemic. A native Houstonian, Tommy is motivated by sharing his knowledge and experience in agriculture with his fellow Houstonians and is always looking to expand his edges and those of his community through agriculture.

## SPEAKERS



### **Telesha Wells, CHW, CHW-I**

**Public Health Consultant**

Telesha Wells is a public health leader, Certified Community Health Worker and Certified Community Health Worker Instructor, specializing in infectious disease prevention, emergency preparedness, environmental health, and community engagement. She has coordinated multidisciplinary public health initiatives supporting emerging infectious disease preparedness through the CDC's One Health approach, working alongside epidemiologists, GIS specialists, laboratory personnel, animal health agencies, healthcare organizations, and community partners to strengthen surveillance, preparedness, and response efforts. In addition to her work in infectious disease preparedness, Telesha brings experience in immunization equity, cancer prevention, and workforce development. She is passionate about building collaborative partnerships that improve public health infrastructure, strengthen community resilience, and advance evidence-based solutions to emerging public health challenges. She is currently seeking opportunities to contribute her expertise to organizations advancing infectious disease prevention, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and population health.



### **Laura M. Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM**

**Pharmacy Administrative Specialist, Drug Information and Formulary Management, Houston Methodist**

Laura M. Blackburn earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 at University of Florida Health Jacksonville and PGY2 in Critical Care at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. After residency, she became the ICU Clinical Pharmacist at HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, was promoted to Clinical Pharmacy Manager, and developed the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program. She now serves as the drug information and formulary management pharmacy specialist for Houston Methodist. As an inaugural member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Environmental Sustainability Task Forces, she is eager to collaborate with other passionate individuals to bring awareness to healthcare's environmental impact and work towards sustainable, cost-effective solutions.

## SPEAKERS



### **Daniel P. Mahoney, MD, FAAP**

**Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Inpatient Medical Director, Pediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT); Director, Medical Humanities Program Co-Chair, Texas Children's Hospital Green Team**

Dr. Daniel P. Mahoney is a pediatric palliative care physician at Texas Children's Hospital, where he also serves as the director of the Medical Humanities Program and co-chair of the Green/Sustainability team. He teaches about planetary health for Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his pediatrics residency at the University of Miami/Jackson Health System from 2010 to 2013, and his Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship at the University of Tennessee/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital from 2014 to 2015. Dr. Mahoney graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2010. His research publications address topics such as children's hospitals and the climate crisis, timing in medical interventions, ethical considerations in pediatric medicine, palliative care in pediatric anesthesia, and methadone effects in young cancer patients. His work has been cited by other researchers, highlighting the impact of his contributions in the field.



### **Jason Fischer, MBA**

**Director, Office of Sustainability, Houston Methodist**

A graduate of Texas Tech University, Jason Fischer launched his career in organizational/leadership development and volunteer/nonprofit management assistance for West Texas nonprofits, schools and businesses. After a diagnosis of a blood disorder, Jason endured a stem cell transplant and recovery from bone marrow failure that inspired a career in health care. Jason joined Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital in 2017, leading the establishment of its Environmental Services Department; developing a network-wide Environmental Services Council of Directors; and launching the entity's Patient Transportation Department. Jason joined the Houston Methodist Academic Institute to develop the Office of Sustainability in 2023.

## SESSION MODERATORS



### Ryan C. Ramphul, PhD

**Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health**

The work of Ryan C. Ramphul sits at the intersection of public health, geography, and data science. His research examines how neighborhood conditions, food access, the built environment, and other non-medical drivers influence chronic disease and health outcomes. Drawing on expertise in GIS and spatial epidemiology, he works with communities, healthcare systems and policymakers to identify opportunities for improving population health. His portfolio includes research and community-engaged projects focused on food insecurity, cancer prevention, cardiovascular health, aging, and public health preparedness. Ramphul has led major food insecurity assessments and community health initiatives throughout Texas and is committed to translating research into practical strategies that strengthen communities and improve health outcomes.



### Luz Maria Garcini, PhD, MPH

**Director of Community and Public Health, Kinder Institute; Associate Professor, Rice University, Department of Psychological Sciences**

Luz Maria Garcini is a Baker Institute Rice faculty scholar and an assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Rice University. Garcini's research, community, advocacy and policy work focus on identifying, understanding and addressing the health needs of historically marginalized immigrant communities from a biobehavioral and sociocultural perspective. Using a socioecological approach and a social determinants of health lens, Garcini's interdisciplinary research is aimed at informing population health and public policy by identifying mechanisms of risk and resilience in the face of social disadvantage and life adversity. By using community-engaged science, biomarkers in the field, and a wide range of epidemiological and mixed-methodologies to study historically marginalized populations, Garcini continues to make significant contributions toward health equity and social justice.

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# ABSTRACTS

- **ADAPT for Climate Resilience: A Mixed-Methods Feasibility Study of a Community-Centered Arts Intervention Operationalizing Green Brain Capital**  
Presenting Author: Ryn Delpapa
- **AI-Enabled Public Health Intelligence for Environmental Health Monitoring: A Framework for Identifying Urban Health Risks and Inequalities**  
Presenting Author: Sarima Chinda, BDS, DHSc, MBA, MPH
- **An Algae-Derived Hydrogel Coating for Vascular Balloons in Peripheral Artery Disease**  
Presenting Author: Gerardo Murgolo, MS
- **Climate Vulnerability Index and Incident Type 2 Diabetes in a Large Integrated Healthcare System**  
Presenting Author: Jad Ardakani, MD
- **Decarbonizing Hospital Operations: Clinical Gaps and Regional Disparities in U.S. Healthcare Sustainability**  
Author: Kelli Fletcher, MS
- **Differential Associations of PM2.5 Components With Incident Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events in a Large Electronic Health Record Cohort**  
Presenting Author: Cathryn Bigham
- **Environmental Determinants of Health: Healthcare's Missing Prevention Strategy**  
Presenting Author: Sarayu Chandra Mouli, DrPH
- **From Measurement to Margin: Building a Carbon Data Foundation That Delivers Positive ROI for Health Care Organizations**  
Presenting Author: Ron Huijsman
- **Greenspace as Cardiovascular Infrastructure: Linking Urban Sustainability and Heart Health Through a Green One Health Framework**  
Presenting Author: Sarayu Chandra Mouli, DrPH
- **Greenspace Utilization and Obesity Burden in Urban America: Multi-City Analysis With Validation in a Clinical Cohort**  
Presenting Author: Sarayu Chandra Mouli, DrPH
- **ICU Care That Cares for Tomorrow**  
Presenting Author: Alisha Estay, MSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC
- **Interplay Between Neighborhood Environment, Hepatic Steatosis, and Coronary Artery Calcium Scores: Analysis of the Houston Methodist HeartScan Cohort**  
Presenting Author: Aditya Siddharth, MS
- **Leveraging Community Engagement Through Webinar Education to Promote Cardiovascular and Kidney Health in Houston's Third Ward**  
Presenting Author: Erika Figueroa-Solis, DrPH, MPH
- **Modular Glucose-Capped Bismuth Nanoparticle Platforms for Safer, Sustainable, and Targeted X-Ray Imaging**  
Presenting Author: Annalisa Crivello
- **Nature Rx: Advancing Patient and Workforce Well-Being Through Nature Prescriptions**  
Presenting Author: Amy Isidahomen
- **Neighborhood Greenspace Visits and Mental Health: Insights from Mobility Data Across Nine U.S. Metropolitan Areas**  
Presenting Author: Sarayu Chandra Mouli, DrPH

## ABSTRACTS

- **Scaling Laboratory Sustainability Through AI-Enabled Monitoring: A Multi-Site Implementation Protocol**  
Presenting Author: Prathyushasai Machineni, MS
- **Secondary Organic Aerosol and Cardiorespiratory Mortality: Evaluating Robustness to Spatial Confounding**  
Presenting Author: Zeju Xing
- **The Hidden Gradient: Ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> Surrounding U.S. Hospitals — A Nationwide Geospatial Analysis**  
Presenting Author: Arjun Jayakumar, MBBS
- **Therapeutic Potential of Dual PARP and ATR Inhibition in ATM-Deficient Breast Cancer**  
Presenting Author: Adhya Kidiyoor
- **Transportation Noise Exposure and Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events in a Large U.S. Health Care System**  
Presenting Author: Jad Ardakani, MD

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## EXHIBITORS

- Ambu
- AmorSui
- Innoviva
- Moonshot Compost
- Schneider Electric

# A Final Note: Building the Community That Comes Next

Over these two days, we have explored the many ways our environments shape human health — and the many ways healthcare can help shape healthier environments in return. We have heard from clinicians and scientists, community leaders and advocates, designers and sustainability professionals. Different disciplines, different experiences and different perspectives, but a shared purpose.

Perhaps the most important thing we can take from this conference is that none of this work happens alone.

Healthy communities are not created by a single hospital, institution, profession or program. They are built through relationships: between healthcare and the neighborhoods we serve; between researchers and community leaders; between clinicians and sustainability professionals; and between people willing to share ideas, resources and responsibility for the places we call home.

Houston makes this work especially important. We live in one of the world's great healthcare communities — a region with extraordinary clinical, scientific, academic, industrial and community expertise. Yet many of the challenges discussed during this conference do not belong to any one institution. Air does not stop at a hospital boundary. Water, energy, transportation and supply chains connect us. Environmental exposures cross neighborhoods and jurisdictions. And the health of the communities we serve is shaped long before a patient enters one of our facilities.

That reality asks something different of us.

Our institutions may compete in some arenas, but there are others in which progress will depend upon our willingness to work together. We can share what works, learn openly from what does not, develop common approaches where they make sense, strengthen regional preparedness, collaborate with communities and use the collective scale of Houston healthcare to address challenges none of us can solve independently.

Imagine what becomes possible when the healthcare institutions of this region begin to see environmental health, sustainability and resilience not simply as individual organizational responsibilities, but as areas of shared stewardship.

That does not require every institution to pursue the same strategy. It requires us to recognize that our individual efforts can become more powerful when they contribute to something larger.



So as this conference ends, we hope the conversations do not.

Introduce yourself to someone whose work is different from yours. Share an approach another organization can adapt rather than reinvent. Bring a community voice into a conversation where it has been missing. Identify one challenge that would be better addressed together than alone. And when we gather again, let us measure our progress not only by what each institution accomplished, but by what became possible because we worked together.

The measure of this gathering will not ultimately be the number of presentations delivered or people who attended. It will be the relationships strengthened, collaborations started, ideas tested and communities made healthier because people in this room decided to continue working together.

Healthy environments create healthy communities. Building both will require a community of institutions and people willing to act together.

Thank you for being part of this one.

**Jason Fischer, MBA**

Director, Office of Sustainability, Houston Methodist

