

MAY 2026

Medicine, Climate, & Community Impact Physicians Leading on Climate Education & Supporting Community

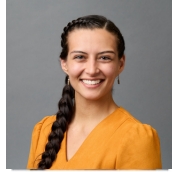
CLIMATE HEALTH EQUITY FELLOWSHIP



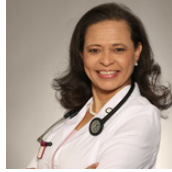
Venise C. Curry, MD
CHEF Associate



Ifeanyi Olele, DO, MBA, MS, FAPA
CHEF 2025



Lala Forrest, MD
CHEF 2025



C. Freeman, MD, MBA, FAPA
CHEF 2024

Psychiatrists, and CAEN Members Dr. Ifeanyi Olele, Dr. C Freeman, Dr. Lala Forrest, and CHEF Associate Director, Dr. Venise Curry, **presented at the 2026 American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting**, for a session titled, "Becoming a Climate-Informed Psychiatrist: Educational Journeys Through the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF)". They discussed how the CHEF Fellowship enhances understanding of advocacy, environmental stressors, health equity, and the lived realities impacting the mental health of patients and communities.

Dr. Olele also presented in the session, "Empowering Psychiatrists to Utilize Artificial Intelligence Sustainably: Balancing the Good, the Bad and the (Environmentally) Ugly", **showcasing how psychiatrists can harness AI in innovative ways to confront the mental health challenges posed by climate change, especially in marginalized communities.**

Dr. Michelle Kirwan, 2026 CHEF Fellow and pediatrician based in Florida, is set **to join the "TikTok to Trust" panel at Health Foundation of South Florida's Black Health Summit 2026**. The session will examine how trust is being rebuilt, one post, one patient, and one community at a time.

BHS26 Health Foundation of South Florida

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

TikTok To Trust Panel



DR. MICHELLE KIRWAN
Board-certified pediatrician & healthcare exec, former CMO of a Federally Qualified Health Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (NHMA)

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DC METRO AREA | MAY 27-29, 2026

HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

2026 BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT
PEMBROKE PINES, FL | JUNE 16, 2026

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (NMA)

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | JULY 25 - 29, 2026

GLMA: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVANCING LGBTQ & EQUITY

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEATTLE, WA - SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2026

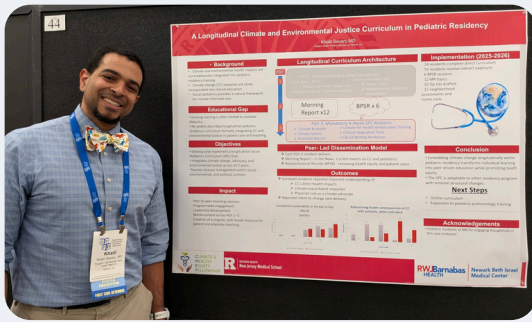
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN PHYSICIANS (AAIP)

2026 ANNUAL MEETING & HEALTH CONFERENCE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2026

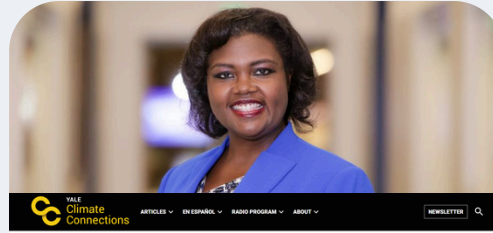


CHEF IN ACTION & UPCOMING EVENTS

SPOTLIGHT: CHEF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (CAEN) COMMUNITY, EDUCATING, & GIVING BACK



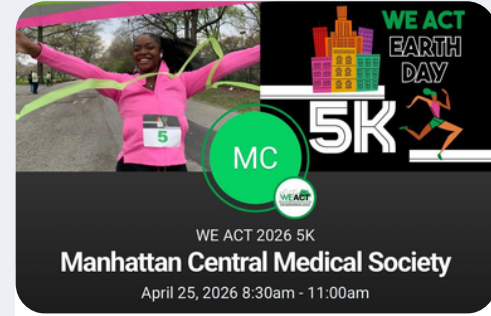
Dr. Khalil Savary, 2025 CHEF Fellow and pediatrician based in New Jersey, **presented his CHEF capstone**, “A Longitudinal Climate & Environmental Justice Curriculum in Pediatric Residency”, at the 2026 **Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD)** Annual Spring Meeting in Denver.



Surgeon warns that climate change can disrupt cancer care

Wildfires, storms, and floods can lead to missed appointments and hospital closures – with life-and-death consequences.

Dr. Shaneeta Johnson, CHEF Director and 2021 CHEF Fellow, **was quoted in an article by Yale Climate Connections**, where she discussed her recent paper, **“The Impact of Climate Change on Cancer Surgery and Healthcare Delivery: A Review of Environmental and Surgical Challenges”**,



Manhattan Central Medical Society

April 25, 2026 8:30am - 11:00am

Individual Fundraiser Leaderboard



DONNA Kiel
\$1,330.00 raised

Dr. Donna Kiel, 2024 CHEF Fellow based in New York, **participated in the 2026 WE ACT Earth Day 5K**, helping to raise over **\$1,300** for the organization.

(CONT.) SPOTLIGHT: CHEF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (CAEN): DRS. AUDREY TANKSLEY AND FERNANDO FUENTES



Dr. Audrey Tanksley, 2025 CHEF Fellow and resident of Illinois, was **honored by Crain's Chicago Business in their Notable Health Care Leaders list for 2026** for her work to **strengthen Cook County through service and leadership**.



Dr. Fernando Fuentes, 2025 CHEF Fellow and pediatric pulmonologist based in Colorado, **was selected Chair of the Colorado Chapter of National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)**



MONTHLY CLIMATE & HEALTH EQUITY WEBINAR SERIES

Join us for the fourth session in our 2026 Climate & Health Equity Webinar Series, which will focus on water and health justice.

Time Zones:

3pm - 4pm EDT
2pm - 3pm CDT
12pm - 1pm PDT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



WASTE, WATER, AND WORTH: THE HIDDEN DRIVERS OF HEALTH (WHERE WE LIVE MATTERS)

**Friday, June 12, 2026
3:00pm - 4:00pm ET**

REGISTER NOW



Catherine Coleman Flowers, PhD
Founding Director, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (formerly the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise)

[Climate & Health Equity Fellowship Webpage](#)

Watch Last Year's Webinars:

<https://www.youtube.com/@medicalsocietyconsortiumon1650/playlists>