

To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

December 17, 2020

Dear members of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, state governors, and state and local COVID-19 vaccination program planning and coordination committees:

We, the undersigned experts and practitioners in bioethics, the treatment of infectious diseases, public health, epidemiology, and criminal legal policy, urge you to prioritize incarcerated populations (also including those in immigration detention) and correctional staff (including on-site health care providers) for receipt of any COVID-19 vaccine approved for public use. We also urge that people in carceral systems receive the same priority for receipt of a vaccine as both their peers in other congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities, and staff working in the facilities in which they are housed.

We also emphasize that distribution and administration of a vaccine to people in custody must occur via a process that educates incarcerated individuals about the vaccine’s safety and efficacy and only when informed consent has been provided by recipients.

In making this appeal, we echo the recommendations made by the American Medical Association to prioritize people in congregate settings, including prisons and jails, within the initial phases of vaccine distribution.¹

Increased Risk of COVID-19 in the U.S. Carceral System

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized, incarcerated people are among the most vulnerable to contracting and dying of COVID-19.² Like people living in other congregate settings such as long-term care facilities, the more than two million incarcerated people in this country live in close quarters, where they are often unable to socially distance and frequently lack access to basic personal protective equipment. Elderly incarcerated people and those with underlying medical conditions are at especially heightened risk of severe illness and death.

¹ “AMA policy calls for more COVID-19 prevention for congregate settings.” Press Releases. *American Medical Association*. November 17, 2020.

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-policy-calls-more-covid-19-prevention-congregate-settings>

² FAQs for Administrators, Staff, Incarcerated People & Family Members. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Last accessed December 15, 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/faq.html>: Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Last accessed December 15, 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>.

A study published this summer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that during the early months of the pandemic, incarcerated populations were 5.5 times more likely to be infected with COVID-19 than members of the U.S. population as a whole, and 3 times more likely to die of the virus as compared to their non-incarcerated, same-age peers.³ Despite dramatic increases in community transmission in the American population more broadly, more recent calculations indicate that the incarcerated are, strikingly, still 4.8 times more likely to be infected than the non-incarcerated and, adjusting for age, 2.7 times more likely to die due to complications of COVID-19.⁴

Outbreaks in prisons and jails have had severe consequences. Since March 2020, around 250,000 incarcerated people have been infected by COVID-19 and close to 1600 have died.⁵ Over the same period, more than 53,000 correctional staff have been infected and over 90 have died.⁶ There is, moreover, strong reason to think that these reported numbers understate the true impact of COVID-19 on the people who live and work in carceral settings.⁷

Ethical Imperative to Prioritize Incarcerated Populations

Most state and federal agencies are in consensus about the need to prioritize for vaccination individuals living in long-term care facilities and other congregate settings due to their increased risk of infection. We are of the firm belief that those living and working in carceral facilities must similarly be prioritized, both for their own protection and for the safety of the incarcerated populations and outside communities with whom they interact daily.

Recognizing their vulnerability, the American Medical Association called for people who are incarcerated and work in correctional and detention centers to receive priority access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁸ The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and Centers for Disease Control have also recommended prioritizing people in congregate settings, including prisons and jails, within the first two phases of vaccine distribution.⁹

³ Brendan Saloner, Kalind Parish, Julie A. Ward, Grace DiLaura, and Sharon Dolovich. COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in Federal and State Prisons. *JAMA*, 2020; 324(6):602–603, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768249>.

⁴ Sharon Dolovich. Mass Incarceration, Meet COVID-19. *University of Chicago Law Review Online*. November 16, 2020. <https://lawreviewblog.uchicago.edu/2020/11/16/covid-dolovich/>.

⁵ Sharon Dolovich, Aaron Littman, Kalind Parish, Grace DiLaura, Chase Hommeyer, Michael Everett, Hope Johnson, and Neal Everett. UCLA Law COVID-19 Behind Bars Data Project: Jail/Prison Confirmed Cases Dataset. *UCLA Law*. Last accessed on December 15, 2020. shorturl.at/jCQV1.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ For a discussion on causes of underreporting see Sharon Dolovich, Mass Incarceration, Meet COVID-19, *University of Chicago Law Review Online*. November 16, 2020. <https://lawreviewblog.uchicago.edu/2020/11/16/covid-dolovich/>.

⁸ “AMA policy calls for more COVID-19 prevention for congregate settings.” Press Releases. *American Medical Association*. November 17, 2020. <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-policy-calls-more-covid-19-prevention-congregate-setting>

⁹ COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. October 29, 2020.

However, an analysis of draft vaccine distribution proposals submitted by 48 states to the CDC on December 4, 2020, reveals that, at present, only 27 states even mention incarcerated people as a priority group for receipt of a vaccine within the first two phases of distribution.¹⁰ In several of those states, correctional staff are being prioritized over incarcerated people – even those who are elderly or have underlying medical vulnerability.¹¹ Similarly, the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) plans to reserve its initial allotments of a vaccine for corrections staff, rather than for people held in federal custody.¹²

We have seen arguments favoring prioritization of correction staff over incarcerated people, offered on the ground that staff are vectors of transmission from the facilities to the surrounding community and vice-versa. But incarcerated populations are not static; every day, in prisons and jails around the country, people cycle into and out of facilities, often transmitting the virus with them. The population churn is especially great in jails, which admit and release an estimated 10-12 million people every year.¹³ To meaningfully reduce the rate of transmission, it is critical to ensure vaccination of the entirety of both the residential and working populations of corrections facilities. And given, as we have noted, the disproportionate risk of death the incarcerated face from COVID-19, as well as the possibility that corrections staff may opt not to be vaccinated, we continue to strongly believe the incarcerated should be given equal priority for vaccination.¹⁴

Even in states where incarcerated people are explicitly identified in priority groups in the initial plans, which are subject to change, we fear that their access to a vaccine may be delayed as states finalize the vaccination plans. For example, contrary to the initial draft plan submitted to the

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf; “National Academies Release Framework for Equitable Allocation of a COVID-19 Vaccine for Adoption by HHS, State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Authorities.” News Release. *The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine*. October 2, 2020.

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/10/national-academies-release-framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-a-covid-19-vaccine-for-adoption-by-hhs-state-tribal-local-and-territorial-authorities>

¹⁰ Katie Rose Quandt. “Incarcerated people and corrections staff should be prioritized in COVID-19 vaccination plans.” *Prison Policy Initiative*. December 8, 2020.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/12/08/covid-vaccination-plans/>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Michael Balsamo and Michael R. Sisak. “Federal prisons to prioritize staff to receive virus vaccine.” *AP News*. November 23, 2020.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-prisons-85361fcf7cda33c7b6afb5ad8d2df8a2>.

¹³ Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner. Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020. *Prison Policy Initiative*. March 24, 2020. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html>

¹⁴ Ensuring Vaccines Work. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Last accessed December 15, 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html>; Vaccines FAQ. *Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine*. Last accessed December 15, 2020.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/vaccines/vaccines-faq>; Bill Dentzer, “Some corrections officers say they’ll quit before getting COVID shot.” *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. December 9, 2020.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/nevada/some-corrections-officers-say-theyll-quit-before-getting-covid-shot-2211129/>

CDC, Colorado has now deprioritized incarcerated people following objections by the Governor earlier this month.¹⁵

From an ethical perspective, we are of the firm view that, (a) incarcerated people must be given equal priority for early access to the vaccine along with correctional staff, and (b) among the incarcerated population, the elderly and/or those with underlying medical conditions, must be given the same priority as their non-incarcerated peers.

Importance of Education and Informed Consent in Vaccine Administration

Finally, all jurisdictions must ensure that distribution and administration of the vaccine to incarcerated people occurs in an ethically sound manner. Every effort should be made to: (a) educate incarcerated people about the safety and efficacy of any vaccine that is made available to them, and (b) provide incarcerated individuals with a meaningful opportunity to give – or withhold – informed consent. In light of the historical legacy of medical experimentation, the inherent reality of coercive control in carceral environments, and the deep distrust many incarcerated people and their families feel towards correctional authorities, careful steps must be taken when implementing the vaccine protocol in carceral facilities to maximize uptake while respecting the autonomy of incarcerated recipients.

As vaccine distribution plans are finalized and recommendations are implemented, we urge you to prioritize vaccination of both incarcerated people and corrections staff and ensure that those in custody are provided with the meaningful opportunity to be educated about the vaccine and give informed consent.

Respectfully,

Leonard Rubenstein

Core Faculty, Berman Institute of Bioethics
Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health
Director, Program on Human Rights, Health and
Conflict
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health Center for Public Health and Human
Rights

Ruth R Faden, PhD MPH

Founder, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute
of Bioethics
Philip Franklin Wagley Professor
Inaugural Andreas C Dracopoulos Director
(2014-2016)
Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of
Bioethics

¹⁵ Steve Staeger. “Prisoners moved down on Colorado’s vaccine priority list.” 9News. December 9, 2020. <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/colorado-vaccine-plan-2020-coronavirus-covid-prisoners/73-aa22c6fa-cd82-4991-94d0-fa3905e5d9a5>; Alex Burness, “Gov. Polis says Colorado prisoners shouldn’t get COVID-19 vaccine before free people.” *The Denver Post*. December 1, 2020. <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/12/01/polis-covid-vaccine-prison-jail-colorado/>.

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Jonathan D. Moreno

David and Lyn Silfen University Professor
Department of Medical Ethics and Health
Policy
Department of History and Sociology of
Science
Department of Philosophy (by courtesy)
University of Pennsylvania

Matthew DeCamp

Associate Professor
Center for Bioethics and Humanities &
Division of General Internal Medicine
University of Colorado

Sharon Dolovich

Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law
Director, UCLA Prison Law and Policy
Program
Director, UCLA Law COVID-19 Behind
Bars Data Project

Emily Abrahams, MPH, CHES

UCLA COVID-19 Exposure Management
Team

Laura Adery

Clinical Instructor
UCLA Psychiatry

Jackie Agboke

Licensed Clinical Social Worker; UCLA
Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital

Maria Aguilera Nunez

Psychiatrist

Ameena Ahmed, MD, MPH

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Dept of
Epidemiology and Biostatistic

Lisa Albert

Sr. Epidemiologist, IQVIA

Ashley Allen

MD, BSN. Emergency Medicine Resident
LAC+USC Medical Center

Rebekah Apple, MA, DHSc

Director, Master of Medical Management,
Carnegie Mellon University

Emily Anderson

Associate Professor, Neiswanger Institute
for Bioethics. Stritch School of Medicine

Sarah Andrea

Research Scientist, Rhode Island Hospital

Jason Andrews

Associate Professor, Infectious Diseases,
Stanford University

Dallas Augustine

Research Associate, University of
California, San Francisco

Hadar Aviram

Thomas E. Miller '73 Professor, UC Hastings
Law

Brenda Baker

Assistant Professor, Emory University, Nell
Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Zinzi Bailey, ScD, MSPH

ScD, MSPH, Research Assistant Professor,
University of Miami

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Nicolás E. Barceló, MD
Postdoctoral Scholar UCLA

Elizabeth Barnet, MD, MPH, MS
Assistant Professor, UCLA

Jenna Barrett
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Eraka Bath
VC of EDI, Dept of Psychiatry UCLA

Ingrid Bauer, MD, MS
MD, MS, Primary Care Internal Medicine,
Western Sierra Medical Clinic, Grass Valley
CA

Brandon Beattie
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of
Physician Assistant Studies
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
George Washington University

Leo Beletsky
Professor of Law and Health Sciences,
Northeastern University
Associate Professor, UC San Diego School
of Medicine

Daniel Belsky
Assistant Professor, Department of
Epidemiology, Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health

Chris Beyrer
Desmond M. Tutu Professor in Public
Health and Human Rights
Professor of Epidemiology, Nursing and
Medicine

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health

Robert Bilder
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry &
Biobehavioral Sciences and Psychology
UCLA

Michela Blain, MD
Acting Instructor, University of Washington,
Department of Medicine

Seth Blumberg
Department of Medicine / Proctor
Foundation

Brittany Booth
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Elise Boretz, MPH, RD
Graduate of Fielding School of Public
Health, AltaMed Employee

Elizabeth M. Bounds
Associate Professor of Christian Ethics,
Emory University

Phillipe Bourgois
Professor and Director Center for Social
Medicine, Psychiatry, UCLA

Michela Bowman
Vice President, Impact Justice

Adam Bradley, MPH
Executive Director, Luke's House: A Clinic
for Healing and Hope

Steve Bradley-Bull
Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Anne Brack

Public Health Nurse-Tri-County Health
Department
Nursing Care Coordinator for HCP: A
Program for Children & Youth with Special
Health Care Needs
Case Manager for Covid-19 Response on the
Community Service Branch

Harold Braswell

Associate Professor, Health Care Ethics,
Saint Louis University

Lauren Brinkley-Rubenstein

Co-Founder of the COVID Prison Project,
Assistant Professor

Liza Buchbinder

Physician Diplomat, Department of
Medicine, UCLA

Vanessa Burnett

Michigan Public Health Institute

Alda Caan

Attorney and Strategist

Xavier Cagigas

Assistant Clinical Professor
UCLA Department of Psychiatry &
Biobehavioral Sciences

Drew Cameron

Assistant Professor of Public Health, Yale
School of Public Health

Stephanie Solomon Cargill

Associate Professor of Health Care Ethics
Saint Louis University

David Carlson

UCLA Psychiatry

Leahjo Carnine, PA-C

Lane County Community Health Center

Enrico Castillo

Assistant Professor, UCLA Psychiatry

Mary Ann Castle, Ph.D.

Senior Associate, Planning Alternatives for
Change

Helen Chapple

Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies,
Creighton University

Jagpreet Chhatwal

Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical
School
Associate Director, Institute for Technology
Assessment, Massachusetts General
Hospital

Katherine Chen

Physician, UCLA

Lisa Chin

Lecturer, Department of Public Health
SUNY Old Westbury

Rose Chuang

Pediatric Resident, University of California
Los Angeles

Alexander Chyorny, MD,

FACP Clinical Assistant Professor
(Affiliated), Stanford University School of
Medicine

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Bobby Cohen

New York City Board of Correction

Mardge Cohen

Practicing Physician at Boston Health Care
for the Homeless Program

Jennifer Cohenmehr, MD

MD, UCLA Psychiatry

Megan Comfort

Department of Medicine, UCSF

Corey Costantino, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Tulane University Department of Medicine

Francis Coughlin

Berkshire Medical Center, Emergency
Department Physician

Rabbi Jonathan Crane

Raymond F. Schinazi Scholar in Bioethics
and Jewish Thought, Center for Ethics
Professor of Medicine
Professor of Religion
Emory University

Rebecca Crowder

Epidemiologist, Research Data Analyst,
Center for Tuberculosis
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care
Medicine, University of California San
Francisco

Terry Cummings, MD

Clinical Associate Professor Pediatrics and
Medicine
Tulane Medical School

Emily Dauria

Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Juvenile Justice
Behavioral Health Research Lab
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences
University of California San Francisco

Kelly Dedel

Director, One in 37 Research, Inc.

Crystal Deedas

UCLA Pediatric Resident

Michele Deitch

Distinguished Senior Lecturer,
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
and UT School of Law
Director, COVID, Corrections, and
Oversight Project
The University of Texas at Austin

Kazandra De La Torre, MD, MPH

UCLA Psychiatry

Sharon Desmond

Associate Professor, School of Public
Health, University of Maryland

Thomas Dieringer, MD

Infectious Diseases Fellow
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Rochelle Dicker

Professor of Surgery and Anesthesia
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Laurie Dill, MD

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Medical Advocacy and Outreach in
Montgomery, AL

Kelly Dineen

Associate Professor of Law & Director,
Health Law Program, Creighton University

Gregory Dober

Adjunct Professor - Biomedical Ethics, Lake
Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Rebecca Dudovitz

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Gabriel Eber

JD, MPH, Senior Associate, Dept. of
Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

Lauren-Brooke Eisen

Director of the Justice Program, Brennan
Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

Amanda Emerson

Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and
Health Studies, University of
Missouri-Kansas City

Cathy Emrick

Chapel Hill Center For AIDS Research,
UNC

Jennifer Toller Erausquin Ph.D., MPH

Associate Professor of Public Health, UNC
Greensboro

Jasper Estabillo

Postdoctoral Scholar, UCLA Department of
Psychology

Clinical Instructor + Postdoctoral Clinical
Psychology Fellow, UCLA Semel Institute

Alex Fauer

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Clinician
Scholars Program and David Geffen School
of Medicine at UCLA

Joe Feinglass

Northwestern University Feinberg School of
Medicine

Eric Feldman

Heimbold Professor of International Law,
Professor of Medical Ethics and Health
Policy, University of Pennsylvania

Kyle Ferguson

Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Medical
Ethics, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Warren Ferguson

Professor of Family Medicine and
Community Health, University of
Massachusetts Medical School

Elizabeth Ferrenz

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine

Jeffrey Fetter, MD

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel
School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Chief Medical Officer, NH State Hospital

Erica Fletcher

Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA Semel Institute

Domnica Fotino

Assistant Professor

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Tulane University School of Medicine

Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division
of Infectious Diseases
University of Colorado, Denver

Joshua Freeman

Professor and Chair Emeritus, University of
Kansas Family Medicine

Greg Gabrellas, MD

Resident Physician in Psychiatry, UCLA

Dennis Dacarett Galeano

Resident Physician UCLA Semel Institute
for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Emily Galpern

Public Health Consultant, Emily Galpern
Consulting

Katherine Gandert, MD

Pediatrics Resident
Tulane-Ochsner Pediatrics

Cambria Garell

Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Adriana Garriga-Lopez

Associate Professor of Anthropology at
Kalamazoo College

H. Jack Geger, MD, MSc.

Arthur C. Logan Professor Emeritus of
Community Medicine, City University of
New York Medical School

Jonathan Giftos, MD, AAHIVS

Medical Director, Addiction Medicine &
Drug User Health, Project Renewal, Inc.
Former Medical Director, Opioid Treatment
Program, Correctional Health Services
(Rikers)
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Alexa Gips

Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
and Palliative Medicine, University of
Colorado School of Medicine

Marcia Glass

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine

Jason Glenn

Associate Professor, Department of History
and Philosophy of Medicine, University of
Kansas Medical Center

Eli Godwin

Clinical Research Specialist, Boston
Children's Hospital, Boston MA

Tracy Goen

Medical Director, Buncombe County
Detention Facility

Sara Goering

Professor of Philosophy/Program on Ethics
University of Washington

Daniel Goldstein, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, M.P.H. in Public Health
Practice program
The University of Massachusetts Amherst

Ian Gold, MD

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Tulane University Internal Medicine &
Psychiatry Residency

Cynthia Golembeski

NJ Public Health Association Vice
President; Ruth University JD/Ph.D. Student

Carol Golin

Professor, Department of Medicine and
Department of Health Behavior, University
of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Director of
Social and Behavioral Science Core of UNC
Center for AIDS Research

Gregg Gonsalves

Assistant Professor, Epidemiology of
Microbial Diseases
Yale Law School

Richard N. Gottfried

Chair, NY State Assembly Health
Committee

Nichole Goodsmith

Psychiatrist

Julie Graves

Adjunct Associate Professor of
Management, Policy, and Community
Health, University of Texas School of
Public Health; Senior Medical Advisor,
Nurx

Linda Green

MD, Life After Release

Robert Greifinger

Correctional Healthcare Consultant

Juan Gudino

Research Associate
University of Iowa College of Public Health

Seehra Gurpreet

Child Neurology, UCLA Medical Center

Michelle Haas, MD

Associate Director, Denver Metro
Tuberculosis Program, Denver Public
Health

Amy Hagopian, Ph.D.

University of Washington school of public
health

Mahnur Haider

Instructor of Medicine, Tulane University
Section of General Internal Medicine &
Geriatrics

Laura Halpin, MD, Ph.D.

Child Psychiatry Fellow
UCLA Semel Institute

Rachel Hammer

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and
Internal Medicine
Tulane University

Craig Haney

Distinguished Professor of Psychology,
University of California, Santa Cruz

Nina Harawa

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Audrey Harkness, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Professor of Public
Health Sciences, University of Miami

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Chris Hartmann

Assistant Professor of Public Health
SUNY Old Westbury

Anna Haskins

Assistant Professor, Cornell University

Abigail Hatcher

Assistant Professor of Health Behavior,
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina

Paul Hattis, MD, JD, MPH

Retired Tufts University Medical School,
Former Commissioner MA Health Policy
Commission

Robert Heimer

Professor of Epidemiology and of
Pharmacology
Yale University

Brian Helbig

Resident Physician, LSU-New Orleans
Emergency Medicine

Alexis Hernandez

MPH Candidate
Louisiana State University School of
Medicine

John Horton

Resident Physician
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Marc Howard

Professor of Government and Law,
Georgetown University

Benjamin A Howell

Instructor, Section of General Medicine,
Yale School of Medicine
SEICHE Center for Health and Justice

David Huebner, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, Department of
Prevention and Community Health
George Washington University

Brian Hurley

Volunteer Clinical Assistant Professor of
Addiction Medicine in the Department of
Family Medicine

Nick Iacobelli

Resident Physician, University of
Washington Department of Medicine

Rachel Bender Ignacia

Assistant Professor, Division of Allergy and
Infectious Diseases, University of
Washington; Medical Director, COVID-19
Clinical Research Center, Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Research Center

Andrew J. Imparato

Executive Director, Disability Rights
California

Nathan Jasperse

Resident Physician, Harbor UCLA
Department of Emergency Medicine

Monik Jimenez

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School/Brigham and
Women's Hospital

Catherine Jones, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Tulane University

Felica Jones

Executive Director / CEO, Healthy African American Families

Jacey Jones

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine

Norty Kalishman, MD

Former Chief Med Officer NM Department of Health

Ippolytos Kalofonos

Assistant Professor, UCLA Center for Social Medicine and the Humanities
Attending Psychiatrist WLAVAMC and Core Research Staff, MIRECC Health Services Unit

Lori D. Karan, MD, FACP, DFASAM

Professor of Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine
Program Director Addiction Medicine Fellowship
Loma Linda University and VA Loma Linda Healthcare System

Joanne Katz

Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Patricia J. Kelly

Professor of Nursing/Public Health (retired)

Justin Key

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Grace Kim

Resident Physician

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Eran Klein

Assistant Professor, Oregon Health and Science University

Andrea Knittel, MD, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical Director for Incarcerated Women's Health
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Charles Kohort

Staff Attorney, Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles

Gauri Kolhatkar, MD, MPH, MS

Faculty, Keck School of Medicine

Nancy Krieger

Professor of Social Epidemiology
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Vinay Krupadev, MD, MPA-DP

Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency, Tulane University

Mark Kuczewski

Professor of Medical Ethics, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Alina Kung, MD, MS

UCLA Health Department of Medicine

Terry Kupers, MD

Professor, The Wright Institute

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Margot Kushel, MD

Professor of Medicine
Division Chief and Director UCSF Center
for Vulnerable Populations
University of California San Francisco

Ada Kwan

Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of
Medicine, University of California San
Francisco

Charles Lee, MD, JD, MBA

President-elect, American College of
Correctional Physicians

Susan LeLacheur, DrPH, PA-C

Professor of Physician Assistant Studies
The George Washington University School
of Medicine and Health Sciences

Martha Livingston

Professor and Chair, Public Health
SUNY Old Westbury

Francine Laden, ScD

Professor of Environmental Epidemiology
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Natasha Lee

Chief Resident at Tulane Med-Peds
Residency Program

Ashlee Lien

Associate Professor, Department of
Psychology, SUNY Old Westbury

Weei LoAllen

UCLA/VA Greater Los Angeles Psychiatry

Kimberly Lynch

General Internist, National Clinician
Scholars Program Fellow, UCLA / GLA VA

Kate MacDuffie, PhD

Bioethics Fellow, Treuman Katz Center for
Pediatric Bioethics
Seattle Children's Research Institute

Lauren Marino

Forensic Psychiatry Fellow, Yale Law &
Psychiatry

Marlowe Maylin

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine

Sandra McCoy

Associate Professor of Epidemiology,
University of California, Berkeley

Nicole McDonald

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Semel
Institute

Heather McKimmie

Director of AVID Program, Disability
Rights Washington

Anna McKinsey

Resident Physician
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Sarah Mchienzi

Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical
Pharmacist, University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Pharmacy

Holly Mehr, MD, MEd.

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Reproductive Endocrinology Fellow, David
Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

Cheryl Merzel

Clinical Associate Professor, New York
University School of Global Public Health

Alan Mills

Executive Director, Uptown People's Law
Center & Adjunct Professor, Northwestern
University Pritzker School of Law

Silai Mirzoy, MD

Resident Physician Pediatrics, General
Psychiatry, Child Psychiatry
Tulane University

Seema Mohapatra

Associate Professor of Law and Dean's
Fellow
Indiana University Robert H. McKinney
School of Law

Amy Morgan

Assistant Professor, Department of Family
Science, School of Public Health, University
of Maryland

Juliana E. Morris, MD, EdM.

Massachusetts General Hospital and
Harvard Medical School

Isabella Morton

UCSF, Addiction Psychiatry

Marian Moser Jones

Associate Professor, Family Science,
University of Maryland School of Public
Health

Brynne Musser

Senior Research Associate, Institute for
Perinatal Research, University of Kansas
Medical Center

Arash Nafisi

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine
Olive View - UCLA Medical Center

Samantha Nanayakkara, MD

LAC+USC Emergency Medicine Resident

Alamelu Natesan, MD

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Tracy Nichols

Professor of Public Health Education
UNC Greensboro

Kathryn Nowotny

Assistant Professor, University of Miami

O.Agatha Offorjebe

LAC+USC Department of Emergency
Medicine

Amarachi Okoro, MD, MPH

Family Medicine,
Kaiser Permanente

Gabriel Oland, MD

UCLA Biodesign Fellow
UCLA General Surgery Resident

Danielle Ompad

Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Associate Dean for Education
New York University School of Global
Public Health

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Jonathan Orner

Clinical Instructor of Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine

Brendan Parent

Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics and Surgery, Director of Transplant Ethics and Policy, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Sharon Parker

Associate Professor at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Parveen Parmar

Associate Professor, Clinical Emergency Medicine, University of Southern California. Chief, Division of Global Emergency Medicine.

Carmen Partida, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine
UCLA/Olive View Medical Center

Elizabeth Pathak

Director, The COVKID Project and President, Women's Institute for Independent Social Enquiry

Elizabeth Pendo

Joseph J. Simeone Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Brandon Peplinski MD, MPH

Resident, Internal Medicine, University of Washington
President, Resident & Fellow Physician Union - Northwest

Jennifer Peralta, MD MST

Postdoctoral Fellow
National Clinician Scholars Program
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Michelle Phelps

Associate Professor, Sociology

Amber Akemi Piatt, MPH

Health Instead of Punishment Program
Director, Human Impact Partners (HIP)

Nicole Piemonte

Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities
Creighton University School of Medicine
Phoenix Regional Campus

Ekaterina Pivovarova

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Karyn Pomerantz, MPH, MLS

Retired GWU School of Public Health

Tonia Poteat

Assistant Professor of Social Medicine at UNC-CH

Sreelekha Prakash

Assistant Professor, Clinical Epidemiologist
Stockton University

Collin Price

Resident Physician, UCLA Psychiatry

Lisa Puglisi

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Education

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

SEICHE Center for Health and Justice at
Yale School of Medicine

Laurel Raffington, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of
Texas at Austin, Population Research Center

Megha Ramaswamy

Professor of Population Health, University
of Kansas School of Medicine

Brad Ray

Director, Center for Behavioral Health and
Justice
Associate Professor, Wayne State University

Jim Recht

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Part-Time,
Harvard Medical School

Dorit Reiss

Professor of Law, University of California
Hastings College of the Law, and member of
the Vaccine Working Group on Ethics and
Policy

Keramet Reiter

Associate Professor, Department of
Criminology, Law & Society & School of
Law
University of California, Irvine

Kayla Ringelheim

Manatt Health

Carlos Rodriquez-Diaz

Associate Professor of Prevention and
Community Health, George Washington
University-Milken Institute School of Public
Health

Rebekah Rollston

Family Medicine Physician, Cambridge
Health Alliance, Harvard Medical School

Andrew Rosenblatt

Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow
UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and
Human Behavior

Daniel M. Rosenblum

Principal investigator & Coordinator
Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition (NJ)

David Rosner

Lauterstein Professor of Public Health,
Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health

Ashley Rubin

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University
of Hawaii at Mānoa

Ana Santos Rutschman, SJD, LL.M.

Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University
School of Law

Altaf Saadi, MD, MSc.

Department of Neurology, Massachusetts
General Hospital,
Associate Director, MGH Asylum Clinic
Instructor of Neurology, Harvard Medical
School

Carolyn Sachs MD, MPH

Clinical Professor, UCLA Emergency
Department

Shamsher Samra

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Assistant Professor Emergency Medicine
Harbor, UCLA

Claudia Santelices

Assistant Research Professor, Northeastern
University

Jennifer Sarrett

Senior Lecturer, Emory University's Center
for the Study of Human Health

Jennifer Scaife

Executive Director, Correctional
Association of New York

Victor Schoenbach

Emeritus Associate Professor, UNC Gillings
School of Global Public Health

David Sears, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of
Infectious Diseases, University of
California, San Francisco

Christopher Shamburger

Assistant Professor, Tulane School of
Medicine

Lisa Simon, MD, DMD

Fellow in Oral Health and Medicine
Integration, Harvard School of Dental
Medicine
Resident in Internal Medicine, Brigham and
Women's Hospital

Wendy Simon, MD

Associate Clinical Professor, Internal
Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Sharla Smith

Founder, KSBHI

Mark Soler

Executive Director, Center for Children's
Law and Policy

Anne Spaulding

Associate Professor, Rollins School of
Public Health, Emory University

Don Specter

Executive Director, Prison Law Office

John Steen

Past President, American Health Planning
Association

Marc Stern

Assistant Affiliate Professor, University of
Washington School of Public Health
Senior Medical Advisor, National Sheriffs
Association

Howard Straker

George Washington University, Assistant
Professor, Department of Physician
Assistant Studies, School of Medicine and
Health Sciences; Department of Prevention
and Community Health, Milken Institute
School of Public Health

Paola Suarez

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA

Swati Sudarsan, MSPH

UCSF and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

Kimberly Sue, MD, Ph.D.

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Instructor, Program in Addiction Medicine,
Yale University School of Medicine

Naomi Sugie

Associate Professor, Department of
Criminology, Law and Society
University of California, Irvine

Breana Taira

Associate Professor of Clinical Emergency
Medicine,
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Peter T. Tanksley

Postdoctoral Fellow, Population Research
Center, University of Texas at Austin

Amanda Tanner

Associate Professor of Public Health,
University of North Carolina Greensboro

Brittany Tarrant, MD, MS

UCLA Psychiatry

James Tielsch

Professor and Chair, Department of Global
Health, Milken Institute School of Public
Health, George Washington University

Absalom Tiley, MD

Arkansas State Medical Director, Turn Key
Health Clinics

Mary Pat Treuthart

Professor of Law

Kristin Turney

Professor, Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine

Rodman Turpin

Research Assistant Professor, University of
Maryland at College Park, School of Public
Health, Department of Epidemiology and
Biostatistics

Mani Vahidi

Resident Physician, UCLA/VA

Pamela Valera

Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of
Public Health

Jessica Valluzzi

Clinical Psychologist, UCLA Semel
Institute; Operation Mend

Angie Verissimo

Associate Professor, CSUSB Department of
Health Science

Jennifer Vollen-Katz

Executive Director, John Howard
Association of Illinois

Ashley Vuong

Resident Physician, UCLA Emergency
Medicine

Sara Wakefield

Associate Professor, School of Criminal
Justice
Rutgers University-Newark

Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH

Associate Professor of Practice, Public
Policy Center, University of Hawai'i, &
Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative
Justice

Lucy Wall

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Clinical Psychology Intern, Department of
Psychiatry
UCLA

Emily Wang

Director of the SEICHE Center, Associate
Professor at Yale University

Katherine Wasson

Associate Professor, Loyola University
Chicago

Audrey Watson

Research Assistant Professor, Department of
Public Health Sciences, University of Miami

Donald Weinbaum

President, New Jersey Public Health
Association

Stanley H. Weiss, MD,

Director, Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition
of New Jersey
Chair, Epidemiology Section of the New
Jersey Public Health Association

Alycia Welch

Associate Director, COVID, Corrections,
and Oversight Project, Lyndon B. Johnson
School of Public Affairs, The University of
Texas at Austin; Former Program
Administrator, South Southwest Mental
Health Technology Transfer Center, Steve
Hicks School of Social Work, The
University of Texas at Austin

Natasha Wheaton, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Emergency
Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Joi Wickliffe

Project Director, University of Kansas
Medical Center

Todd Wilcox, MD, MBA, FACC

Medical Director, Salt Lake County Jail
System

Brie Williams, MD, MS

Professor of Medicine
University of California San Francisco

Schuyler Williams

Resident Physician, Tulane University
School of Medicine

Robin Taylor Wilson

Associate Professor, Temple University
College of Public Health

Jenna Wixon-Genack

Resident Physician in Internal Medicine,
University of Washington

Emily Wood, MD, Ph.D.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and
Human Behavior

Moirra Wood

Tulane University School of Medicine

Lee Worden

Epidemiologist
UCSF

Kathryn Wouk, Ph.D., MS

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.

Postdoctoral Fellow
UNC Gillings School of Global Public
Health

Barry Zack
CEO, Corrections & Health, The Bridging
Group

Paul Wright
Executive Director, Human Rights Defense
Center

Alysse Wurcel
Infectious Diseases Doctor, COVID19
Liaison to Massachusetts Sheriffs
Association, Assistant Professor Tufts
School of Medicine

Brian Yablon, MD
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Hennepin
Healthcare, Minneapolis, MN; Assistant
Professor of Internal Medicine and
Pediatrics, University of Minnesota

Seiji Yamada, MD, MPH
Professor, University of Hawaii Dept of
Family Medicine & Community Health

Y. Tony Yang
Professor and the Executive Director of the
Center for Health Policy and Media
Engagement at the George Washington
University

Anna Yap
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Youngmin Yi
Assistant Professor of Sociology, University
of Massachusetts Amherst

Janine Young
MD, University of Colorado School of
Medicine

Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement. To sign on to this letter, please submit your name and affiliation via [this form](#). Contact dewolf@law.ucla.edu with questions.