



ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Educate, Inspire, Connect!

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AVA
@violenceabuse





A Letter from AVA's Chair & President



2023 has been a transformative year for AVA, marked by a renewed energy in defining our identity and identifying the right talent to advance our mission. The board has taken time to reflect on our rich history while actively exploring ways to engage more members and organizations in our cause. This year has centered on honing our product to better connect and inspire professionals committed to our mission. We are actively working to bring new voices to AVA, individuals who will collaboratively enhance our ongoing research, advocacy, publications, and educational initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of violence, abuse, and trauma.

In 2023, AVA hosted 13 hybrid events and trained 2,056 individuals, which is an increase from 2022. The events and professional development includes: Presentation on Hot Topics, discussion and network opportunities through ACES Health Champions, the annual San Diego Pre-con, Regional Academies, the Global Health Summit, and other educational opportunities our members and board offer throughout the year. The AVA Scholars program is an opportunity for professionals to advance their research with advanced mentorship and support for dissemination. We are excited for our future as we continue on our journey through long-range planning and efforts to engage with membership through educational offerings, publications, collaborative research, new committees and communities of practice.

We are enthusiastic for our new president elect, Dr. Allison Jackson, to take AVA into 2024 with her dynamic leadership. Her vision will provide the framework to create professional development and career opportunities for a diverse group of people serving in healthcare roles across the lifespan and advance the ACES/Resiliency movement into medical curriculum nationwide.

As the outgoing AVA President, it has been an extreme honor to serve the last two years. I would like to extend my appreciation and much gratitude to an amazing Board of Directors and my mentors (the original founders) Dave Schneider, Tasneem Ismailji, Marie Christensen, Victor Vieth, Barbara Knox, and Dave Corwin for guidance, support and direction. AVA is a unique organization that builds people up and brings them along.

As the departing AVA Chair of the Board of Directors and the immediate past president, I look forward to serving AVA in my role as a Board Member and to help continue the momentum in the areas of policy, advocacy and publication. I am excited to see the growth of both the board and membership.

Barbara Knox, MD
Chair of the Board of Directors

Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCFP
President



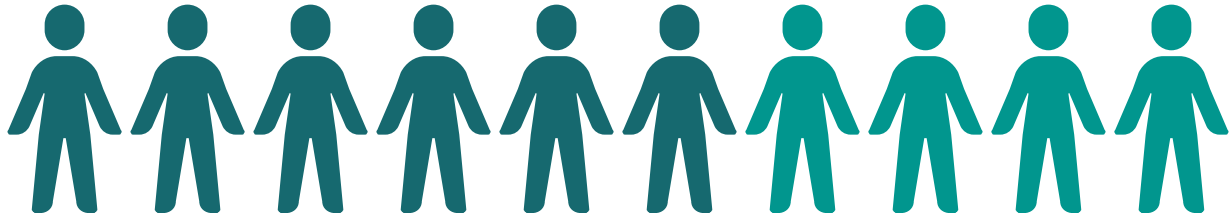
2017 Pinning Ceremony
Dave Corwin, Randy Alexander,
Ginger Meyer, and Tasneem
Ismailji



Academy on Violence and Abuse

AVA is a non-profit, academic, membership-based organization. Our membership includes a variety of health care professionals and individuals who are committed to the mission and vision of the Academy. We continue to expand health education and research and integrate knowledge about violence and abuse into the training of all health professionals to promote safe families, safe workplaces, and safe communities.

OUR VISION & MISSION



VISION

The vision of the AVA is that the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse are fully integrated into healthcare and society so that people of all ages are safe and healthy.

MISSION

The mission of the AVA is to advance health education and research on the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.





This will be accomplished by:

- Fostering and advancing best science regarding the relationship of violence and abuse to health, including prevention, identification, and care.
- Accelerating the translation of developing knowledge about violence, abuse, and health into healthcare practice, education, and public policy.
- Developing and widely promulgating competencies and standards for quality healthcare addressing the impacts of violence and abuse.
- Increasing student, policy maker, and public awareness about the relationships between violence, abuse, and health.
- Improving the abilities and skills of all healthcare professionals to deliver compassionate, quality care to those affected by violence and abuse.



2023 AVA Board Of Directors



Randell C. Alexander, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief, Department of Pediatrics
Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics
First Coast Child Protection at the University of
Florida - Jacksonville



David L. Corwin, MD
Professor and Director of Forensic Services
Pediatrics Department University of Utah School of
Medicine



Shira M. Berkovits, Esq., PhD
Founder & Director, Sacred Spaces



**Peter Cronholm, MD, MSCE, FAAFP, DABFM,
CAQHPM**
Vice Chair for Research, Professor of Family
Medicine and Community Health at PSOM
Director, Mixed Methods Research Lab



Marie Christensen, MD, FACS
Dept. of Plastic Surgery, Park Nicollet Clinic, Clinical
Professor of Surgery, University of MN, Schools of
Medicine and Dentistry(Retired)
Treasurer



Tasneem Ismailji, MD, MPH
AVA Co-Founder
Family Violence Educator/Researcher



Un-Sun Chung, MD, PhD
Kyungpook National University Children's Hospital



Allison Jackson, MD, MPH, FAAP
Division Chief, Child & Adolescent Protection Center
Children's National Hospital Washington Children's
Foundation Endowed Professor of Child &
Adolescent Protection Associate Professor of
Pediatrics, The George Washington University
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
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 Julian Rothbaum Chair for Community Health
 Research Vice Chair for Research, Department of
 Internal Medicine University of Oklahoma School of
 Community Medicine



Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCTP
 Clinical Director for Children's Medical and Mental
 Health Resource Network a program of SIU School
 of Medicine
President



Brooks Keeshin, MD
 Associate Professor
 Pediatrics, University of Utah



Nora Montalvo-Liendo, RN, Ph.D., FAAN
 Associate Professor at the School of Nursing at
 Texas A&M University Higher Education Center



Barbara Knox, MD, FAAP
 Professor of Pediatrics
 Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics
 University of Florida
Board Chair



F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH
 Perry E. Gross, MD, Distinguished Chair in Family
 Medicine, and Professor and Chair of Family and
 Community Medicine
 UT Southwestern Medical Center



Mabelle Madsen Thompson, PhD, LCSW
 Fulbright U.S. Scholar, Hong Kong 2018
 Director Resilience & Protective Factor Initiative,
 Florida State University Multidisciplinary Center



Susie Wiet, MD
 Medical Director, Owner and Founder Sovegna
 Holistic Ingergration Therapy

2023 Student Board Member



Rebecca Rodriguez-Pou, MD
 Child Abuse Fellow
 University of Florida-Jacksonville



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego Pre-Conference Institute

AVA Preconference

ACEs Update: Screening, Case Finding, and Sensitive Inquiry

San Diego Child and Family Maltreatment Conference

Sunday – January 22, 2023 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

The ongoing goal for this AVA Pre-con is stimulate discussion and networking to facilitate the integration of ACEs, resilience, protective factors, and Positive Childhood Experiences for healthcare professionals and others interested in doing this in other human service efforts. The format is brief presentations, of approximately 15 minutes each, followed by 5 to 10-minute discussions after three related presentations. The robust 2023 Pre-Con hosted 18 speakers.

AGENDA

8:00 am to 8:15 am – Introduction to Pre-con, Welcome to presenters and participants – Dave Corwin, MD

1. 8:15 am to 8:30 am - Brooks Keeshin, MD – AVA Board Member, Associate Professor, Univ. of Utah. “Developing and disseminating evidence-based trauma symptom screening for primary pediatric healthcare”

2. 8:30 am to 8:45 am - R. J. Gillespie, MD, MHPE – The Children’s Clinic, Portland Oregon. Awarded 2022 AVA Change Maker Award. “Screening for ACEs, resilience, and positive childhood experiences in parents of newborns”

3. 8:45 am to 9:00 am - Audrey Stillerman, MD, The Center for Collaborative Study of Trauma, Health Equity and Neurology, Chicago, Illinois. Co-author of recent article in JCPM and position statement on screening for ACEs. “Introducing the American College of Preventive Medicine’s Recommendations on Population-Based Applications of the ACE Study”

9:00 to 9:15 am - Discussion

4. 9:15 to 9:30 am - Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCTP, AVA President and Clinical Director for Children’s Medical and Mental Health Resource Network a program of SIU School of Medicine. “Screening for trauma responsive schools implementation”



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego Pre-Conference Institute

AGENDA (cont')

5. 9:30 am to 9:45 am - Dhruvodi Mukherjee, PhD, LCSW and Megan Ragan, MSW, LSW see <https://hps.unt.edu/dhruvodi-mukherjee-phd-lcsw>. Megan is a Licensed Social Worker and Data Coordinator, Sustainability Planner and Trauma Therapist. “Screening for ACEs in Parental Substance Use in Rural Primary Care”

6. 10:00 am to 10:15 am - Jeoffry Gordon, MD, MPH – Retired family physician with over 40 years of experience in private practice. ACEs, CM prevention, child death review, and children’s mental health advocate. "Managing a patient whose screening reveals multiple ACEs in the busy clinic - Who “you gonna call”? Will there be someone there?"

7. 10:30 am – 10:45 am - Mabelle Madsen, PhD, LCSW – AVA Board Member, Research and teaching faculty member in Florida State University School of Social Work. “Screening for resilience”

8. 10:45 am – 11:00 am - Jane Stevens, science journalist, Founder and Publisher of PACEs Connection. “How PACEs Connection can help develop awareness and practice addressing PACEs”

9. 11:00 am – 11:15 - Tasneem Ismailji, MD, MPH – Retired Kaiser Pediatrician, co-founder of AVA, former AVA President, developer, and leader of ACEs Health Champions Network. “How the ACEs Health Champions Network can assist the development of improved approaches for screening, case finding, and sensitive inquiry”

10. 11:30 am – 11:45 am - Ariane Marie Mitchell, MD, PhD, MPH -“Developing improved methods for ACEs screening, case finding, and sensitive inquiry”

11. 11:45 am – 12:00 am - Susie Wiet, MD – Child, Adolescent, Adult and Addiction Psychiatrist who developed the Trauma Resilience Collaborative in Salt Lake City and the Health Resilience Stress Questionnaire (HRSQ), an open access online screening questionnaire for healthcare providers. AVA Board Member. “Update on Health Resilience Stress Questionnaire (HRSQ)”

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch Break

12. 1:00 pm – 1:15 pm - Kelly C. Young-Wolff, PhD, MPH and Carey Watson, MD, FACOG – Dr. Young-Wolff is a clinical psychologist and research scientist with the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research and Dr. Watson is an Obstetrician /Gynecologist at Kaiser Antioch Medical Center. Drs. Young-Wolff and Watson are researching ACEs screening in pregnant women. “Feasibility and Acceptability of Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences During Standard Prenatal Visits” **8**



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego Pre-Conference Institute

AGENDA (cont')

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm – Discussion

13. 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm - Randell Alexander, MD, PhD – “A Child Abuse Pediatrician’s Perspectives on Screening, Case Finding, and Sensitive Inquiry.”

14. 1:45 pm- 2:00 pm - Omoniyi Omotoso, MD, MPH is a pediatrician at LifeLong William Jenkins Health Center in Richmond, CA who participated in an ACEs Aware Learning Collaborative in northern California. “A Primary Care Pediatrician’s Perspectives and Thoughts about Screening for ACEs in Primary Care Pediatrics: Lessons Learned”

15. 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm - Suzanne Frank, MD – Retired Kaiser Pediatrician, now Supervising Pediatrician at School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County. “Screening for ACEs/SDOH, mental health symptoms, and PCEs in an integrated primary care and behavioral health clinic”

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm - Discussion

16. 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm - Robert Sege, MD, PhD is a child abuse pediatrician and developer of HOPE focusing on positive childhood experiences as a protective factor. Wendy Pavlovich, MD, MHS, practicing pediatrician in San Diego and HOPE trained in Boston will be the discussant. “HOPE - Integration of Positive Childhood Experiences into ACEs and resilience awareness”

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm - Break

17. 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm - Video recorded Interview between Christopher Stewart, MD, Child Abuse Pediatrician at Stanford and UCSF and Edward Machtinger, MD, Co-Director of UCAAN

18. 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm - Vincent Felitti, MD – Co-Investigator ACE Study – “How we responded to patients who reported ACEs and comments on day’s presentations”

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm - Discussion



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego Pre-Conference Institute



The SD Pre-Con can be viewed with this QR Code

HIGHLIGHTS





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Regional Academy

A Regional Academy is a collaboration between AVA experts and local leaders to develop a trauma-resiliency informed community. If a local community wishes to host a Regional Academy, the AVA planning committee will discuss the various disciplines that could be represented during the conference and assist with planning the details of the customized training to fit your local/regional needs.

The training the regional academy provides is based on the scientific research study on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for which over 50 studies have been conducted. This event is more about knowledge dissemination and inviting the community leaders to the table to understand one language, rather than teaching an intervention. It is an event to provide a trauma-informed approach and assist with a cultural shift within the medical and mental health community.

Participants gain a level of knowledge regarding ACEs, Trauma Informed Treatment, ACEs and Long Term Health, Biological Effects of ACEs, Increasing Resilience, Trauma-Informed Child and Family Programs, Screening in Pediatric Care and Clinical Approaches in Trauma.

The Regional Academy facilitated by the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) is a very powerful tool to help communities begin the process of understanding the impact childhood histories of trauma have on those living in their neighborhoods.





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regional Academy : Jacksonville, FL

**11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FIRST COAST CHILD PROTECTION TEAM
First Coast Healing Hands
Academy on Violence and Abuse
Monique Burr Foundation
Wolfson Children's Hospital
March 29, 2023**

The conference was a great success. It was held the day before the AVA board meeting in Jacksonville, FL. This combination of conference and board meeting was going to occur 3 years ago – but, 1 week before this could be done, the COVID shut-down began.

The combination of events allowed for 5 Board members speak at the conference and stay for an in-person Board meeting the next 2 days. Other Board members were able to join the Board meeting by Zoom. The Board meeting was held at Randy Alexander's home. In physical attendance were: Randy Alexander, Ginger Meyer, Barbara Knox, David Corwin, David Schneider, Rebecca Rodriguez-Pou, and Connor Mulherin.

The conference was a combination of virtual and in-person. No credits were given. Cost of the event was \$20 in-person and free for virtual attendance through the AVA portal. Lunch and breaks were provided by Healing Hands – a nonprofit associated with the First Coast Child Protection Team.

Registration

Total registration prior to the conference: 512
In person registration: 34
Virtual registration: 478
Actual in person attendance: approximately 25
Actual virtual attendance: approximately 357



Presentations can
be viewed with this
QR Code

Randy Alexander and Barbara Knox



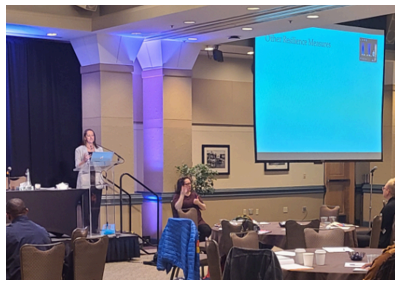
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regional Academy: Washington, D.C.

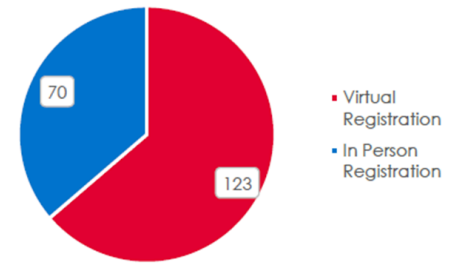
May 4-5, 2023

Dr. Allison Jackson hosted the 2023 Regional Academy, which was held in collaboration with the D.C. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV) and the Academy on Violence and Abuse. The 2nd Annual DC Regional Academy on Family Violence Generational Trauma-Breaking the Cycle.

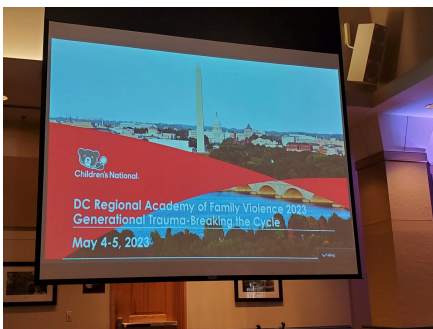
HIGHLIGHTS



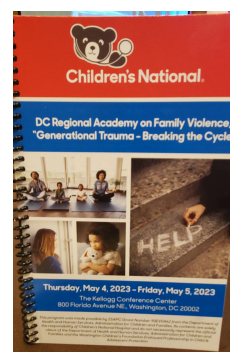
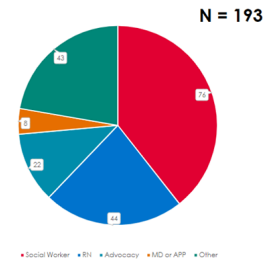
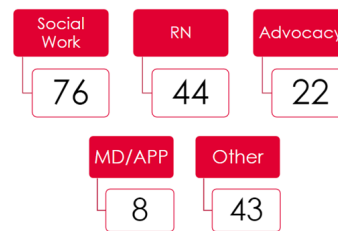
Registration	
In Person	70
Virtual	123
Total	193



Attendance Day One		Attendance Day Two	
In Person	70	In Person	50
Virtual	117	Virtual	112
Total	187	Total	162



Registration Demographics





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit In-Person Board Meeting Salt Lake City, UT

The annual AVA board meeting was held in conjunction with the Global Health Summit and was hybrid model to accommodate all board members.

HIGHLIGHTS





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit: September 21-22, 2023

Role of Healthcare in Addressing Trauma, Substance Use, and Suicide Salt Lake City, UT

The 2023 AVA Global Health Summit provided a collegial environment for participants to meet, network and learn the latest science and practice addressing violence and abuse treatment and prevention. The globally recognized experts as they discuss a variety of healthcare issues such as suicide, racism, intimate partner violence and substance use. During the business meeting we welcomed our new President, Dr. Allison Jackson.

HIGHLIGHTS





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2023

AVA Lifetime Achievement Award

Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN is a Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and a national leader in research, advocacy and policy development in the field of violence against women and health outcomes.

Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2023

AVA Vincent J. Felitti Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award is presented to an outstanding healthcare professional who has made and is continuing to make significant contributions to advance education and research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse. In 2023, AVA presented this award to:

Susan J. Kelley, PhD, RN





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2023

Change Maker Award

This award is given by AVA to honor individuals that have demonstrated exceptional ability to advance the mission of AVA and whose work has a broad impact on our global community. In 2023, AVA presented this award to:

Victor Veith, JD, MA





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2023

Gratitude Award

An additional new award category was developed to recognize hard work and dedication in service moving the mission of AVA forward.

Don Fyffe and Marie Christensen



Don Fyffe

For the meticulous skill, artistry, & creativity you've so generously provided to AVA- Your superb video productions are the Voice of our Mission



Marie Christensen

This award is presented to Marie Christensen in appreciation for her years of devotion and dedicated service as treasurer for the Academy on Violence and Abuse.



ACEs Health Champions Network and Gatherings

The ACEs Health Champions Network strives to build an ever-expanding community of health-focused individuals, organizations, and institutions dedicated to the health effects and prevention of violence and abuse throughout the life course. The Network’s concerns include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), toxic stress, advancing trauma-informed care, strengths and protective factors, and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). The ACEs Health Champions Network aims to share and disseminate emerging knowledge to promote wellness and healing from the health effects of violence and abuse.

The ACEs Health Champions Network has several key goals. It aims to create an ever-expanding, vibrant community of individuals and systems dedicated to promoting health and well-being. The Network fosters meaningful connections and collaborations among health professionals, experts, and champions through regular virtual Gatherings. These Gatherings serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative ideas related to various aspects of the health effects of violence and abuse. The Network strives to educate, inspire, and connect its members to take proactive steps in their lives and communities to improve overall health. By fostering a supportive and informative environment, the ACEs Health Champions Network contributes to advancing wellness initiatives and positively impacting people's lives.

2023 Organizations in the Network are:





ACES HEALTH CHAMPIONS GATHERINGS 2023				
Date	Hot Topic	Presenter	RSVP	Attendance
1/17/2023	"Why Didn't I Know This Sooner?" The Impact of CAST Education on the Next Generation of Frontline Professionals	Betsy Pope Goulet, PhD; Tyler Council, PhD	179	96
2/24/2023	Implicit Bias in Healthcare (In Honor of Black History Month)	Sharon Cooper, MD	407	214
3/10/2023	Conversation with David L. Corwin, MD, Child Forensic Psychiatrist, Who Has Focused on Child Sexual Abuse and Childhood Trauma, Facilitated by Randell Alexander, MD, PhD	David L. Corwin, MD; Randell Alexander, MD, PhD	212	112
4/28/2023	What is child death review, and why should you do it?	Vincent J. Palusci, MD, MS, FAAP	309	116
6/2/2023	From Mandatory Reporting to Mandatory Supporting: Are we throwing the baby out with the bath water?	Steve Baron, MA	404	213
9/13/2023	Dyadic Services in Pediatric Primary Care: A Medicaid Sustainability Strategy for Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention	Kate Margolis, PhD	226	93
10/17/2023	What's New in IPV and ACEs Inquiry and Response?	Carey Watson, MD, FACOG	293	144
11/3/2023	ESCARS: The Future of Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation	Bradley L. McCartt, JD	220	106
12/18/2023	Where the Boys Are: Understanding and Responding to Trauma when the Victim is a Male	Victor Vieth, JD	503	260
Total			2,753	1,354



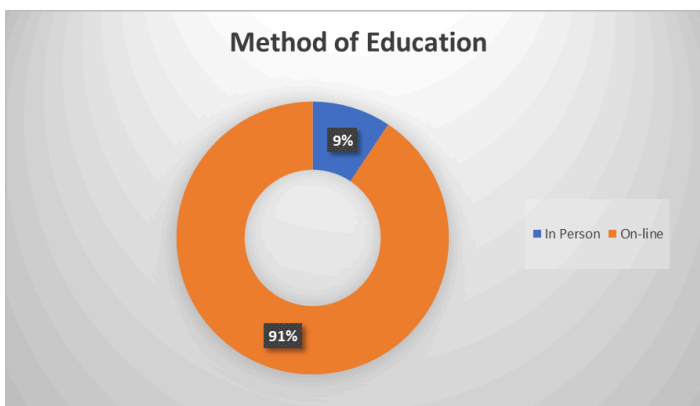
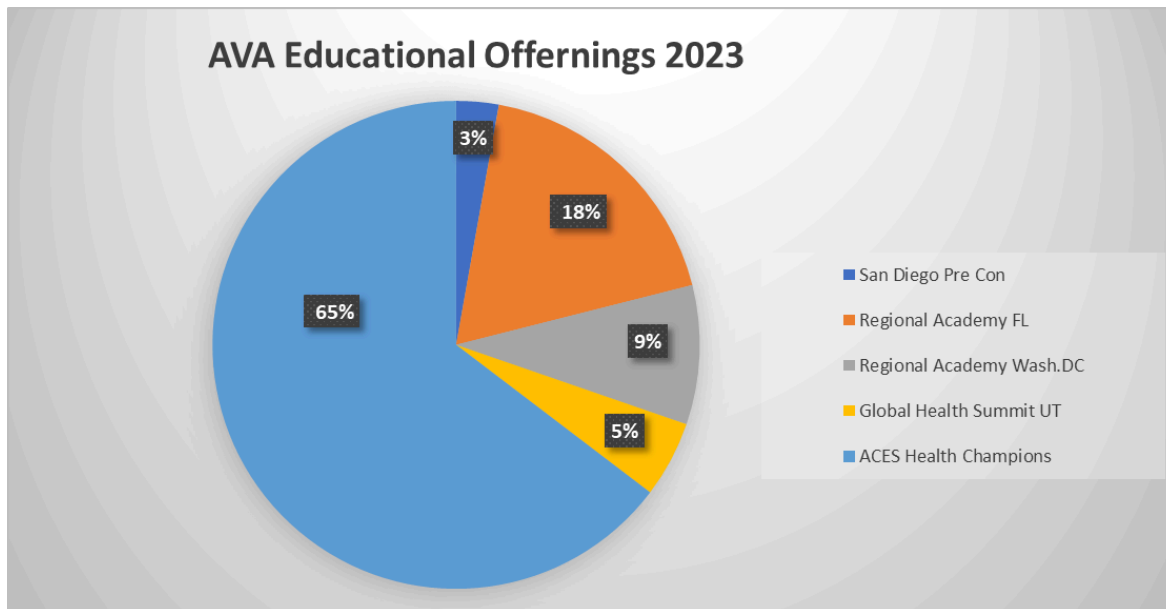
[Scan QR code for more information & full recordings of ACES Health Champions Gatherings](#)





Number of Educational Offerings in 2023

Number of Participants 2023					
Date	Professional Development	Length of Event	Number of Attendees (In Person)	Number of Attendees (Zoom)	Number of Attendees Total
01/22/2023	San Diego Pre-Conference	7.5 hours	38	21	59
03/29/23	Regional Academy- Florida	7.5 hours	25	357	382
05/04/2023-05/05/2023	Regional Academy- Washington, DC	9.1 hours	70	123	193
09/21/2023-09/22/2023	Global Health Summit- Salt Lake City, UT	11.0 hours	63	43	106
See AHCGs page	Aces Health Champions Gatherings (9 events)	(1 hour per event) 9 hours	N/A	1,354	1,354
Total		44.1	196	1,898	2,094





Position Papers, Policies Publications

AVA Statement for Children and War

At AVA, we advocate for the safety and well-being of children and their families worldwide. As an organization committed to the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the adverse health effects of violence and abuse we recognize the profound and lasting impacts of war and violence on children, particularly the detrimental effects of witnessing violence. We agree with the United Nations Convention On the Rights of the Child which states that “parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict” (Article 38)[i].

Children are inherently vulnerable, and exposure to war and violence can have devastating consequences on their physical, emotional and psychological development and well-being. Experiences of violence, whether direct or indirect, can inflict trauma that lasts a lifetime. In the short term, those experiences can manifest in psychological trauma, physical harm, loss of loved ones, and displacement and disruption. The consequences of trauma on children resulting from armed conflict and violence may in the long term include academic performance, social-emotional health and wellbeing, and perpetuation of cycles of violence in their communities.

In times of war, all involved parties should ensure adherence to International Humanitarian Law which requires care of the sick and injured, and access to humanitarian aid. Public and private entities, individuals and organizations around the world must work together to mitigate the harms of war, conflict and violence on children and ensure that they are afforded the opportunity to grow up in peace, safety and dignity.

As an organization, we are committed to supporting policies and initiatives that prioritize the protection and rights of children across the globe [ii] [iii] [iv]. We support efforts to provide access to essential services, including psychological support, education, healthcare, and safe environments for children to thrive.

Resources

[i] UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, 20 November 1989, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1989/en/18815> [accessed 23 April 2024]

[ii] International Committee of the Red Cross. National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law: Documentation National Implementation of IHL: Documentation | International Committee of the Red Cross (icrc.org)

[iii] Sherry Shenoda, Ayesha Kadir, Shelly Pitterman, Jeffrey Goldhagen, SECTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD HEALTH, Parminder S. Suchdev, Kevin J. Chan, Cynthia R. Howard, Patrick McGann, Nicole E. St Clair, Katherine Yun, Linda D. Arnold; The Effects of Armed Conflict on Children. *Pediatrics* December 2018; 142 (6): e20182585. 10.1542/peds.2018-2585

[iv] UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, 20 November 1989, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1989/en/18815> [accessed 23 April 2024]



AVA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Purpose:

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) Scholars Program is a mentorship program designed to improve the ability of junior researchers to conduct high-quality research and to enter productive careers focused on understanding and minimizing the effects of violence and abuse on people's health.

Rationale:

Violence and abuse are prevalent and adversely affect health across the life course. One approach to mitigate the impact of violence and abuse on health is to advance research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse. The number of researchers conducting this work is relatively small, and funding is scarce. One way to improve researchers' success is to provide role models and mentors to junior violence researchers.



Left to right: Doncy Eapen, Em Adam, Malavika Eby, Tova Lewin

2021 Scholars
Doncy Eapen
Em Adams
Tova Lewin



Nora Montalvo-Liendo, PHD, PN, FAAN
Nora is a 2012 Scholar and the inaugural recipient of The Nora Montalvo-Liendo award that recognizes an exceptional AVA Scholar who has made significant contributions to advance research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse. In addition, they have to show exceptional leadership in advancing health and social policy that promotes safe families, workplaces, and communities.



2022 AVA Board and Scholars





2022-2024 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Camille T. Cummings, PhD
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine Campus
Cummingscamille3@gmail.com

Mentor: Randy Alexander, MD

My name is Dr. Camille Tamara Cummings and I currently hold a doctorate in sociology from the University of the West Indies. My specialization is sociology of health. Social research plays an important role in addressing the multiple critical issues and challenges facing society today. The significant contribution that social research has made to modern society since scholars and philosophers such as Durkheim, Weber, Spencer, and Mills advocated for the need for scientific enquiry must be acknowledged. As an academic and budding scholar, I consider myself eager to continue such contribution to the scientific literature and society as a whole.

My research over the last couple of years focused on partner conflict and abuse. I view such phenomena as in critical need of developing evidence-based policy to address it as it transcends all populations, classes and groups. My Master's thesis looked at the health care response to female victims of domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago which utilized a quantitative approach, and my PhD dissertation examined the relationship between emotions, sex and physical abuse in a partner conflict situation. I used a mix-mode approach integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather information on the content and context of the phenomenon of emotions, sex and physical abuse. In a broader context, my research work might help the emergence of new, social paradigms that could improve the design and functionality of social and intervention programmes for both victims and perpetrators alike.

Having obtained my doctorate, my research interests have expanded to include domestic violence and health care, human trafficking, migration, domestic violence and child abuse, community intervention, mental health and special populations. Areas that still require expansive research and new and emerging methodologies as phenomena, population parameters and impacting variables do not remain static and are constantly evolving over time. I have begun to focus on publishing in these areas post-PhD.

Proposed Research Project: "Child Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse in Residential Care Homes in Trinidad and Tobago: The Role of Public Health in Addressing ACEs."



2022-2024 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Jennifer Lee, PhD (Candidate)

PhD Candidate

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Jlee694@jh.edu

Mentor: Brooks Keeshin, MD

I am devoted to enhancing health utilization to promote health-seeking behavior and primary care reception for minority people and immigrants with experiences of trauma. My goal is to conduct research that seeks to improve the health of women and their families. My interest in research stems from my experience as an undergraduate research assistant on two projects, a randomized control trial that educated minority women from low-income backgrounds on reproductive health, and a descriptive pre- and post-test study consisting of two one-week day camps designed to educate girls aged nine to fifteen about health promotion, physiological anatomy, nutrition, leadership, and health professions. As a research assistant, I participated in the recruitment, intervention delivery, data collection, and interpretation of findings. I was also involved in two literature reviews to inform the studies and presented posters on the study findings at state-wide conferences to disseminate study results.

I decided to pursue a PhD in Nursing to become an independent nurse scientist equipped with the skills to push for increasing access to health care services for survivors of violence who face additional challenges as minorities and immigrants from different countries. My academic and research experiences have prepared me to conduct my proposed dissertation study to investigate the barriers and facilitators of health service utilization practices among Black immigrant women with cumulative experiences of trauma and to further develop my area of research. My academic training includes rigorous coursework in philosophy, research methodology, grant and manuscript writing, statistics, and violence research. I have also gained additional research experience through research assistant positions, which include qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, interdisciplinary collaboration, recruitment, data collection, and dissemination of research findings.

My experiences as a community health nurse at the House of Ruth, a shelter for women who experience intimate partner violence, further informs my research. Through my position at the House of Ruth, I have gained a wider understanding of resources in our community and have also seen how the current health system often fails to support marginalized populations that are undocumented and lack insurance. I have also learned to communicate and build rapport with clients while prioritizing their health goals and have gained a better understanding of the health needs of underserved populations, particularly survivors of intimate partner violence.

Proposed Research Project: “The Impact of Cumulative Trauma (CT) on Health Service Utilization Practices among Black Immigrant Women.”

2022-2024 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Yang Li, PhD, RN

Assistant Professor

University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing

Yang.li@nursing.utexas.edu

Mentor: Brigid McCaw, MD

I am an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) School of Nursing. I received my PhD in Nursing from the University of Michigan in April 2018. Before joining the faculty at UT Austin, I had a two-year postdoctoral training at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing. My research is focused on understanding and addressing the effects of violence and abuse (i.e., intimate partner violence [IPV]) on women's health. Chinese immigrant women have been an underserved and overlooked population in the field of IPV. To fill the gap in our understanding of IPV among Chinese immigrant women and provide evidence for developing culturally appropriate interventions for Chinese immigrant survivors of IPV, I conducted a mixed-method study to quantitatively examine the prevalence, risk factors, and health effects of IPV and qualitatively explore abused Chinese immigrant women's experiences of IPV, help-seeking behaviors, and special needs for support.

My future career plan is to prevent violence against racial and ethnic minority women and promote their health well-being by energizing, mobilizing, and supporting them through education, advocacy, and powerful partnerships. Specifically, I will disseminate my SHE intervention in the Chinese community by collaborating with key Chinese American organizations and local women's centers. If the SHE intervention model proves successful in the Chinese community, I will disseminate it in other Asian ethnic subgroups. I will also seek alternative culturally appropriate interventions for mitigating the effects of IPV on women's mental health well-being. Additionally, I have built a SHE foundation (sheus.org) which is committed to promoting the well-being of racial and ethnic minority women.

Proposed Research Project: "Testing Self Compassion, Health and Empowerment Intervention for Chinese Immigrant Women with Intimate Partner Violence."



2022-2024 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Hsiu-Fen Lin, MSW, PhD

Postdoctoral research scholar at the Office of Gender-Based Violence at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University

Hsiu-Fen.Lin@asu.edu

Mentor: Abraham Salinas-Miranda, MD, Ph.D.

As a postdoctoral research scholar at the Office of Gender-Based Violence at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University, under the mentorship of Dr. Jill Messing, MSW, Ph.D. I currently collaborate on the funded research entitled Predicting and Assessing Intimate Partner Homicide Risk Assessment (PAIR) Studies. The PAIR Studies is a transdisciplinary, six-state, case-control study that examines risk factors for intimate partner homicide (IPH) and intimate partner violence (IPV) by triangulating data across police case files, medical examiner records, and proxy interviews with next of kin. My role is to oversee 30 student researchers across different universities in data collection, manage quantitative and qualitative data, and conduct data analysis. My current position in PAIR Studies allows me to apply knowledge of gender-based violence and further expand my research area from IPV to risk assessment and IPH.

Based on my professional experience in Taiwan and in the United States, I am interested in researching the economic consequences of IPV in intervention as well as prevention. My 3-paper dissertation is a source of health promotion for female IPV survivors by examining the association between IPV, financial strain, and depression in a sample of U.S. women who participated in a randomized controlled study evaluating financial education intervention. Under the guidance of my adviser, Dr. Judy Postmus, I applied the Stress Process Model to test three different roles of financial strain: stressor, mediator, and outcome. The findings give evidence of the significant effects of financial strain among female IPV survivors (Lin et al., 2022). Given that financial strain is one of the strongest predictors of depression, IPV interventions may not be effective for health promotion if the interventions fail to address financial health. My research has contributed to highlighting the financial consequences of IPV, enhancing financial well-being, and prioritizing financial recovery within IPV intervention.

Proposed Research Project: "Testing the Danger Assessment-5 for immigrant IPV survivors."



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Video Teaching Library

Open access has been granted for all AVA teaching videos and educational offerings on the website.

AVA is working on creating a YouTube channel for a more user friendly interface to access and search the video library.

Board Development

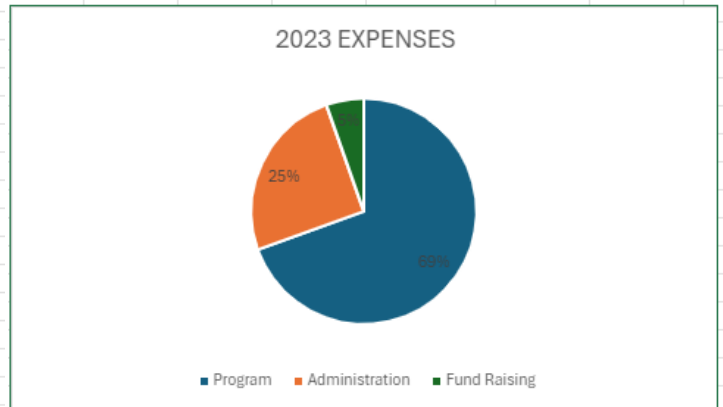
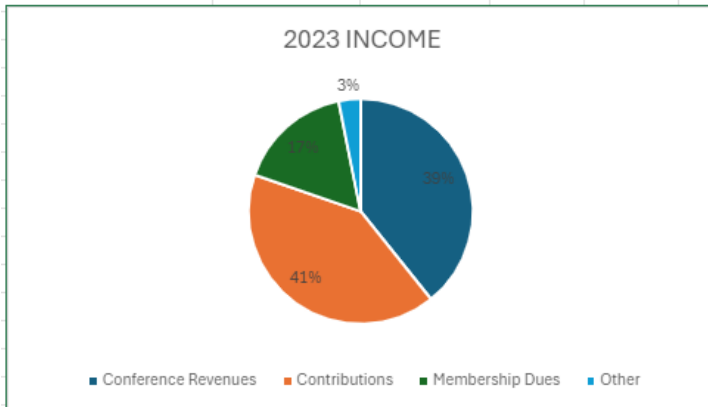
Continued to identify, explore interest, commitment, and willingness to join the AVA Board to help further our mission and assure our ongoing success and sustainability.





2023 Financials

Beginning Net Assets		\$ 136,287	
Income			
	Conference Revenues	41,592	39%
	Contributions	43,525	41%
	Membership Dues	17,550	17%
	Other	3,366	3%
	Total Income	106,033	100%
Expenses			
	Program	59,722	69%
	Administration	21,573	25%
	Fund Raising	4,652	5%
	Total Expenses	85,947	100%
Income less expenses		20,086	
Realized gain on Investments		9,974	
Ending Net Assets		\$ 166,347	





Gratitude for 2023 Donors

We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to AVA. We promise to be responsible stewards of both your donation and your trust. Thank you for your support and for your belief in the mission of AVA. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you.

Shagufta Alavi
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David McCollum
Mariam Nayiny
David Schneider
Audrey Stillerman
Marcus R Waterbury
Intermountain Healthcare
University of Utah

Thank You!



Gratitude for Board Support and Contributions

AVA has a dedicated board of professionals who generously contribute their time and expertise. They collaborate with programs and organizations partnering with AVA support AVA's educational opportunities through grants, financial support, and sponsorships. These essential in-kind contributions enable AVA to continue thriving in its mission.

David Corwin - Board Member, San Diego Pre-con, Website Committee, Governance Committee, Awards Committee, ACEs Health Champions Gathering, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, First Coast Child Protection Team Presenter, facilitated University sponsorship/support for educational activities.

Tasneem Ismailji - Board Member, ACEs Health Champions Network, Website committee, Finance Committee, Scholar Committee, Governance Committee, Awards Committee, Global Health Summit Presenter, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter.

Peter Cronholm - Board Member, Executive Committee, Scientific Review Committee, Scholar Committee.

Shira Berkovits - Board Member, connection to Focu for Health foundation and supported AVA in drafting a letter for foundational support.

Un Sun Chung - International Board Member.

Sharon Cooper - Board Member, ACEs Health Champions Gathering Presenter, Regional Academy, DC Presenter.

Randell Alexander - Governance Committee, Scholar Committee, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, ACEs Health Champions Network, First Coast Child Protection Team Conference Planner, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter.

Marie Christensen - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Admin Committee, Executive Committee, Website Committee, Awards Committee.

Allison Jackson - Board Member, President-Elect, Admin Committee, Executive Committee, Governance Committee, DC Regional Academy Conference Planner and Presenter, Global Health Summit Presenter.

Martina Jelley - Board Member, Global Health Summit Presenter, Co-Chair of THICER.



Gratitude for Board Support and Contributions

Barbara Knox - Board Member, Board Chair, Executive Committee Member, Admin Committee, Governance Committee, Scholar Committee, First Coast Child Protection Team Conference Planner and Presenter.

Machelle Madsen Thompson - Board Member, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter, Regional Academy, DC Presenter.

Ginger Meyer - Board Member, President, Admin Committee, Governance Committee, First Coast Child Protection Team Conference Presenter, Global Health Summit Planner, DC Regional Academy Planner and Presenter, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter and assisted with planning, and facilitated University support for educational offerings through grant funding.

Rebecca Rodriguez-Pou - Student Board Member, First Coast Child Protection Conference Presenter.

David Schneider - Board Member, Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Scientific Review, First Coast Child Protection Team Conference Presenter.

Susie Wiet - Board Member, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter, Global Health Summit Presenter.

Brooks Keeshin - Board Member, Scientific Review Committee, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter, facilitated sponsorship/support for educational activities.





2024 Initiatives





SUPPORT AVA

BECOME AN AVA MEMBER

Apply at www.avahealth.org by clicking “Membership.”

AVA is a non-profit, academic, membership-based organization. Our membership includes a variety of health care professionals, and individuals who are committed to the mission and vision of the Academy. We continue to expand health education and research and integrate knowledge about violence and abuse into the training of all health professionals to promote safe families, workplaces and communities.

SHARE OUR MISSION

Increase awareness regarding the effects of violence and abuse on health is critical. Please consider helping us by sharing this information with your colleagues and friends.

