

Speaker Bios for Connecting the Dots Webinar

Gaurab Basu, MD, MPH is a physician and founding co-director of the CHA Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy (CHEEA). He is an Instructor at Harvard Medical School's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine. Dr. Basu is a Health Equity Fellow at the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment and Faculty Affiliate at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Basu was named to the 2021 Grist 50 list of climate leaders.



He also received the Union of Concerned Scientists' 2020 Science Defender Award. He has served on the Implementation Advisory Committee in the Massachusetts Governor's Executive Office Of Energy and Environmental Affairs. He was a part of the city of Cambridge Mayor's Climate Crisis Working Group and its Net-Zero Climate Task Force.

Karen Clay is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College. She holds courtesy appointments at the Tepper School of Business and in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, is a Senior Fellow at the Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon, is an affiliated faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law, and is a research associate at the NBER. Professor Clay's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Sloan Foundation, and the Heinz Foundation. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*. Before coming to Carnegie Mellon, Karen Clay was an assistant professor at the University of Toronto.



Francesca Dominici, PhD is the co-Director of the Harvard Data Science Initiative, at the Harvard University and the Clarence James Gamble Professor of Biostatistics, Population and Data Science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and of the International Society of Mathematical Statistics. She leads an interdisciplinary group of scientists with the goal of addressing important questions in environmental health science, climate change, and health policy.



Daniel Faber, PhD is a Professor of Sociology at Northeastern University, and an Affiliated Faculty Member in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. He is Director of the Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative (NEJRC), and a Senior Research Fellow with the Global Center for Climate Justice. Dr. Faber is a board member of the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow (AHT), a coalition of scientists, health professionals, environmental advocates, and labor unions working for a precautionary approach to environmental health policy in Massachusetts. He is also on the Governing Board of Coming Clean, a national collaborative of more than 200 environmental and environmental justice organizations working in the environmental health field that are devoted to reforming chemicals and energy policy. He is the author of numerous books, including *Capitalizing on Environmental Injustice: The Polluter-Industrial Complex in the Age of Globalization*.



Philip Landrigan, MD MSc is a pediatrician and epidemiologist. He directs the Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good at Boston College. His research examines health impacts of toxic environmental hazards. His studies of lead toxicity demonstrated that low-level exposure reduces children's IQ and contributed to EPA's 1975 decision to remove lead from paint and gasoline, actions that reduced lead levels by 95% and increased the IQ of all American children born since 1980. His documentation of children's exquisite sensitivity to pesticides contributed to fundamental revision of federal pesticide legislation in the United States to protect children's health. He co-chaired the Lancet Commission on Pollution & Health, which reported in 2018 that pollution causes 9 million deaths annually and that pollution prevention is feasible, cost-effective and saves lives. Since 2019, he has led the Monaco Commission on Human Health and Ocean Pollution.



Brita Lundberg, MD is an infectious diseases physician and former Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University. Dr. Brita Lundberg is CEO and founder of Lundberg Health Advocates, LLC, a patient advocacy group. She is an active member of Climate Code Blue, Board Chair of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, and delegate and Chair of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Environmental and Occupational Health Committee. She feels that advocating on issues relating to public health is part of her job as a physician. Dr. Lundberg's primary area of interest is the health effects of fossil fuel driven climate change.



Lesly Melendez is the Deputy Director at Groundwork Lawrence, where she has been instrumental in expanding the community-based programming. As a lifelong resident of Lawrence, Lesly has always been passionate about serving her community. She has served on numerous volunteer boards including the City's Planning and Licensing boards. Lesly was selected by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as an Unsung Heroine of 2017. In 2018, Lesly was nominated for a Tribute to Women award from the YWCA of Lawrence. As a community weaver, Lesly brings her passion for collaboration, community, and equity to the forefront of her work; she also brings a unique perspective to what is needed by people of color to advance in the professional world.



Alexander Rabin, MD is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Michigan and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Ann Arbor Health Care System. As a practicing pulmonologist, he has a longstanding interest in the intersection of climate change and respiratory health. He is also a clinical site lead for the VA Post-Deployment Cardiopulmonary Evaluation Network that aims to understand the health effects of airborne hazards on deployed military personnel.



Sanjay Rajagopalan, MD is the Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine, University Hospitals Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute, Herman Hellerstein, MD Professor of Cardiovascular Research and Director of the Case Cardiovascular Research Institute at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH. Dr. Rajagopalan is among an elite group of physician scientists whose work has helped transform global perceptions and understanding of the impact of



environmental risk factors on cardiovascular disease. He is a leading authority in advancing innovative approaches for the management of cardiometabolic disease. Dr. Rajagopalan's laboratory has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Rajagopalan is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI), American Association of Physicians (AAP), Association of University Cardiologists (AUC) and the Association of Professors of Cardiology (APC). He won the 2021 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American College of Cardiology.

Maryann Sargent, PhD is a research scientist at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University. Maryann's research focuses on using atmospheric measurements of greenhouse gasses to quantify their emissions. She developed a framework consisting of a sensor array around Boston and a statistical transport model which she used to quantify CH₄ and CO₂ emissions in the Boston urban region over 8 and 1.5 years, respectively. Maryann is also developing models to quantify methane emissions from point and regional sources for the new MethaneSAT satellite.



Jennifer Weuve, MPH, ScD is an associate professor of epidemiology at the Boston University School of Public Health. In her research, she seeks to identify causes of dementia, particularly environmental and social causes. She is the PI or co-investigator of several epidemiologic investigations of dementia, including 3 NIH-funded investigations of air pollution and dementia etiology.



David Wittenberg prosecutes environmental crimes in the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. He is a lead co-author of "COVID-19's Unequal Effects in Massachusetts," Attorney General Maura Healey's report on the intersection of COVID-19 and environmental justice, and led the Office's successful effort to save hundreds of mature trees on Boston's Melnea Cass Boulevard. David has spent nine years in public service, from the State House to the courthouse. He credits his interest in the intersection of climate, environmental justice, and respiratory health to his mom, Barbara Kane, a primary care physician at MGH, and his sister, Ariel Wittenberg, a journalist who covers public health for E&E News, Politico's environmental wire service. Contact David at david.wittenberg@mass.gov.



Latifa Ziyad currently serves as the Resiliency Planning Coordinator at the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, NOAH. Before coming to NOAH, Latifa worked for the New England Aquarium on their resiliency work in East Boston, Chelsea, Lynn and Hull. She spent more than a decade at City of Boston in various positions including: as a Chemistry Teacher for BPS, Chief of Staff for a Boston City Councilor, and as a Liaison for the Inspectional Services Department, ISD. Prior to that, Latifa served as the Brownfields



Coordinator for the City of Jackson, MS receiving national recognition for her leadership in that post from the EPA. Latifa holds a Masters in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University, a Bachelors in Marine and Environmental Science from Hampton University, and an Associate's degree in Broadcast Media Technology, from Roxbury Community College. She is otherwise a lifetime student attending various colleges and universities for certificates and interest based studies. Latifa likes to travel, hike, camp, swim and ski with her three daughters.