Keynote Speakers

Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, is chief of Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, and associate professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Trained in medical anthropology as well as internal medicine and pediatrics, Dr. Miller’s research has included examination of sex trafficking among adolescents in Asia, teen dating abuse, and reproductive health, with a focus on underserved youth populations including pregnant and parenting teens; and foster, homeless, and gang-affiliated youth. Her current research focuses on the impact of gender-based violence on young women’s reproductive health.

She conducts research on brief clinical interventions to reduce partner violence and unintended pregnancy, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Justice. In addition, she is conducting a study of a sexual violence prevention program entitled "Coaching Boys into Men" which involves training coaches to talk to their young male athletes about stopping violence against women, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is also involved in projects to reduce gender-based violence and improve adolescent and young adult women's health in India and Japan.

Brian Suffoletto, MD MS, is an assistant professor and practicing emergency physician. He is an NIH-sponsored clinical researcher with a specific focus on designing and testing SMS-based interventions for alcohol misuse prevention.

Donald Taylor, PhD, MBA, is CEO and founder of healthStratica, a Pittsburgh population healthcare informatics company that focuses on harm reduction and health promotion through mobile computerized applications.

Breakout Session Presenters

Lauren Akin-Smith and Kelley Shell are both Pitt Public Health alumnae and work as Health Promotion Specialists in Carnegie Mellon University's Health Center. Katricia Vouga is a graduate level social work intern with the Health Promotion Office focusing the majority of her work with the CMU Collegiate Recovery Community.

Robert Coulter is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, and completed his Masters of Public Health degree at Boston University. His research focuses on assessing and addressing the health inequities among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and young adults. In particular, his work examines how interpersonal violence and environmental factors—such as LGBT inclusivity—impact substance use for LGBT populations.

Julie Evans completed her Masters of Social Work at University of Pittsburgh, with a concentration in Community Organizing. She is currently the Director of Crisis and Prevention Services at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape and has provided prevention and education programming for over 17 years. She has presented at the National Organization for Victim Assistance in 2011 and 2013, the National Sexual Assault Conference in 2009, 2012 and 2014 and most recently trained agencies at statewide conferences in North Carolina, Washington, Texas, Pennsylvania and Maine. She was a recipient of the Jody Pinto Advocacy Award for her work in Pennsylvania and the Shining All-Star Award for Social Outreach in Pittsburgh. She works at a wonderful agency with hard working individuals and believes that together we will end sexual violence.
Dr. Daniel Gittins is the Coordinator of DU CARES (Alcohol and Other Drug Education Program) at Duquesne University. He has served in this role for 7 years. Prior to his efforts in prevention and risk reduction, Dr. Gittins was the Chief Operating Officer of a large behavioral health agency in Washington County. His direct caseload included work with substance abuse, anger management, sexual assault issues—individually with the perpetrators and survivors of abuse, and running programs within the county jail. In that COO role, he also developed the Washington County Children’s Advocacy Center, oversaw the operations of the Rape Crisis Center, and completed risk assessments on persons convicted of person to person crimes at the request of the Washington County Court. He obtained his Bachelor’s Degree from Edinboro University of PA, his Master’s from Slippery Rock University of PA, and his Doctorate from Duquesne University. He also has a small private practice in consulting called the Center for Anger, Behavior and Conflict Management. Dr. Gittins has presented at the local, state and national levels.

Jennifer Matesa is the author of three award-winning books of nonfiction, including The Recovering Body: Physical and Spiritual Fitness for Living Clean and Sober, released in 2014. Her forthcoming book, Sex and Recovery: A Meeting Between the Covers, will be published in 2016. She was awarded a year-long fellowship from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for her writing and speaking about addiction and recovery. As a speaker she has given broadcast interviews, lectures and interactive presentations before live audiences and in webinars. She owns and runs a popular educational blog called Guinevere Gets Sober, which offers news, reviews, policy updates, and research summaries and critiques about addiction and recovery. She teaches writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Laura Summers is the Supervisor of Prevention Services at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape working on sexual harassment, sexual violence, and risk reduction prevention to a wide array of audiences including high school and colleges in the county. In her six years at PAAR, she has launched the “got consent?” campaign involving poster development, educational trainings, and events for students on various Pittsburgh campuses to promote healthy sexuality and consent. Summers graduated from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Communications and is currently working towards her masters in Social and Public Policy from Duquesne University.