

SFA Member Bios for Webpage

Janvier Gasana

Janvier Gasana, M.D., Ph.D., is currently an Associate Professor at the Florida International University Robert Stempel School of Public Health Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Miami, Florida, USA and Chair of Florida Children's Environmental Health (www.fceha.org). He holds a bachelor of sciences in human biology and a medical doctorate degree from the National University of Rwanda Medical School along with a master of public health degree and a PhD degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences with a major in environmental health and a minor in environmental epidemiology.

He has about 20 years of experience in teaching, community-based participatory research, service, and consultation in the area of environmental and occupational health sciences including epidemiology, exposure assessment / risk assessment and medicine. His research agenda focuses on pediatric environmental and occupational hazards such as childhood lead poisoning and indoor and outdoor environmental pollutants including triggers of childhood asthma in South Florida. Janvier is excited and honored to support the SFA Consortium in fulfilling its mission to develop and implement a regional action plan that improves the quality of life of those with asthma through empowerment, education, outreach, collaboration, and services. In particular, he welcomes the opportunity to help the Consortium forge new partnerships and programs with individuals, employers, academic institutions and community service organizations to investigate the home environmental conditions, develop interventions, establish a communication between patients and health care providers, and implement policy changes that will address the asthma health disparities experienced by the residents in South Florida.

Sandra Lobar

Sandy Lobar PhD, ARNP-BC (Board Certified) is currently an Associate Professor at Florida International University College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Miami, Florida, and Director of the Center for Leadership in Pediatric and Family Nursing. She holds a Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing from the University of Florida and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Barry University with post-masters training as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from Florida International University. She received her PhD in Nursing from the University of Miami in Miami Florida. Dr. Lobar has over 20 years of experience in the areas teaching, research and service in pediatrics with a specific focus on interventions concerning parenting children with chronic diseases. Dr. Lobar has also been very involved in community initiatives and preparing students to take leadership roles in promoting advocacy and change for populations at risk for health disparities. Having been a part of partnerships in the community for many years, she welcomes this opportunity to enhance community services and interventions for children and parents who have asthma concerns. Dr. Lobar has done research in the area of asthma prevention previously and been part of a successful program employing a train-the-trainer model of community involvement for asthma education. These types of partnerships allow us to foster an environment that is rich in its collaborative efforts, infusing a more creative and culturally competent, evidence-based approach to the community and intervention.

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Armando Chamorro

Mr. Chamorro is a Certified Industrial Hygienist accredited by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. He assisted the New York City Department of Health in the revision of the world renowned Mold Assessment Remediation and Control. He holds an engineering degree from Polytechnic University of New York and Masters in Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety from Hunter College in New York. With his strong background in building failure analysis, air conditioning engineering, and indoor air quality with the experience of over 4000 dwellings assessed in South Florida since 1997 for bio allergens; he brings his well articulated field professional experience to the South Florida Asthma Coalition. He is responsible for the environmental portions of the coalition's research program.

Erskine Clerjeune

Erskine Clerjeune will be awarded the degree of MPH May 4th 2008 at Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences. He holds a pre-med degree from (Faculté Universitaire Notre Dame de la Paix / Our Lady of Peace University Faculties) Namur /Belgium. Also, he holds a Bachelor of Sciences in Biomedical Sciences focusing on Experimental Nutrition from Louvain Catholic University, Bruxelles/Belgium. He wrote a thesis in the area of autoimmune disease titled: "New serological marker in the inflammatory bowel diseases". Under the supervision of Dr Janvier Gasana, of Florida International University, he did an internship in the area of Environmental Health assessing the risks of childhood lead poisoning. He is honored to support the SFA consortium by developing PowerPoint educational material.

Denise Robinette

Denise Robinette is director of HealthyLiving Foundation, a non-profit (501-c-3) foundation whose mission is to educate the community about indoor air quality by offering knowledge, choices and change. One event sponsored an "asthma friendly make-over" in an asthmatic child's sleeping area which is the most important space in the indoor environment. She is also a founding member of FAHIE (Florida Alliance for Healthy Indoor Environments) which is a statewide coalition of parents, environmental health organizations and health professionals. The mission is to assist schools to become healthier and safer places to work and learn by providing resource assistance to explore green cleaning practices. She is a licensed Interior Designer with a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University, and owner of HealthyLiving Interiors. Designing residential as well as commercial interiors, she started specializing in "healthy" interiors over a decade ago because of her personal journey being a mother of asthmatic/allergic children. She realized first hand just how vital the indoor environment is in the prevention and management of asthma, and found that being proactive promotes healthy living for all occupants of a space. She also learned that being "green" is good for asthmatics and good for the global environment. Whether designing for a home, work space or public space, a healthy and green interior promotes wellness. From years of research on indoor environments, she is busy developing indoor environmental educational materials such as an coloring-book called "Healthy-n-Green is.....Healthy Air!" which is targeted to debut May 2008, Asthma Awareness Month. She is also writing a book "U R What U Breathe - 12 Steps to a Healthy-n-Green Indoor Environment". She is honored to be a part of SFA Consortium in its

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mission of empowering those who have or care for asthmatics as well as working with others to implement policy changes which will help those with asthma. Her experiences as a Professional Interior Designer are valuable from a practical sense of making environmental improvements to a space. But more importantly, her personal journey of being a mother who has cared for asthmatic children, gives her a thoughtful “hands-on” realism to understanding the daily challenges in dealing with this chronic illness. She believes as Ghandi says, "Be the Change You Want to See in the World” and looks forward to being part of South Florida Asthma Consortium in improving the quality of lives of asthmatics.

TalleyAnne Reeb

TalleyAnne Reeb, RN, BSN, was born and raised in Key West. She has been an employee of the Monroe County Health Dept. for 7 years. She held a school nursing position at middle/high school level clinics for 6 years, and has recently taken the position of School Health Coordinator for all of the school nursing staff for the Monroe County School District. Additionally, she has been an employee of Lower Keys Medical Center for 14 years, working as a staff nurse in the Maternal Infant Child Care Unit and is a Certified Childbirth Instructor in the Education dept. TalleyAnne is a graduate of the University of Miami, a member of Florida Nurses Association., International Childbirth Education Association., School Health Advisory Council, and Children’s Group. She is an advocate for children’s issues and the challenges related to the unique area and location of the Florida Keys.

Michael Melchior

Michael will receive his Master’s of Public Health degree this April from Florida International University, and was previously awarded Microbiology and Food Science/Human Nutrition undergraduate degrees from the University of Florida. Michael plans to continue his education and earn a PhD in Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion, Disease Prevention. On April 4th, Michael was unanimously appointed the Interim Executive Director of South Florida Asthma Inc, and will officially begin work on June 1st. In the summer of 2005, Michael and a close friend started a non-profit company, FREE Org (Forming Roots, Enriching Everyone), that sends medical supplies that can no longer be used in the US to clinics in need in Central and South America. For the past three years, Michael has been the owner and founder of Reliable Housing, LLC, a for-profit company that invests in real estate for renovation/resell or rental purposes in North Central Florida. Earlier this year, Michael began a medical billing company, Synergistic Medical Billers, LLC that will provide a valuable service to physicians and health service providers in the Miami area. Michael’s future professional goals include working at the United Nations or the World Health Organization.