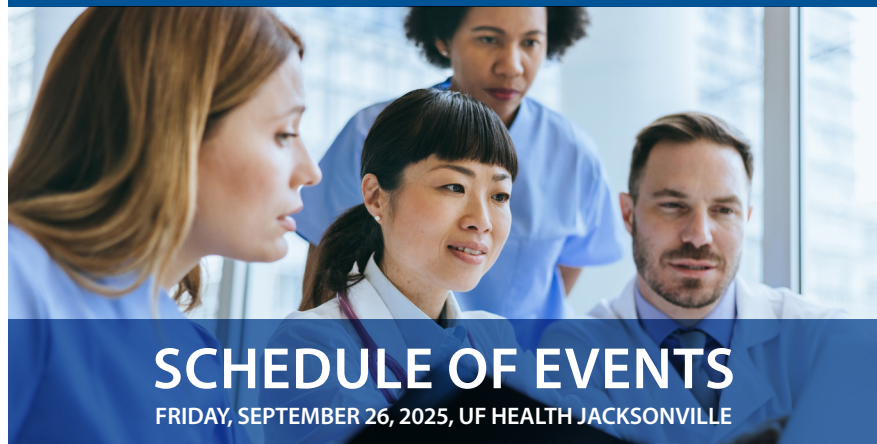


UF CARES presents

# Keeping the End of the HIV Epidemic in Sight: Integrating Outreach, Prevention and Treatment



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, UF HEALTH JACKSONVILLE



**11 a.m. – Noon** **PLENARY SESSION 2: HIV STIGMA: KEEPING THE END OF THE HIV EPIDEMIC IN SIGHT**

Melinda Marasch, LCSW  
Aspire Training & Consulting

**Noon – 1 p.m.** **LUNCH AND EXHIBITS**

**1 – 2 p.m.** **PLENARY SESSION 3: UPDATES IN HIV PREVENTION FOR 2025**

Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH  
Professor of Medicine and Associate Chief, Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine  
University of California San Francisco  
Director, UCSF-Bay Area Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)

**2 – 3:30 p.m.** **BREAKOUT SESSION 2**

**Session C: The STI Comeback and How DoxyPEP is Changing the Game**

Jennifer Janelle, MD  
Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine  
UF College of Medicine

**Session D: How to Get People to Do What They Need to Do: Maximizing Opportunities**  
Melinda Marasch, LCSW

**3:30 – 3:50 p.m.** **BREAK AND EXHIBITS**

**3:50 – 4:25 p.m.** **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderator: Nizar Maraqa, MD, FAAP, FPIDS, ABPM-CI  
Associate Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology  
UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville

**Panelists:**

Jennifer Janelle, MD  
Vidhu Kariyawasam, MD  
Melinda Marasch, LCSW  
Carlos Saldana, MD  
Sean Smith, BA

**4:25 – 4:30 p.m.** **CLOSING REMARKS**

Ana Alvarez, MD, FPIDS

**8 – 8:30 a.m.** **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**8:30 – 8:35 a.m.** **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Mobeen H. Rathore, MD, CPE, FAAP, FPIDS, FIDSA, FSHEA, FACPE  
Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Director, University of Florida Center for HIV/AIDS Research  
Education and Service (UF CARES)  
Chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology,  
Wolfson Children's Hospital

Ana M. Alvarez, MD, FPIDS  
Associate Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology  
UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville

Linda R. Edwards, MD, FACP  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine  
Dean, UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville

**8:35 – 9:35 a.m.** **PLENARY SESSION 1: ADDRESSING HIV DISPARITIES THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION, TELEHEALTH AND MACHINE LEARNING**

Carlos Saldana, MD  
Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases,  
Department of Medicine  
Emory University School of Medicine

**9:40 – 10:40 a.m.** **BREAKOUT SESSION 1**

**Session A: HIV and Opportunistic Infections**

Vidhu Kariyawasam, MD  
Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine,  
Department of Medicine  
UF College of Medicine

**Session B: Trust as Treatment: Removing Barriers and Empowering Patients in HIV Prevention and Care**

Sean Smith, BA  
Director, The Center to End the HIV Epidemic  
NMAC, formerly the National Minority AIDS Council

**10:40 – 11 a.m.** **BREAK AND EXHIBITS**



Center for HIV/AIDS Research,  
Education and Service (UF CARES)  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# SPEAKERS

## **Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH**

Dr. Monica Gandhi is a professor of medicine and associate chief in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. She also serves as the director of the UCSF Center for AIDS Research and medical director of the HIV Clinic ("Ward 86") at San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Gandhi is the associate program director of the infectious diseases fellowship at UCSF. Her research focuses on HIV treatment and prevention optimization, HIV and women, adherence measurement in HIV and tuberculosis, adherence interventions, and optimizing the use of long-acting antiretroviral therapy.

## **Jennifer Janelle, MD**

Dr. Jennifer Janelle is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she specializes in the care of people with HIV and sexually transmitted infections. She is principal investigator of the North Florida AIDS Education and Training Center, which is a partner in the Southeast AETC. Dr. Janelle provides infectious diseases clinical care at UF and HIV care in rural Ryan White-funded clinics in North Central Florida. She was recognized as the 2024 Florida Rural Health Association Rural Health Physician of the Year. Janelle also serves as associate program director of the UF Infectious Diseases Fellowship.

## **Vidhu Kariyawasam, MD**

Dr. Vidhu Kariyawasam completed her residency in internal medicine at Danbury Hospital and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Florida. She is currently an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine at UF, where she also serves as director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. Her research and patient care activities focus on health care-associated infections, multidrug-resistant gram-negative infections, and antimicrobial stewardship. She also serves as faculty for the North Florida AETC, with specific interests in HIV provider education and the prevention and management of HIV infection in adults.

## **Melinda Marasch, LCSW**

Melinda Marasch is a licensed clinical social worker and a social work/mental health consultant. She has dedicated more than 20 years to her passion for helping others. Melinda specializes in clinical training, supervision, and development of programs for therapists and non-therapist direct care workers. She is a member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers and has completed a traumatic stress studies course in trauma-informed care. As a result, her expertise includes training and consulting across the U.S. on motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care, as well as on self-care, mental health issues, de-escalation, change management and more. Melinda has experience in school, residential and outpatient care, within criminal justice, health care (e.g., HIV/AIDS medical case managers, patient navigators), public (e.g., department of human services case workers) and community-based organizations.

## **Carlos Saldana, MD**

Dr. Carlos Saldana is an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University. He was the medical advisor for the HIV Program at the Georgia Department of Public Health. His research focuses on implementation science and involves innovative approaches, including HIV molecular epidemiology and artificial intelligence to focus HIV prevention efforts.

## **Sean Smith**

Sean Smith is an accomplished public health nonprofit director and systems-thinking strategist with more than 10 years of experience leading systems-level change at the intersection of health, philanthropy and nonprofit management. As director of the Center to End the Epidemic at NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council), Sean oversees a portfolio of more than \$3 million designed to dismantle structural inequities and strengthen workforce development, sustainability, and capacity among the public health workforce nationwide. Previously, Sean served as a grants management specialist with the Executive Office of the Mayor of Washington, D.C., where he managed more than \$5 million in public funds to improve access to victim services and advance equity in public safety systems. Sean holds a Bachelor of Science in women's and gender studies, sociology, and Black studies, and is completing a Master of Science in health law, policy, and management as part of the inaugural class at Meharry Medical College's School of Global Health. He serves as a mentor, leadership coach and thought partner to emerging leaders in the health equity sector.