

## **Neal A. Palafox, MD, MPH**

Neal A. Palafox, MD, MPH was born and raised in Hawaii and is a graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. He completed his residency in Family Medicine at UCLA and obtained a Masters in Public Health with an emphasis on International Health from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He lived and worked in the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a physician from 1983-1992, was a co-founder of a program caring for the radiation affected peoples of the Marshall Islands in 1985, and became the Medical Director for Preventive Health Services and Public Health in the RMI from 1987-1992. He is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. Presently he is the Principal Investigator of five Pacific Wide Health Projects:

1. US Department of Energy (DOE) : Medical Care for the People affected by the US Nuclear Weapons Testing Program , Republic of the Marshall Islands
2. National Cancer Institute (NCI) - Pacific Cancer Initiative
3. Center for Disease Control (CDC) – Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Planning for the US Associated Pacific
4. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – Pacific Association of Clinical Training for Health Providers in the US Associated Pacific
5. CDC- Pacific Center for Excellence to Eliminate Health Disparities : Breast and Cervical Cancer

## **Neal A. Palafox MD MPH**

### **Abstract**

#### **US Associated Pacific Island Jurisdictions: Leveraging Assets in Resources Limited Areas to Prevent and Control Cancer**

Large disparities in cancer services and cancer outcomes exist between the United States and the United States Associated Pacific Island Jurisdictions (USAPIJ) [Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia] The USAPIJ have systematically advocated through disparity networks, developed a regional cancer council, organized jurisdiction cancer coalitions, written individual and regional strategic comprehensive cancer control plans, and are now implementing those plans. The USAPIJ have leveraged their assets to now have Federally funded projects that will allow the development of a Pacific Regional Cancer Registry and will sustain the Cancer Coalitions. The Pacific region has received a CDC designation as a Center for Excellence to Eliminate Disparities in Breast and Cervical Cancer. The effort to address the cancer disparities is ongoing through research and development in appropriate cancer services.

# *Disparities in Health in America:*

*Working Toward Social Justice*

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**Lessons Learned From the Spirit of  
E.A.G.L.E.S. Community Program  
Networks Program**

*Judith Salmon Kaur, MD*

*Mayo Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Medical Director*

**Understanding the Cultural Barriers  
That Impede Latinas From  
Clinical Trials**

*Venus Ginés, MA*

*Baylor College of Medicine  
Chronic Disease Prevention &  
Control Research Center  
Instructor*

**Building Capacity for Cancer Control  
in Appalachia**

*Pamela K. Brown, MPA*

*Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, WVU  
Associate Director*

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