



CalRx® Insulin Patient Advisory Council Member Bios

Albert Bach, a pharmacist and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Chapman University School of Pharmacy, joined the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council due to his experience in various pharmacy settings over the past 12 years. His work in hospital, community, and ambulatory care environments has given him a deep understanding of the barriers patients face in accessing life-saving medications like insulin. Albert currently practices in an independent community pharmacy as well as ambulatory care within the Providence health system, where he collaborates with primary care providers to manage chronic disease states and help patients obtain their prescribed insulin. This experience has fueled his advocacy for better access to medications and healthcare.

Allison Hardt is the Community Development Director at T1International, a global, patient-led diabetes advocacy organization independent of pharmaceutical funding. Active in the fight for publicly produced insulin since 2019, Allison leads T1International's campaign to expand public pharma insulin initiatives in the U.S. and globally. With over 12 years of nonprofit experience, she is deeply committed to health equity. Her partner has lived with type 1 diabetes for 40 years.

Chris Noble (he/him) is the Organizing Director with Health Access since 2021. Chris has 10+ years of community organizing and health justice advocacy experience, was formally trained under Marshall Ganz at Harvard Kennedy School, and studied health system strengthening and prescription drug policy in a Master's in Public Health program at Boston University School of Public Health. Chris is called to health justice advocacy from a personal diagnosis of insulin dependent diabetes and understanding firsthand the importance of fighting for health care as a human right guaranteed to all.

Craig Stubing, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 13, brings lived experience and advocacy expertise to the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council. As creator of the *Beta Cell* podcast, founder of Beta Cell Action and the Beta Cell Foundation, and co-founder of Type One Run, Craig works to amplify diverse voices, lobby for policy change, and support grassroots diabetes education. He joined the Council to help make life-saving insulin accessible to all Californians, particularly those in marginalized communities who face the greatest barriers to care. Craig's firsthand understanding of insulin affordability challenges and his commitment to healthcare equity drive his dedication to the Council's mission of developing affordable insulin solutions for California residents.



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Diana Wyenn is a Los Angeles-born director, writer, choreographer, curator, and creative producer driven by a commitment to equity and environmental and disability justice. Working across theater, opera, and film, she has directed and choreographed projects presented by Center Theatre Group, LA Phil, Detroit Opera, East West Players, National Sawdust, Malmö Opera, Skirball Cultural Center, LACMA, UCLA, Yale, ASU, and many more. Her award-winning autobiographical solo performance, *Blood/Sugar*, and co-devised solo performance with Kristina Wong, *Kristina Wong for Public Office*, are testaments to her ability to transform personal experiences into powerful, socially conscious art. Committed to advocating for people living with diabetes, she serves on the American Diabetes Association's Los Angeles Advocacy Committee Member (2021-Present) and has been commissioned by T1International. Diana is also the co-founder of Plain Wood Productions.

Joe Garbanzos is State President at AARP-California, part of a volunteer-leadership team advancing AARP's social agenda and advocacy priorities in the state and nationally. He is also Deputy Director at Filipino Veterans Recognition Education Project, a national volunteer team supporting Filipino American Veterans and their families. His body of work includes CEO/Executive Director and Chairman at Samahan Health Centers, a FQHC in San Diego, and consulting in healthcare to provide outreach and education to hard-to-reach, culturally diverse communities. He also had a career in the pharma/biotech industry. He is a Lecturer at CA School of Management & Leadership, Alliant International University, San Diego. Joe has an MBA at the Peter F. Drucker Business School and a post-graduate degree in Public Health from the School of Community and Global Health at Claremont Graduate University. He completed the UCLA Anderson Business School/Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Executive Program in 2019. He lives with his family in the San Diego area.

Joe Wotawa has lived with type 1 diabetes for 33 years and has long been an advocate for insulin access. When living out-of-state, he helped build a coalition of nonprofits across diverse communities to advocate for a Medicaid expansion that would have granted this access for many who need it. Now back in California, he helps provide care for family members who require insulin. The desire to ensure that not one more diabetic must face the choice between paying for insulin or other needs motivates his decision to serve on the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council. He lives with his family in Sacramento, where he is a teacher.



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Kathryn (Kate) Topalis is a primary care physician and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist based in Los Angeles, CA. During her intern year of Family Medicine residency, she sustained a needle stick injury that led to a diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes, a diagnosis that changed the trajectory of her career and deepened her understanding of the hardships of a life with diabetes. Currently, she serves as Diabetes Lead for the Ambulatory Care Network of LA County's Department of Health Services and as Diabetes Measure Lead for the County's Quality Improvement Program and is spearheading efforts to increase access to new medications and technologies in safety net systems. As an individual who struggled to afford insulin even during her own medical training, she is thrilled to join the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council in its efforts to make insulin affordable for all.

Laura Feeney is a San Francisco native and has lived up and down California throughout her adult life. She completed pharmacy school at the USC School of Pharmacy, where she also completed a PGY-1 residency in ambulatory care. While working with Kaiser Permanente for the last 3 years, much of her professional career has been in the safety net clinic setting. She worked for several years at FQHCs in Ventura County and in East Palo Alto where she helped open an in-house 340B Pharmacy. After this, she worked for the City and County of San Francisco in their community-oriented primary care clinics for 7 years. She then moved to Kaiser to pursue a management position, which ultimately led her to the realization that her true passion lies in patient care. She currently works in the Care Plus program at Kaiser which assists patients with complex medical and psycho-social needs. She joined the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council because she believes everyone should have access to affordable medications. She has seen the healthcare disparities and knows the impact that having access to quality healthcare and medications can have on people's lives.

Luz Gallegos was born and raised in the Inland Empire. She began "en la causa, el movimiento" as a very young child with the guidance of her parents, advocating for social justice, organizing, and marching alongside great leaders like Bert Corona, Soledad "Chole" Alatorre, and Cesar E. Chavez. Luz is a natural leader. At a very young age, she developed a community conscious and commitment which has become part of her life. She has led hundreds of community programs and campaigns dealing with an array of issues, immigrant rights, and civic engagement. Luz has mentored hundreds of youth and has motivated them to continue with their education while not forgetting their roots. She continues to lead in TODEC Legal Center to give continuity to her family's community commitment.



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Michelle Chu is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Chu expanded pharmacy services for patients with multiple uncontrolled chronic disease states at various safety net clinics. She also developed a Community Health Worker certificate program to advance the pharmacy technician's role to assist pharmacists in Diabetes, HTN, and cholesterol management. Her work continued as a program director for PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Los Angeles General Medical Center. She serves in a lead role in the California Right Meds Collaborative, training community pharmacies to implement diabetes care under a value-based payment model in partnership with health plans. She also serves as an American Heart Association Outpatient Quality Improvement Advisory member. Her area of interest is chronic disease management, including diabetes, and integrating pharmacy practices into outpatient clinics. In her clinical practice, she manages patients with diabetes and hears about their struggles. She also works with community pharmacies to help raise awareness that they are health care access points for patients. She joined the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council to advocate for both patients and pharmacies to remove any barriers to insulin access.

Samantha Lappin (she/her), as a Type 1 Diabetic for 15 years, has navigated a myriad of barriers to insulin access including cost, insurance coverage, and education. She has seen how these barriers impact every aspect of life, and how insulin access is truly just step one toward the opportunity to thrive as a diabetic. She knows two things to be true: healthcare advancements like insulin exist to keep people healthy, and advocating for your own health can be a daunting task. She joined the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council because she wants to use her voice and experience to advocate for our entire community and to make insulin more accessible to absolutely everyone who can benefit from it.