



CalRx® Biosimilar Insulin Initiative  
Patient Advisory Council  
Member Bios

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**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.

**Ani Shenian** is a board-certified Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist who specializes in diabetes management and pharmacogenomics consulting. She received her Master's degree in Pharmacy at Yerevan State Medical University in Armenia. She later earned her Doctorate degree in Pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Dr. Shenian has been practicing in an ambulatory care setting as a clinical pharmacist in Los Angeles for the last 12 years. Her greatest passion for her entire pharmacist career is helping and coaching patients with Type 2 Diabetes, low health literacy, and medication non-compliance and educating them on how to use food as medicine.

**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.



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**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.

**Daniela Grijalva Moreno** was born and raised in México in a very humble family. She holds a Bachelor's in Public Health and an MBA in Healthcare Administration and is driven to improve public health across borders. She is a graduate student at Brown University School of Public Health, concentrating in Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLP). Daniela joined the CalRx Insulin Patient Advisory Council, drawing on 10 years of experience in public health efforts with indigenous, farmworker, immigrant, and low-income populations. This foundation enables her to address the mental, financial, and cultural barriers that Latinx people face in health campaigns. In her free time, she continues to support families as they navigate California's healthcare system, whether through direct assistance or by training community health workers. Daniela believes that affordable insulin will transform the lives of all Californians, making her participation in this project a dream come true as a public health professional.

**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.



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**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.

**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.

**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.