

# MEYER CANCER CENTER COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



**MAHA ATTIEH,  
ARAB-AMERICAN FAMILY  
SUPPORT CENTER**

**Maha Attieh** is the Lead Health Program Navigator at the Arab American Family Support Center. She began working at the organization in 2003 to improve Arab Americans' access to healthcare, particularly among non-English speakers. Her commitment to providing Arab American communities with health and education services also led to her becoming involved with other initiatives in New York City, including the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center community outreach committee; the New York Immigration Coalition; the New York City Language Access Committee; and the Khalil Gibran International Academy in Brooklyn. Since 2013, Maha has served as an Arabic-speaking NYS of Health Navigator with the only Arab-American agency. In December 2019, she was appointed by the Commissioner of Health for New York State, Dr. Howard Zucker, to the Marketplace Advisory Committee.

**JAKO DOUGLAS-BORREN,  
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER**



**Jako Douglas-Borren** is the Director of Programs at the Brooklyn Community Pride Center. With a background in the financial sector, Jako transitioned to the nonprofit sector in 2006, joining the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in 2007 where he initially served as a consultant in arts administration and later on as the Director of Program Operations. This position enabled him to combine his experience in business development and customer service with his passion for community development. Currently, working for Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Jako heads up programs, servicing Brooklyn LGBTQ+ residents. In this capacity he is supporting the Center in its growth, working with the staff and a community close to his heart.

**ALEXINA CATHER,  
HUNTER COLLEGE NEW YORK CITY FOOD  
POLICY CENTER**



**Alexina Cather**, MPH, is the Deputy Director at the Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center where she works to develop innovative, evidence-based solutions to prevent diet-related diseases and protect food security. She works closely with policy makers, community organizations, advocates and the public to create healthier, more sustainable food environments and to use food to promote community and economic development. Ms. Cather works tirelessly to connect community-based organizations, academics, advocates and entrepreneurs to combat

hunger and other food-related issues such as food waste, food insecurity, food inequity and access to nutritious, whole foods in underserved communities in New York City and beyond.

She previously worked as a project manager at the Center for Behavioral Cardiovascular Health at Columbia University Medical Center on a number of research initiatives targeted at improving cardiovascular health among New York City residents.

Prior to joining the New York City Food Policy Center, Ms. Cather was a contributing writer for Food Tank, where she wrote about our food system and helped to promote a global community for safe, healthy, nourished eaters. Before moving to New York City, Ms. Cather worked as a family resource coordinator and a science teacher at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland where she worked to provide children receiving medical assistance and their families with healthy food, education and social and emotional support. Additionally, she worked to promote female empowerment and healthy bodies through her work coaching soccer for a number of girls' soccer teams in the Bay Area and through her travels to West Africa to coach girls soccer in Ghana.

Ms. Cather currently serves on the boards of the NY State Chapter of Slow Food USA and the NYC Healthy School Food Alliance.

**PAMELA ESPOSITO-AMERY,  
TELL EVERY AMAZING LADY ABOUT  
OVARIAN CANCER**

**Pamela Esposito-Amery** is the co-founder, CEO and a board member of Tell Every Amazing Lady About Ovarian Cancer Louisa M. McGregor Ovarian Cancer Foundation also known as T.E.A.L.®, the nonprofit foundation behind New York City's largest walk/run specifically for ovarian cancer. In 2009, Pamela and her sister, the late Louisa M. McGregor, co-founded T.E.A.L.® in order to promote public awareness of ovarian cancer, raise funds for research, and support women affected by the disease. Pamela has overseen T.E.A.L.®'s nationwide expansion of support and events – in addition to global outreach that spans Europe, Asia, and Australia. Pamela also works to educate about ovarian cancer through T.E.A.L.®'s Community Outreach Program, regularly reading speaking engagements, lectures, and presentations at health fairs, symposiums, schools, universities, hospitals, and community centers.



**RONDA KOTELCHUCK,  
FOUNDING CEO, EMERTIUS  
PRIMARY CARE DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**



**Ronda Kotelchuck** was the founding CEO of the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), a unique public-private partnership with a mission of expanding access to primary and preventive care in underserved communities. Prior to PCDC, she served with NYC's Health + Hospitals, the City's municipal hospital system, rising to Vice President for Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Relations.

Upon retirement in 2015, Ms. Kotelchuck serves on the boards of directors of the NY School-Based Health Foundation; the Community Healthcare Network, a federally-qualified health center; and Nonprofit New York.

Ms. Kotelchuck's previous background is in health planning and policy. She received her BA from Lewis and Clark College and her MRP from Cornell University. She lives with her husband on Manhattan's West Side and they share two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

**DIANE NATHANIEL,  
BEAT STAGE 3**

Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, **Diane Nathaniel** is a Stage 3 Colon Cancer Survivor. Today she stands strong and has turned her experience with cancer into an opportunity to help spread awareness and the importance of cancer screenings. After having cancer, she created and Co-founded "Beat Stage 3," an image conscious campaign for cancer Fighters and Survivors. Diane spends much time as an advocate and volunteer with The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network as an ACT LEAD. As an Ambassador Constituent Team Leader, She is responsible for the 8th Congressional District governed by Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. This role involves sharing information with the community about legislative policies that affect cancer Fighters, Survivors and Caregivers. Diane has represented her District in Albany and Washington, D.C. speaking before members of Congress about the importance of providing affordable quality healthcare for cancer patients to get screened.



**RAMON PEGUERO, ESQ  
COMMITTEE FOR HISPANIC  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



**Ramon Peguero, Esq.** is currently the President & CEO of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, CHCF. CHCF combines education, capacity-building, and advocacy to strengthen the support system and continuum of learning for children and youth. He has over 30 years of experience working in grassroots organizations that tackled the most challenging issues facing low income residents in New York: HIV and AIDS awareness, child and substance abuse, child development issues, housing, and senior health and nutrition education.

He is a Mayoral appointee to the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Board Member of the Early Care Learning Council, and Board Chair of Nuestros Ninos Preschool Center. He earned a B.A. from Stony Brook University, an M.P.A. from Metropolitan College and a law degree from CUNY School of Law, Queens College.



**SAM ROGERS,  
LUNG CANCER  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**



**Sam Rogers** has spent nearly fifteen years in the non-profit sector and now serves as the Senior Director of Development at the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) where his primary responsibilities include major gifts, LCRF's annual fund, planned giving, signature events and oversight of the organization's data team. Prior to LCRF Sam spent over eight years at the Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF). Sam has an MS in Urban Policy and Management from the New School University.

**JAMES SATTERFIELD, MD  
GENERAL SURGEON  
AT NEWYORKPRESBYTERIAN-QUEENS**



**James Satterfield, MD**, is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Attending Surgeon and Medical Director of the Center for Wound Healing at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. A board certified surgeon, Dr. Satterfield specializes in general surgery, breast surgery, and laparoscopic surgery for hernia repair, colon resection, and cholecystectomies. He performs volunteer community service and has traveled internationally to provide surgical care and education to underserved populations.

**MIGDALIA TORRES,  
GILDA'S CLUB NYC**



**Migdalia Torres**, Executive Director of Program & Offsite Expansion at Gilda's Club New York City, is a licensed clinical social worker. For 25 years, Gilda's Club New York City has provided free psychosocial cancer support. Ms. Torres's role as ED provides direct leadership and oversight of Gilda's Club's goal to assure that its program services of education and psychosocial support reach into some of the most undeserved neighborhoods of New York City.

For the past 23 years, Ms. Torres has focused her clinical career working with the chronically ill—specifically cancer and dementia populations.

Ms. Torres was born and raised in New York City. She resides in Jersey City, NJ, with her husband and their Morkie.

**JOSÉ TEJADA,  
DOMINICO-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
QUEENS**



**José Tejada** is the Executive Director of the Dominico-American Society of Queens, 501c3 that has served low-income residents of the city of New York for 27 years. He is also the current UnidosUS Northeast Affiliate Council Board Member, having brought desired engagement of the UnidosUS Northeast network.

José is the founder/producer of the Carnaval de la Cultura Latina, an event that promotes health, art, music, dance, and cuisine from Latino cultures during Hispanic heritage month. He has been the recipient of community awards and public recognition.