

## **Final – February 2026 ARNA Health Equity ARC Member Bios**

### **Kimberly S. Cox, PhD, RN, NE-BC**

I currently serve as the Accredited Provider Program Director at the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA). I lead the nursing continuing professional development program in accordance with the American Nurses Credentialing Center guidelines ensuring quality educational activities for nurses' and other health professionals' lifelong learning. As the Registered Nurse (RN) Refresher Course Coordinator and Instructor, I assist RNs in returning to practice after career breaks. Prior to joining UTSA, I retired as a colonel after serving 30 years in the United States Air Force in various clinical and executive roles. I am an emerging action researcher interested in health equity and disparity. My dissertation sought to explore ways to intentionally build productive, trusting, and transparent relationships in collaborative action research initiatives between university, city, and community actors.

### **Nelly Gomez, RN, MSN**

I am a nurse educator at Vancouver Community College in Vancouver, Canada. I am trained as a clinical psychologist in Colombia where I worked with families and indigenous groups displaced by civil war. I have 14 years of Canadian nursing experience which is strongly based on nursing theories that are drawn from feminist and anti-oppression lenses that helped me recognize the importance of working from a decolonization and intersectoral frameworks. My views and academic work are informed by feminist critical theory, trauma and violence informed care, social justice, human rights, activism, advocacy, harm reduction, cultural safety, and health policy. My nursing practice background involve a variety of settings from emergency and critical care medicine, social pediatrics, mental/community health to education and Indigenous women' health and intimate partner violence research. I am fully committed to advancing ethical, equitable and trauma-informed health care as well as on acting on the root cause of the social determinants of health which have helped me gain a deeper understanding of the conditions that contribute to disparities in health care within marginalized and vulnerable populations.

**Sibel Kusdemir, MScN, PhD(c)**

I am a PhD candidate in Nursing at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. My research focuses on participatory action research and photovoice with people in recovery from substance use who are residing in shelters. Drawing on critical and feminist perspectives, my work explores health equity, recovery, and social determinants of health through visual and narrative inquiry. Alongside my academic work, I am a professional photographer with over a decade of experience, using photography both as an artistic practice and as a mode of community-based engagement. My projects and exhibitions emphasize visual storytelling as a means to amplify lived experience and promote social justice.

**Shari Laliberte, RN, PhD**

I consider myself first and foremost a *fellow community member*. I take very seriously that I am a settler of primarily French ancestry (Laliberte and Bourassa) living on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples/colonial states-political jurisdictions that are referred to as Vancouver, British Columbia, and Canada. As a member of several co-operatives and the B.C. Co-operatives Champions Network, I also consider myself a co-operator within the co-operative economic movement. My education and professional practice experiences have focused on child and youth mental health nursing, family therapy/family nursing from a social justice perspective, and population health promotion with a focus on addressing the [socio-economic determinants of youth mental health](#). I am a faculty member in the nursing program of the School of Health Sciences at Vancouver Community College and on the Board of the Basic Income Canada Network. I am passionate about co-creating transformative socio-economic policies to support caring, thriving communities in collaboration with diverse young people, nursing students/ peers, Indigenous citizens and leaders, co-ops, and diverse community groups through integrating full scope population health promotion practice within nursing (and specifically- aligning nursing with community organizing and policy advocacy work), and critical, community based-participatory action research.

**Nancy Murphy, NP, PhD – Health Equity ARC Chair**

I am a retired nurse practitioner, advance practice nursing professor, action researcher, patient advocate, and implementation specialist. My practice was with diverse populations impacted by negative socio-economic determinants of health, in areas related to HIV, primary care, sexually transmitted infections and mental health/ substance use disorders. As a practitioner action researcher, I conducted several "inside action research" projects, to study and improve practice and services in health care organizations where I was providing direct patient care as a clinician or as a faculty member in academic settings. My career trajectory in nursing and health care was based on equity, quality, patient autonomy and ethical decision making, within a critical feminist nursing framework.

**Abe Oudshoorn, RN, PhD**

I am a nurse researcher specializing on issues of health equity and homelessness. I am an Associate Professor and Associate Director in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing and the Arthur Labatt Family Chair in Nursing Leadership in Health Equity. As the Managing Editor of the International Journal on Homelessness I try to support global researchers in addressing the human right to adequate housing. My own research includes participatory approaches with youth, people experiencing homelessness, and Indigenous peoples.

**Michelle C. Vasquez, MAA**

I am a Digital Experience Strategy Manager, bringing over 20 years of experience as a digital communication professional in the higher education industry. I am also a Ph.D. candidate in the Dreeben School of Education at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) in San Antonio, Texas, where I am concentrating in Adult Education, Social Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. My work is deeply committed to issues of disabilities, health equity, inclusion, social justice, and advocacy. Currently, I am leading an action research study using digital storytelling as an arts-based research method. This study focuses on learning how parents of children with disabilities navigate and gain access to essential programs, social services, and support. I am honored to be

a grant recipient of the Social Security Administration's Analyzing Relationships between Disability, Rehabilitation and Work (ARDRAW) Small Grant Program, and I am an alumnus of Texas Partners in Policymaking and a member of the UIW Graduate Studies Department's Action Research Initiative.