

2017 SC HIV, STD and Viral Hepatitis Conference – Keynote Speakers



Anton Gunn, MSW, CDM

Anton J. Gunn knows what it takes to engage, act, and have impact at the highest level. Building on his extensive experience in healthcare, government, politics, athletics and Hip Hop, Anton has become one of America's 'Top Gun' leaders in the fast-changing 21st century. He has worked with hundreds of leaders including nonprofit executives, healthcare professionals, professional athletes, music artists, entrepreneurs, CEOs, elected officials and even the President of the United States of America. He offers them impactful insights, interesting perspectives and innovative solutions to their daily leadership challenges. Anton has spoken more than 1000 times in the

last seven years to audiences worldwide, showing individuals and organizations how to develop leadership, embrace change, improve communication and thrive in diversity.

Anton is former state legislator and federal policymaker playing a leadership role in many important issues. Previously, he served as one of President Barack Obama's top spokesmen on the Affordable Care Act. Anton helped the President and Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, deliver critical information during one of the most disruptive and transformational times in United States history. Anton also served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from 2009-2011, becoming the first African American in South Carolina history to represent House District 79.



Pamela Payne Foster, MD, MPH

Dr. Pamela Payne Foster is a Preventive Medicine/Public Health Physician serving as an Associate Professor in the Community and Rural Department and Deputy Director of the Institute for Rural Health Research at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa Regional Campus. Dr. Foster's area of research is HIV/AIDS-related stigma in rural African Americans, particularly in faith-based settings.

Dr. Foster received her BS degree in Chemistry Pre-Medicine from Xavier University in Louisiana and her MS in Biomedical Sciences and MD from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. She completed an Internship in Internal Medicine and Residency in Preventive Medicine/Public Health at State University of New York at Stony Brook where she also completed her MPH at Columbia University. She has served on the faculty of a variety of institutions including Morehouse School of Medicine, George Washington University, SUNY Stony Brook, and the National Bioethics Center for Health Care and Research at Tuskegee University.

Dr. Foster also works as a HIV/AIDS activist particularly around health equity issues in the rural Deep South. She and her husband, William Foster Jr founded a nonprofit AframSouth Inc which addresses several health disparity issues as well as youth and family development in African American families. She is also the author of two books, "Is there a balm in Black America" and "Practicing Prevention" which incorporate holistic approaches to dealing with health disparities.



Teo Drake

Teo Drake is a spiritual activist, an educator, a practicing Buddhist and yogi, and an artisan who works in wood and steel. A self-described "blue-collar, queer-identified trans-man living with AIDS," Drake channels his activism into the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, ability, and spirituality. He sees compassion as being central to building a just world, and therefore compassion is central to his spiritual grounding and compassion practices are at the core of his teaching and trainings.

He is a board member and on faculty with Off the Mat, Into the World; a member of the advisory board of the Transgender Law Center's project Positively Trans; part of the poor and blue collar national working group for Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ); and a founding member of the

Transforming Hearts Collective. His writing appears in the anthology *Yoga and Body Image* and at the blog rootsgrowthetree.com.

When he isn't helping spiritual spaces be more welcoming and inclusive of queer and transgender people or helping queer and trans folks find authentic spiritual paths, Teo Drake can be found teaching martial arts, yoga, and woodworking to children.



Dázon Dixon Diallo, DHL, MPH

Dázon Dixon Diallo is a recognized visionary and advocate in the struggle for women's human rights and reproductive justice, as well as the fight against HIV/AIDS, on behalf of communities of women living with HIV and those at risk for HIV and STIs. Dr. Diallo is Founder and President of *SisterLove, Inc.*, established in 1989, the first women's HIV/AIDS and RJ organization in the Southeastern United States. She is a proud member of *In Our Own Voice: The National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda*, where she advocates for sexual and reproductive justice in public health and prevention policies and programs.

Dr. Diallo is very active in advocacy and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the *National Women's Health Network*; a founding member of the *30 for 30 Campaign for Women* in the National HIV AIDS Strategy; member on the Fulton County HIV Advisory Board; co-chair for the *Act Now End AIDS National Coalition*; and recently appointed member to the NIH Office on AIDS Research Advisory Council. At the national level, Dr. Diallo's work continues to have a national impact as her prevention program, "Healthy Love," is now a part of CDC's National Compendium of Effective Evidence-based HIV Prevention Interventions. At the regional level, Dr. Diallo established the first transitional housing program for HIV positive women and children in the South.