



DR. VJOLLCA BERISHA

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Dr. Vjollca Berisha is a Senior Epidemiologist at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), Office of Epidemiology, and has been with MCDPH for almost 20 years. Vjollca holds a medical degree and a master's degree in Medical Sciences - Clinical and Experimental Physiology, from the School of Medicine at the University of Prishtina in Prishtina, Kosova. During her professional career, Vjollca has worked for state and local governments in the US and internationally as an epidemiologist and subject matter expert on various communicable diseases and environmental surveillance programs. Currently, Vjollca, alongside her team, is leading the Climate and Health Program, including heat surveillance, climate and health projects, injury surveillance and respiratory diseases with a focus on vulnerable populations. A key aspect of Vjollca's work includes increasing community engagement. She helped establish the Bridging Climate Change and Public Health Collaborative – a community-wide effort to prevent illness and death from climate-sensitive hazards in Maricopa County.



JANE GILBERT

*Chief Heat Officer
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As Miami-Dade County's first Chief Heat Officer, Jane Gilbert is working collaboratively across departments, jurisdictions, and sectors within the region to address and mitigate the increasing risks to human health, lives, and livelihoods associated with excessive heat. Prior to joining Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's leadership team, Jane served as the City of Miami's first Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for four years. As CRO, Jane led the climate and urban resilience strategy development and implementation for the City of Miami, and, in partnership with Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami Beach, for the greater Miami region. Prior to her public sector work, she managed The Miami Foundation's civic leadership agenda on sea level rise, Wells Fargo's philanthropy, and community affairs in South Florida and served as the executive director for three nonprofits in Greater Miami. Jane holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Barnard College and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



KIZZY CHARLES-GUZMAN

*Deputy Director
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Kizzy Charles-Guzman is a Deputy Director at the New York City (NYC) Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability where she leads the social and environmental policy team. For over a decade, she has engaged in citywide sustainability and resiliency planning efforts to ensure that social, public health, and environmental justice priorities are integrated into climate action agendas and environmental policies. She led the development of Cool Neighborhoods NYC, the city's first comprehensive strategy to address the impacts of rising temperatures and heatwaves, and other equity-focused initiatives that ensure that NYC residents are ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change. Kizzy also served as the deputy director for Social Resiliency at the NYC Mayor's Office of Resiliency, and as director of the Climate Change and Public Health Program at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, developing and implementing effective initiatives that support and promote NYC's environmental health. She received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Quality Award and a Champion of Change Award from the U.S. White House in recognition of her work. She is a graduate of Carleton College and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She also teaches at New York University.



LARRY KALKSTEIN, PH.D.

*Bioclimatologist and Professor, Department of Public Health Science
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Professor Larry Kalkstein is a bioclimatologist who specializes in the impact of weather on human health. He has been conducting research in applied climatology for many years and has dealt with problems such as weather's impact on heat-related illnesses, understanding how reflective roofing and paving materials can significantly alter summer heat and health problems, and many other issues. Larry has served as principal investigator on many projects dealing with the development of heat/health warning systems for major cities worldwide. He has also been involved in the development of numerous weather indices for use in applied climatological research, which are now used worldwide. Larry's most recent contracts include collaborations with the 3M Corporation to determine how the use of reflective roofing granules will alter the meteorology and human health outcomes during major heat events. He presently serves as Chief Heat Scientist for the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation, developing the first international heat wave ranking system. Larry is co-founder of the Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative developing a comprehensive neighborhood plan to lessen urban heat island negative health impacts.



LADD KEITH, PH.D.

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Ladd Keith, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Planning and Chair of Sustainable Built Environments at The University of Arizona. He is an interdisciplinary researcher working at the intersection of urban planning and climate change to create more sustainable and resilient cities. He has over a decade of experience working with diverse stakeholders to solve complex urban challenges in cities across the U.S. His current research explores heat governance and how cities can mitigate and manage heat to increase heat resilience.



KURT SHICKMAN

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Kurt Shickman is the Director of Extreme Heat Initiatives at the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center where he coordinates the broad set of alliances, place-based pilots, and initiatives to build resilience to rising temperatures in communities around the world. Previously, Kurt was the executive director of the Global Cool Cities Alliance, a non-profit working with over 70 cities to implement passive cooling solutions and policies.



CHRIS UEJIO, PH.D.

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Chris Uejio studies how the physical environment, broadly defined, influences human health and well-being. He co-authored the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework. This framework comprised a small portion of the President's Climate Action Plan (2012). He frequently works with health departments to understand and adapt to climate change. His work has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



DAVID ZIERDEN, PH.D

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David Zierden earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in 1996 at Florida State University. He followed that with a Master of Science in Meteorology under the direction of James J. O'Brien, then director of FSU's Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies. Following graduation, David served under James, a recognized world leader in ocean modeling and climate application studies, as the Assistant State Climatologist from 1998 through 2005. In 2006, David was appointed State Climatologist and has served that role ever since. David is a member of the American Association of State Climatologists, American Meteorological Society, and the Florida Climate Institute. He has published journal articles on satellite meteorology, climate variability and wildfire threat, and applications to agriculture in the Southeast U.S. and presented these findings at many professional conferences. He is well-known among growers, producers, and extension in the Southeast for providing seasonal climate forecasts and presents this information at many workshops, trade shows, and commodity meetings.