

## **Julia Garcia - Diaz, MD**

Medical Director, Clinical Research Group

Pharmacovigilance

Infectious Disease Consultant, Ochsner Health



Medical Director, Clinical Research Group at PPD, Dr. Garcia-Diaz earned her medical degree from LSU and completed her internship, residency and infectious diseases fellowship at Ochsner. She is board certified in infectious diseases and has been on staff at Ochsner since 1998. She is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Tulane and until early this year, she was the Medical Director Research, Infectious Diseases and all subspecialties. She was also the Program Director of Ochsner's Infectious Diseases fellowship training program for 15 years. Dr. Garcia-Diaz is a prolific researcher who is active internationally in the field of infectious diseases, a certified CPI, and is currently overseeing clinical trials in the field of Infectious Diseases to include COVID, therapeutic and prevention interventions, HIV and transplantation. She is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American College of Physicians. Her professional interests include infections in the immunocompromised host and prevention strategies in the field of vaccines.

## **Josh Maticotta, PsyD, MA, CAHIMS**

Assistant Dean of Assessment & Strategic Initiatives

Assistant Professor

Western University of Health Sciences



Dr. Maticotta trained as a clinical psychologist with an emphasis on behavioral medicine & health psychology. He has worked in community mental health, university student health centers, hospitals, and public schools. He is the Assistant Dean of Assessment & Strategic Initiatives and Assistant Professor in the College of Health Sciences at Western University of Health Sciences. He is an adjunct professor at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific and teaches part-time in the psychology department of Pasadena City College. Professional service includes serving on the Board of Directors at IBHRI and volunteering to support its internship program. Frequently, Dr. Maticotta serves as a scientific reviewer on the NIH SBIR/STTR Social and Community Influences across the Lifecourse (SCIL) Review Branch of the Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences (DABP).

## **Mariana Montero, MBA**

Executive Director

Golden Chance, Inc.



Mariana Montero, originally from Ecuador, moved to the United States 30 years ago and is a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Guayaquil (Universidad de Guayaquil) in Ecuador and a double Masters in Business Administration and Engineering Management from the University of New Orleans in Louisiana. She holds a certification as a Prevention Educator and Duluth Curriculum Domestic Abuse Facilitator.

Ms. Montero is the Founder and Executive Director of Golden Change, Inc., a non-profit organization in the Greater New Orleans Area. With the mission to empower ethnically diverse communities by providing the necessary tools to prevent violence and yield positive behavioral change, thus improving the quality of life for individuals and families.

As a passionate servant leader, Ms. Montero volunteers for numerous charitable organizations and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Metro Centers for Community Advocacy and The Luke's House Clinic. She also serves as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center (LA CaTS), LA-CEAL CAB, the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans /Tulane University Health Sciences Center National Institutes of Health (NIH) "All of Us Research Program" and the community Advisor member of Tulane CAB, LA AoU Krewe, and Tobacco-Free Living. She also is a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana and an active volunteer with the Hispanic Apostolate/ Archdiocese of New Orleans.