



**People With Disabilities Foundation
Overcoming Barriers to Physical Health Care Access – People with Mental
Disabilities Have Shorter Life Spans, September 30, 2013
Speaker Biographies**

Hamilton Holt, M.D.

Dr. Hamilton Holt is the Medical Director for the Telepsychiatry Program for Community Behavioral Health Services in San Francisco. His practice has been focused in providing psychiatric consultation within Primary Care settings, in addition to being Medical Director for a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry clinic for underserved clients in San Francisco. He has long had a commitment to integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health. He attended medical school at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. Trained in both Adult and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Dr. Holt graduated from NYU Psychiatry Residency Program.

David Pating, M.D.

Dr. David Pating has been the Chief of Addiction Medicine, the Medical Director of the Chemical Dependency Recovery Program, and Chair of the Physician Wellbeing and Wellness Committee at Kaiser Medical Center San Francisco, since 2001. He is also an Assistant Professor at University of California, San Francisco. In 2007 he was appointed to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (prop 63), for which he is currently vice-chair. He authored the Commission's recent policy paper on Transformation through Integration.

Dr. Pating is a board member of the California Institute of Mental Health and on the California Hospital Association's Behavioral Health Advisory Board. He has delivered over 50 conference presentations and lectures and authored or co-authored over 10 publications. He received his MD from the UCLA School of Medicine and did his residencies at Stanford University Medical Center and the UCSF School of Medicine.



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Megha Miglani, M. D.

Dr. Megha Miglani attended the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, where she had the opportunity and pleasure of training and working with the underserved at the busy LAC+USC Medical Center. She currently serves as a University of California San Francisco Public Psychiatry Fellow and remains connected to teaching as a Clinical Instructor for both UCSF and Yale University's School of Medicine. At Yale University, she received the School of Medicine's Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Medical Education. She works as a psychiatrist at San Francisco's South of Market Mental Health Clinic, Willow Rock Center Adolescent Psychiatric Health Facility in San Leandro, and Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez.

Steven Bruce, Esq.

Steven Bruce has over 25 years' experience as an advocate for those with disabilities. He was an Assistant Public Defender, worked for the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Offices for Civil Rights, then was a Senior Attorney for the Social Security Administration. He was a supervisor in the Government Benefits Unit for Legal Aid, then had a private Social Security disability practice for 10 years before he founded PWDF in 2000. He is a member of the California, Florida and the District of Columbia bars and admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



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Pam Cohen, Esq.

Pamela Cohen is a staff attorney at Disability Rights California in Oakland. She represents individuals with mental and physical disabilities both in facilities and in the community. She previously worked as an independent consultant focusing on legal and policy issues related to community-based care for older adults with mental disabilities, fair housing law, and international mental health law. She has served as a court-appointed criminal appellate defense attorney specializing in issues of forensic mental health law. She has been a staff attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C., a project manager at the AARP Foundation, and a member of an International Commission of Jurists mission to study the rights of psychiatric patients in Japan.

Ms. Cohen is an adjunct professor at New York Law School, teaching in the areas of mental health and disability law and has been a lecturer at Stanford Law School, a clinical lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School, and a Visiting Scholar at Sophia University in Tokyo. She has published several articles on U.S. and Japanese mental health law, and has been a frequent speaker at professional conferences. She is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law.

Rob Chittenden

Rob Chittenden has worked for Disability Rights California since 1997. He started as a trainer for the Peer/Self-Advocacy Unit and is currently the Unit Manager. Mr. Chittenden has served on various boards and commissions, including the California Network of Mental Health Clients Board; the Humboldt County Mental Health Board; the Humboldt County Recovery Task Force, for which he was the chair; the Innovations Subcommittee of the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability



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Commission; the Stigma and Discrimination Subcommittee of the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission; and the Humboldt County Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee. He has been diagnosed with mental illness and identifies himself as a psychiatric survivor.

Julian Plumadore

Julian Plumadore has 4 years of academic training in Humanities from the University of Oregon, and 30 years of lived experience as a mental health consumer. As Community Advocate for the Mental Health Association of San Francisco, he has taken an active role in discussions affecting San Francisco's mental health community, including the meetings on the San Francisco Police Department's Taser Proposal earlier this year. In addition to offering peer support and facilitating recovery-oriented support groups, Mr. Plumadore leads regular trainings and presentations as part of the Institute on Compulsive Hoarding and Cluttering. He has been interviewed twice by The New York Times for his perspective as one of the foremost peer experts on hoarding and cluttering issues in the US.