

The Center for AIDS Information & Advocacy
2010 Staff Qualifications

Paul Simmons, RN, ACRN – Executive Director

Paul has a background in both HIV research and clinical care. He served as Director of Information and Advocacy at The CFA from 1997-2001 and returned as Co-Executive Director of Programs in February 2007. He has served on the national community advisory board of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), as chair of the local advisory board of the Houston AIDS Research Team, and as a member of the Ryan White Planning Council. Since joining The CFA in February 2007, he has served the City of Houston Health Department as a community consultant to the Houston Medical Monitoring Project, an HIV surveillance initiative funded by the CDC. He represents the local community in meetings with the FDA, the NIH, and the pharmaceutical industry, and now chairs the community constituency group for the largest unit of the ACTG. Paul has been published in The CFA's publications, as well as in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*. He has made many presentations on HIV/AIDS locally and around the country, including at the National AIDS Treatment Advocates Forum. He is responsible for overseeing all programs of The CFA. Paul is studying to become a nurse practitioner.

Danielle Houston, MSPH – Education Manager

Danielle joined the staff of The CFA in September 2008. She received her MSPH in Tropical Medicine from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and her BA in psychology from Boston University. Her graduate work focused on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. She has a background in advocacy and community outreach. Formerly with The Princeton Review, an educational preparation company, Danielle promoted national and regional initiatives while coordinating citywide events. Her personal interests have led her to work as a tutor to inner-city kids, as a volunteer GED instructor for homeless and runaway teens, and as an intern with rape survivors. As Education Manager, Danielle is responsible for Project LEAP (Learning, Empowerment, Advocacy, Participation), an annual advocacy training program of the Ryan White Planning Council. Danielle is also responsible for leading presentations and workshops, maintaining the L. Joel Martinez Information Center, and providing treatment information to people living with HIV.

Gayle Alstot, MD – Operations Manager

Gayle began working at The CFA in April 2007. A 1997 graduate of Baylor College of Medicine, Gayle has fourteen years of training and experience in medical and scientific fields, including a BA in Biological Sciences and an MD and anesthesia residency from Baylor College of Medicine. Gayle provides clients with information and gives program support to Danielle as needed for Project AIR and Project LEAP. Her skills include planning, coordinating, documenting, and managing multidisciplinary projects. She has extensive presentation experience and a strong interest in the value of educating patients to help improve quality of life through health literacy.

Donna Kay Moore – Development and Communications Manager

Before joining The Center for AIDS, Donna served as Director of Development for Pathways for Little Feet, and for First Baptist Academy. She has also worked for Houston Christian High School as Associate Director of Major and Capital Giving, and as Associate Director of Individual Giving. Her career in non-profit work began in 2004 at the Greater Houston Community Foundation where she served as Donor Services Associate and later as Donor Services Manager. Before her career in the non-profit sector, Donna worked for eight years at AIM Management Group, now known as Invesco Aim. In 1994, she graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. Donna is responsible for the planning and coordination of all fundraising efforts, including cultivation of donors and stewardship of their gifts. Donna also oversees all grant writing and reporting efforts, manages the donor database, coordinates special events, and works closely with the Board and Advisory Board to promote the mission and vision of The CFA to the community.

Rachel Robnett – Programs and Operations Assistant

Rachel is a recent graduate of the American Humanics program at the University of Houston. She served a six month internship with The CFA where she was Program Assistant for Project LEAP 2008 and was hired part-time for The CFA as Program Assistant for Project LEAP 2009. She is currently in graduate school at University of Texas School of Public Health. Her duties at The CFA include board support, operations assistance, and program assistance with all aspects of Project LEAP 2010.

Mark Mascolini – Editor

Mark Mascolini has been writing about HIV infection since before Françoise Barré-Sinoussi discovered the virus, even before AIDS had a name. Focusing on antiretroviral therapy and its complications, he has filed reports from most major HIV meetings since the early 1990s for clients ranging from the International AIDS Society and the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care to NATAP, amfAR, *Treatment News*, and *POZ*. Collaborating with top antiretroviral investigators, he has published in peer-reviewed journals such as *AIDS* and *Antiviral Therapy*. Mark lives in Allentown, Pa, and New York City, where he races for Front Runners New York.

Stephanie Scott, CPA – Accountant

Stephanie is a contract, part-time accountant whose duties include balancing The CFA books, preparing for The CFA's yearly audit, and preparing all financial reports and budgets for the board treasurer and the executive director to review prior to board meetings.