SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT AGEISM: 
Leading with Solutions to Unlock the Power of Older Age

Thursday, April 22nd 3:00 – 4:30 EDT

**Ashton Applewhite, Author of *This Cradle Still Rocks*, Activist**

An internationally recognized expert on ageism, Ashton Applewhite is the author of *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*. A co-founder of the Old School Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse, she speaks widely at venues that have included the TED mainstage and the United Nations, and is a leading spokesperson for the emerging movement to raise awareness of ageism and to dismantle it.

**Daisy Auger-Dominguez, Chief People Officer, VICE Media Group**

As the Chief People Officer at VICE Media Group, Daisy Auger-Dominguez oversees human resources, diversity, equity and inclusion, and social impact practices. Her TEDx talk “Inclusion Revolution” and forthcoming book with Seal Press by the same name calls on everyone, from individual contributors to CEOs, to take on the work of dismantling inequity in the workplace. Daisy has designed and executed organizational transformations at Moody’s Investors Service, The Walt Disney Company, Google, and Viacom, and founded Auger-Domínguez Ventures, a workplace culture consultancy. She serves on the boards of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and St. Ann’s Warehouse.

**Susan Beane, Executive Medical Director, Healthfirst**

Dr. Susan Beane serves as Executive Medical Director of Healthfirst, a not-for-profit managed care organization sponsored by hospitals and medical centers in New York. Through Health Program Design and Management, Healthfirst offers a full range of integrated services for achieving dramatic improvements in the performance of health care organizations. These services are especially geared to organizations that focus on impacting and improving the health of communities, including elimination of disparities. Prior to her role at Healthfirst, Dr. Beane spent
seven years at Affinity Health Plan, a not-for-profit managed care company dedicated to serving the healthcare needs of New Yorkers. Trained as a Primary Care Physician, Dr. Beane advocates for collaboration with providers as a key method to improving the health of all New Yorkers.

**John Beard, Former Director, Department of Ageing and Life Course, WHO**

John Beard led the World Health Organization's work on ageing and life course for 10 years, from 2009. He now works as a change agent with academia, policymakers, and the private sector to make the world a better place in which to live and age.

He has a number of ongoing formal appointments including as Chief Advisor to EIT Health (the European Institute for Innovation and Technology); a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Futures Council on Human Enhancement and Longevity; visiting academic positions at universities in China and Australia; and a number of private sector initiatives related to population aging.

Prior to commencing with WHO, he was Senior Epidemiologist at the New York Academy of Medicine, a clinical professor at the University of Sydney, and manager of Public Health for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

**David Burnes, Associate Dean, Academic and Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto**

Dr. David Burnes is the Associate Dean, Academic and an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. He joined the faculty in 2014 after completing a PhD at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

Dr. Burnes' program of research centers around the issue of elder abuse (abuse, neglect, financial exploitation) - a pervasive issue with major consequences to older adults and society. His research focuses on understanding and preventing elder abuse, including the development of basic science (prevalence, risk factors), developing/evaluating interventions, and developing outcome measures.

Dr. Burnes has published many research papers on the topic of elder abuse, including papers in top gerontology and public health journals. He has advised major international organizations on the topic of elder abuse, such as the World Health Organization and National Institutes of Health. Dr. Burnes also advises government entities, including state-level adult protective services programs, on the development and implementation of elder abuse intervention programs and measurement strategies. Dr. Burnes has served as an expert in legal proceedings involving elder financial abuse in institutional settings and family estates. He recently received the Faculty Achievement Award.
from the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) for contributions to research/scholarship, teaching, and community engagement related to aging issues.

**Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner, Department for the Aging**

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez has over three decades of experience in four industry sectors and areas: corporate, non-profit, government, and politics. She has excelled in each, although non-profit is where her commitment lives. Currently, she is the Commissioner for the Department for the Aging. She also serves on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board and on the Board of Trustees for the City University of New York, the largest urban public university system in the world.

Previously Cortés-Vázquez worked at AARP as the Executive Vice President for Multicultural Markets and Engagement, and as the President and CEO of the Hispanic Federation, a network for Latino organizations throughout the East Coast. Cortés-Vázquez also served as the 65th New York State Secretary of State.

Cortés-Vázquez obtained her undergraduate degree from Hunter College and earned a master’s degree from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is a Toll Fellow and has earned certificates from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and Columbia University’s School of Non-Profit Management.

She is dedicated to her family, particularly her nieces, nephews, and grandsons.

**Ernest Gonzales, Associate Professor and Director, The Center on Health and Aging Innovation (CHAI), New York university**

Ernest Gonzales is an Associate Professor and Director to The Center on Health and Aging Innovation (CHAI). He is a scholar in the areas of productive aging (employment, volunteering, and caregiving), health equity, discrimination and social policy. His research advances our understanding of the relationships between healthy aging, social determinants of health, productive activities, and intergenerational contexts. His research has been supported by The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institute on Aging, U.S. Social Security Administration, AARP Foundation, Fan Fox and Samuels Foundation, and other public and private funders. Dr. Gonzales publishes in leading scientific journals and he is on several editorial boards. By invitation, he serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE).
Michael Hodin, CEO, Global Coalition on Aging; Managing Partner, High Lantern Group

Michael W. Hodin, Ph.D. is CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging, Managing Partner at High Lantern Group, and a Fellow at Oxford University’s Harris Manchester College. He has spoken internationally on aging, including at G20, APEC, Davos, and the World Knowledge Forum.

From 1976-80, Mike was Legislative Assistant to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was a senior executive at Pfizer, Inc. for 30 years, where he created and led International Public Affairs and Public Policy operations. Mike holds a BA, cum laude, Cornell University, M.Sc. from The London School of Economics, and M.Phil and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Kendra Jason, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Organizational Science, and Gerontology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dr. Kendra Jason is a scholar of work, organizations, and inequality. She believes that work is central to our lives, thus, it is important that all workers have the best job experiences. Dr. Jason is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, Organizational Science, and Gerontology at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. She is also the Founder, President, and CEO of Work 4 Change, a consultancy of social scientists, thought leaders, digital storytellers, and skilled trainers who partner with companies to evaluate and improve workplace culture and communication through the lenses of social justice, humanism, equity, and science.

For over 15 years, Kendra has conducted research, given talks, facilitated workshops, and taught about work with the goal to better the everyday experience by helping organizational leaders best understand and meet the needs of their workers, so that workers’ job satisfaction, retention, meaningful contribution, and sense of value increase.

Kendra founded Work 4 Change because she saw a great need: companies want to do better and workers want to enjoy the work that they do. Pulling from her experience as a program evaluator and social scientist of organizational behavior, she knew that equity and justice, and humanity and dignity, needed to be central to the solution. Kendra partners with companies to identify their areas of needs, formulate a plan, measure and capture data, and demonstrate the change they need to actualize their company’s goals and mission.
Richard Jackson, President, Global Aging Institute


Lisa Ryerson, President, AARP Foundation

Lisa Marsh Ryerson is president of AARP Foundation, the charitable affiliate of AARP. A bold, disciplined and collaborative leader, she sets the Foundation's strategic direction and steers its efforts to realize an audacious vision: a country free of poverty, where no older person feels vulnerable. Since she took the helm, AARP Foundation has implemented pioneering initiatives, explored new avenues for collaboration, and secured unprecedented funding to support programs and services that truly change lives. In its last three-year strategic plan, AARP Foundation generated over $5 billion of income for older adults through work and jobs, tax refunds and credits and food security benefits.

She also has served on the boards of numerous higher education and nonprofit organizations, including the Council of Independent Colleges, Southern New Hampshire University, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, the Congressional Hunger Center, and National Women’s History Museum.

Ms. Ryerson has spearheaded innovative partnerships with other organizations to create and advance effective solutions that help vulnerable older adults increase their economic opportunity and social connectedness. Before joining AARP Foundation, Ms. Ryerson served as the president and CEO of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y.
Catherine Stayton, Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

As Director of the Injury and Violence Prevention Program at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Catherine Stayton oversees the epidemiologic study of injuries and violence and guides data into action. The Program monitors fatal and non-fatal injury and violence in New York City, disseminates data, and provides technical assistance on prevention policies and programming on a broad range of injury topics. Older adult safety — including falls prevention, pedestrian safety and elder abuse prevention — is an area of special focus. Dr. Stayton co-chairs the NYC Falls Prevention Coalition with New York City’s Department for the Aging. Dr. Stayton also oversees the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Violent Death Reporting System and has begun analyzing data on the circumstances surrounding violent deaths (both suicide deaths and homicides) among older adults. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Stayton has served as the Health Department’s Older Adult Wellness Unit lead in the Equity Response Group’s Priority Population Branch.

Pol Vandenbroucke, Board Member, American Federation for Aging Research; Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer Hospital Business Unit

Dr. Vandenbroucke is Chief Medical Officer of the Pfizer Hospital Business Unit and serves on the Board of the American Federation for Aging Research. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; a Fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Medicine of the United Kingdom; and an IFAPP Academy Global Fellow in Medicines Development. A frequent speaker on health, aging, Anti-Microbial Resistance, and health policy issues, he is also a Visiting Senior Lecturer at King’s College London.

Dr. Vandenbroucke’s career has been dedicated to Clinical Development and Medical Affairs and has included stints in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Before his current position, he has been Chief Development Officer for Pfizer Essential Health, Head of Medical Strategy for Pfizer Inc. and VP Medical Affairs of Pfizer’s Essential Health portfolio in North America. He previously also led the Clinical Development of all Pfizer compounds in Asia, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa-Middle East and of Pfizer’s Established Products globally. He was also responsible for developing compounds specifically for diseases of the developing world, such as malaria and river blindness.
He holds a Medical Degree from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), an MBA degree from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), and an MSc (First Honors) from Hibernia College (Ireland). He is fluent in Dutch, Spanish, English, French, and German.