

2024 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies Wehealth

Dr. Kacey Ernst PHD, MPH, Department Chair & Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Public Health, University of Arizona

Dr. Kacey Ernst is Department Chair & Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Arizona, College of Public Health. Her research has encompassed understanding why people take preventive actions to better identify community-based strategies to improve uptake. This includes developing an understanding of vaccine hesitancy, mosquito-borne disease prevention, climate change and health adaptation strategies and COVID-19 precautions. Her work includes mHealth projects such as a community-based participatory surveillance application, a participatory text-based messaging system for COVID-19 response, and consulting on the development of the Wehealth Notify app. As a former AAAS Fellow in Public Engagement, she is committed to translating science into actions that communities can take to prevent and control diseases.

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Sameer Halai, CEO, Wehealth

Sameer Halai is the CEO of Wehealth, a Public Benefit Corporation based in California, with a mission to build digital infrastructure to enhance global preparedness and resilience. Wehealth Notify is a free public health engagement platform that is already live nationwide in 3000+ counties and territories. Prior to this he co-founded SunFunder, based in East Africa, that brought \$200M+ in solar financing to grid-deficit regions around the world, and Jirav, based in San Francisco, that helps small to medium sized businesses thrive with sophisticated financial planning and forecasting. His career has focused on design and human-computer interaction including the Future Social Experiences lab at Microsoft Research and the Visual Communication lab at IBM Research. He was also the Director of Experience at Limeade, an employee well-being platform for large employers. Born and raised in India, he has a Masters in Social Computing from the University of Michigan and a BE degree from the University of Mumbai.

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