



## **Neal L. Cohen, M.D.**

Following a career in academic psychiatry serving as Vice-Chair and Clinical Director of mental health services at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine/Medical Center, Dr. Neal Cohen was appointed to the position of Commissioner of the New York City Department of Mental Health in 1996. In 1998 he was appointed to concurrently serve as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health. During his tenure, Dr. Cohen oversaw the public health responses to several major crises unprecedented in the the history of NYC or the nation: the West Nile virus outbreak, a disease that had never previously appeared in the Western hemisphere and the emergence of anthrax due to bioterrorism that posed significant challenges to public health.

As an advocate for incorporating mental health into the mainstream of the public health agenda, Dr. Cohen was a proponent for the merger of both Health and Mental Health departments into a unified public health agency which was approved in a NYC voter referendum in November 2001. Among other awards received, Dr. Cohen has been honored by the New York Academy of Medicine (*Urban Health Award*), the American Psychiatric Association (*Bruno Lima Award*), and the American Public Health Association (*Public Health Hero Award*).

Since joining the full-time Hunter College faculty in January 2007 as a Distinguished Lecturer in Public Health and the School of Social Work, Dr. Cohen is working to advance an integrative public health model that recognizes the interrelationship of physical and mental well-being and the inclusion of mental health into the mainstream of the public health agenda.



## **Amy Kwan, MPH**

Amy Kwan is currently a third-year doctoral student in public health at the Graduate Center, at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health. She has worked on numerous public health projects, including recently coordinating an evaluation of the NY State Coalition for School-Based Health Centers which involved conducting key informant interviews with internal and external stakeholders; and conducting qualitative research with South Bronx youth focused on the food environment, school food and health inequalities.

Prior to pursuing her doctorate she was at the Harlem Health Promotion Center, where she managed the development and evaluation of a community-based health information and social networking website. Her research interests focus on community- and youth-based research, health inequalities and visual and social media.

She is presently working with Dr. Diana Romero on a mixed-methods study examining family-formation decision-making among poor and non-poor women and men. Ms. Kwan received her MPH from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, New York.



## **Diana Romero, PhD, MA**

Dr. Romero is Associate Professor of Urban Public Health (Community Health and Education program) at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health at Hunter College and the Graduate Center. She also serves as Director of the Latino Health Fellowship Initiative at Hunter College. Her research interests include domestic reproductive-health and poverty policy; factors influencing fertility and family-formation decision-making; and, Latino health issues. She has been involved in several community-, state-, and national-level public health research projects, including analysis of the impact of welfare and other related social policies on access to health-related services in New York City, San Antonio, TX, New Jersey, and nationally.

Dr. Romero is currently working on several projects, including development of a qualitative in-depth interview study of individuals' family formation attitudes and behaviors in New York and New Jersey; a focus group study examining the barriers faced by Latinos with regard to higher education in public health and other health-related professions; an evidence-based advocacy project focused on the reproductive related policies in the national welfare legislation; and, quantitative analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG).

Dr. Romero teaches graduate-level courses in research methods and evaluation. She received her PhD in Sociomedical Science at Columbia University, New York.