

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

MDPH Commissioner Remarks:

Cheryl Bartlett, RN

Commissioner

MA Department of Public Health

Cheryl Bartlett was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in June 2013. As Commissioner Ms. Bartlett chairs the newly appointed Prevention and Wellness Advisory Board, which oversees a \$60 million Prevention Trust Fund – the first of its kind in the nation. Ms. Bartlett also chairs the Governor's Interagency Substance Abuse Council and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Governor's Food Policy Council. As former Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Bartlett led the Department's implementation of the health care cost containment legislation known as Chapter 224 and spearheaded a number of other health care quality and performance improvement initiatives. Prior to being named Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Bartlett was the Director of the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention where she provided strategic direction and oversight for Mass in Motion – the groundbreaking Patrick administration initiative to help Massachusetts residents to eat better and move more in the places they live, learn, work and play. Ms. Bartlett has extensive experience as a registered nurse and hospital administrator implementing health system changes through quality assessment and improvement practices. She previously served on the Boards of the Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Coalition, Lung Cancer Alliance of MA, and AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. Ms. Bartlett has held elected and appointed positions at the local level in several municipalities. She received her nursing training at Yale New Haven Hospital and Quinnipiac University and graduated summa cum laude from Stonehill College with a degree in health care administration.

Keynote Presenter: **Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD**

Medical Director

Bureau of Infectious Disease

MA Department of Public Health

Dr. DeMaria is a graduate of Boston University and Harvard Medical School. He trained in Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, New York and in Infectious Diseases at Boston City Hospital and the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. DeMaria is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. He is President Elect of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. He serves on committees of the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the board of The Public Health Museum, and as President of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

Conference Presenters:

Hawraa Al-Sad, BS has been a Community Health Navigator and Certified Medical Interpreter with Manet Community Health Center since 2008. Upon her arrival in the United States, she served with the International Rescue Committee in response to humanitarian crisis. Hawraa also worked for Quincy Housing Authority as a Resident Assistant, and as a computer literacy instructor for residents of Quincy Housing Authority. Hawraa holds a B.S in Mathematics from the University of Basrah in Iraq, and a certificate in Advance Customer Service through Middlesex Community College in MA. Hawraa is serving as a member of the Quincy--Weymouth Board on Homelessness, and the Quincy Public School Committee on Homelessness. Hawraa was just named the Saturday School Principal at Imam Sadeq Islamic School encouraging the education of young and newly arriving Arabic and Muslim students.

Antonia Blinn, BS, CHES is the co-facilitator for the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition, adjunct faculty at Pine Manor College in Brookline, MA and a project manager for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. Ms. Blinn leads process improvement trainings, adult immunization and cancer screening improvement training and technical assistance for the past two years. Utilizing a three prong framework for change management and process improvement Ms. Blinn coaches and instructs health centers on lean principles and tools resulting in improved patient and staff satisfaction as well as improved immunization and cancer screening rates. Previously Ms. Blinn worked for the Massachusetts Association for School-Based Health Care where she utilized policy, advocacy, outreach and community engagement to assisted communities in expanding collaborations, increasing funding and support for school-based health centers and school-based health services. In addition, Ms. Blinn has worked for the March of Dimes, the Women's Health and Counseling Center, Seton Hall University and the American Red Cross. Ms. Blinn has a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Ms. Blinn is an alumna of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Massachusetts Institute for Community Health Leadership and holds a Lean in Healthcare Certificate from Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University.

Mary Conant-Cantor, RN, BSN currently serves as the Nurse Manager for the Immunization Program at Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). As Nurse Manager for the Immunization Program her responsibilities include supervision of the 5 Regional Immunization Nurses, oversight of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Program and immunization content expert. Previously, Mary served as the Infectious Disease Response/Smallpox Nurse at MDPH from July 2004 to September 2006. As the Infectious Disease Response Nurse she was responsible for the statewide Smallpox Vaccination and Training Program, as well as assisting local cities and towns with their overall Bioterrorism Preparedness Plans. Prior to coming to work at MDPH, Mary worked for the City of Lowell as the Acting Nursing Coordinator overseeing Public Health and School Nursing. Mary graduated from the Greater Lowell Practical Nursing Program in

1993. She continued her education at Middlesex Community College, graduating in 1995 with Associates in Science in Nursing and her BSN from the University of New Hampshire in 1998.

Shari Davis, RN, MPH is employed by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. as a Support Associate for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In her current role, Shari assists in the statewide roll-out of the electronic immunization registry, providing programmatic, user support, and training to healthcare providers throughout the state. Shari is also a Registered Nurse and has worked in multiple hospital settings, mostly Inpatient Cardiology. Shari completed her MPH at Boston University School of Public Health.

Hillary Johnson, MHS is an Epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where she works in surveillance, reporting, and control of vaccine preventable diseases. Prior to her work with the Immunization Program, she served as Director of Field Operations for the MDPH Division of STD Prevention. She has a Master of Health Sciences degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Natalie Joseph, MD, MPH is an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine and an Adolescent Medicine Specialist at Boston Medical Center (formerly Boston City Hospital), the largest safety net hospital in New England serving the largest immigrant, low-income and minority population in Boston. As a primary care clinician to adolescents, Dr. Joseph encounters many patients with early onset of sexual activity and multiple partners, both of which increase their risk of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and cervical cancer. She has observed the limited knowledge about cervical cancer prevention and control in adolescents and their mothers and has been involved in clinical cervical cancer screening in adolescent girls and prevention since her fellowship began in 1995. Dr. Joseph has also been involved in cervical cancer prevention qualitative and quantitative research since 2007, when she first collaborated with an obstetric colleague exploring parental acceptability of the HPV vaccine among adolescent girls.

Susan Lett, MD began her professional career in nursing before becoming a physician. She is a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia, completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital and received her master's degree in public health from Harvard University. She is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine and is an honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She has been with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for 26 years, where she is the Medical Director of the Immunization Program. Dr. Lett is active in a number of professional societies, national advisory groups, and coalitions. She is a former member of both the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Vaccine Advisory Committee. She participates in the development of immunization policy at both the state and national levels and has published numerous articles about vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases.

Virginia Lijewski, MPH is an Epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where she works in surveillance, reporting, and control of infectious diseases. In addition to working for the Bureau of Infectious Disease, she is a data analyst for the Child and Adolescent Learning and Living Study (CALLS) at the Slone Epidemiology Center in Boston. She has a Master of Public Health degree from the Boston University School of Public Health.

Tseli Mohammed, MS received a B.A. in Economics from Williams College, Williamstown, MA, and a M.S. degree in International Health and Management at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, Waltham MA. Tseli is currently employed by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. as the Roll Out Coordinator for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In her current role, Tseli is responsible for providing oversight of the statewide roll-out of the electronic immunization registry and training healthcare providers throughout the state. Prior to this position Tseli worked as a Project Associate for JSI's AIDS.gov Project, which works to increase HIV testing and care among people most at-risk for, or living with, HIV, by using emerging communication technology and strategies to provide access to federal HIV information, policies, programs, and resources.

Robert Morrison, BSc has been the Vaccine Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Immunization Program for the past 18 years. As part of his responsibilities, Bob manages the \$110 million budget for the purchase of childhood as well as adult vaccines. This includes \$50 million in state funds and approximately \$60 million from two federal funding sources. He supervises staff in the Vaccine Management Unit. This unit processes approximately 12,000 vaccine orders on an annual basis, and responds to an estimated 20,000 phone calls each year. For the past 13 years, Bob has presented at Immunization Update workshops targeted to physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and other medical office personnel.

Rodrigo Monterey, BA is the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Program Manager at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), leading a federally-funded program designed to identify and address health disparities through continuous quality improvement. The CLAS Initiative at MDPH proposes and informs strategies, assists in the design and implementation of department-wide initiatives, and fosters internal and external partnerships, all with the goal of increasing health equity. *Making CLAS Happen*, the manual for CLAS implementation was developed and published in Massachusetts in 2008 and revised in 2013 to reflect federal CLAS enhancements. Another CLAS-published resource is the *Flu Vaccine For Everyone! A guide to reaching and engaging diverse communities*. Rodrigo Monterey has over ten years of experience working in various areas of public health, including HIV/AIDS, Emergency Preparedness and Substance Abuse. Prior to joining the Office of Health Equity in September of 2013, he was the Procurement Coordinator for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at MDPH, in charge of the RFR process for contracting vendors. While at BSAS Rodrigo

was a key informant of the CLAS Initiative from the beginning, serving on its Coordinating Committee and chairing various working groups.

Rebecca Perkins, MD, MSc is a gynecologist by training, and has been actively involved in cervical cancer prevention research since 2003, when she designed and helped to implement a cervical cancer prevention program in Honduras comparing the accuracy of visual inspection with Pap smear screening. To date, Dr. Perkins has completed database reviews, qualitative interview studies, and cost-effectiveness analyses related to cervical cancer prevention in low-income and minority women. Her recent work has examined the cost-effectiveness of visual inspection compared with Pap smears in Honduras and used qualitative research methods to describe attitudes toward Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in parents of low-income, minority adolescents in the United States and the providers who serve them. Her current work focuses on understanding physicians' experiences with HPV vaccination, exploring factors influencing rates of HPV vaccination in low-income adolescents, understanding the impact of treatment guideline changes on the management of abnormal Pap smears in young women, and improving HPV vaccination rates in low-income, minority adolescents.

Cynthia Sierra, MA brings experience in health care, mental health, neuropsychology, and social services administration to her role as Senior Director of Public Policy, Public Affairs and Program Development at Manet Community Health Center. In her present role at Manet, Cynthia is a member of the senior management team reporting to Manet Chief Executive, Henry Tuttle, and is charged with the development of funding programs including grants, contracts, and philanthropy with a supplemental focus on external relations, ongoing needs assessment, communications, and shared leadership on the development of new programs. Cynthia attended the University of Massachusetts where she majored in both English and Psychology, and received her graduate degree at Lesley University in Cambridge.

Erin E. Tracy, MD, MPH attended medical school at the Georgetown University School of Medicine, and did a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, followed by a Masters in Public Health degree in health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is a full time faculty member in the Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the Massachusetts General Hospital and is an Assistant Professor in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Tracy is a past national chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Junior Fellows, and was the first young fellow on ACOG's Executive Board. She has also served as an ACOG delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA). She is currently the Chair of the MA ACOG Section, and immediate past chair of the MA ACOG Legislative Committee. She also serves on the advisory committee for the ACOG PAC. She was recently a member of the AMA's Women Physicians Congress Governing Council, and served as Chair of this organization for three years. She has also served on several Massachusetts Medical Society committees. Locally, she is a member of the Massachusetts General Hospital's Women in Academic Medicine committee, the Executive Committee of the Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, and the Resident Education Committee for the BWH/MGH Integrated Residency in

OB/GYN. She also serves as the director of the Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds, the director of the faculty mentoring program, and the director of the residency mentoring program. She has authored a number of resolutions that subsequently became AMA policy, including issues addressing the issue of physician re-entry into the workplace, domestic violence, evidence-based policy making in the HOD, midwifery licensure, home deliveries, and direct to consumer advertising of genetics tests. She has 12 year old twin daughters and a 9 year old son.

