

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

### Morning Plenary: Turning Knowledge into Action

**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 30 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.

**Steve Fleming, EdM**, is an Epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where he works in the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences in the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization. Prior to his work for the Division, he worked in HIV prevention for the State of Maine. He completed an EdM at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

**Rebecca Vanucci, MA**, is the Immunization Outreach Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Immunization Program. In that role, Rebecca plans the strategic educational outreach to providers, patients, and the larger community about immunizations. She actively engages outside partners and stakeholders about immunization related topics. Rebecca coordinates the major statewide pediatric and adult immunization conferences as well as the regional Immunization Updates. She is a member of many coalitions and working groups focused on increasing immunization rates in Massachusetts. She serves as one of the Co-Facilitators of the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition. Rebecca received her Master's Degree in the History of Environment, Technology, Health and Medicine from Rutgers University/NJIT.

### Question & Answer Session:

**Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH** is the Director of the Immunization Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is responsible for oversight and implementation of statewide immunization policies and programs, including the Commonwealth's universal childhood immunization program, immunization information system implementation and roll out, health education, and vaccine quality assurance. Pejman earned his undergraduate degree from Union College and his Masters in Medical Science and Masters in Public Health from Boston University. He has over 20 years of state immunization program management experience and has worked on immunization policy and planning on both the state and national level participating in numerous national advisory boards. He has also been an active member of the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) since its inception and has served as its Executive Committee Chair for two terms.

**Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD**, 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 Past-President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. He serves on committees of the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the board of the Massachusetts Public Health Museum, and as President of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

## **MORNING WORKSHOPS:**

### **A. Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Working Together to Control the Spread**

**Marija PopStefanija, MPH, MS** received a Master's in Public Health in Epidemiology in 1989 and Masters of Science in Health Education in 1992 from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She joined the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization in September of 1992. She has been working very enthusiastically with providers, school nurses, Hospitals, BOH, Public Health nurses and other local, state and federal organizations on disease control, reporting and surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases as well as increasing immunization rates and protecting the children and the adults of the Commonwealth.

**Nancy Harrington** has been with the Massachusetts Epidemiology and Immunization Program as an epidemiologist for over 20 years. Prior to that, she worked as a bacteriologist in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Laboratory. As an epidemiologist, she is responsible for carrying out vaccine preventable-disease investigations and instituting control measures in conjunction with local boards of health, school nurses, health care providers, and infection preventionists. She also provides technical assistance and training to providers and the general public on all issues pertaining to vaccine-preventable diseases. Nancy has a special interest in measles and pertussis epidemiology.

### **B. The Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS): What You Need to Know**

**Julia Monturo Larson, EdM**, is a User Support Associate for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In her current role, Julia performs outreach and recruitment to health care providers to join the MIIS, serves as a first line of communication and support for end users as part of the MIIS Help Desk, develops training materials, and provides input into system requirements and functionality. Prior to this position, Julia worked in the nonprofit sector on programs with a public health and social work focus in addition to completing a graduate internship with the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services Program. Julia holds a Masters of Education in Leadership and Policy from Boston University and a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Leadership and Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

### **C. Adult Immunization 101**

**Katie Reilly, MPH, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC** is the Immunization Nurse Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In this role, she serves as the Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator for the state, serves as a resource for providers and the public around vaccine preventable diseases, and responds to infectious disease emergencies as needed. Katie has had a diverse public health and nursing career, previously working for MPDH as an Infectious Disease Response Nurse, and then as a TB Surveillance Nurse. Katie has also worked as a pediatric cardiology nurse at Children's Hospital Boston, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, an epidemiologist at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC, and a community health planner for the HIV/AIDS Bureau of MDPH. Katie is a board certified public health nurse, and received her MSN from Framingham State University in 2014. She also holds an MPH from Boston University and a BS in Biology from SUNY Geneseo.

### **D. Knowledge Is Power: Encouraging Young Adults to Understand The Importance of Vaccines**

#### **Moderator:**

**Lisa Leydon** is a Manager for State Based Systems for the American Cancer Society. She has been with the organization for six years and has served in this position for the last four. Prior to that she was a manager for Hospital systems and worked in many Boston area facilities. Lisa also sits on the Massachusetts Comprehensive

Cancer Coalition Steering Committee and various workgroups within that organization. She is a member of the Massachusetts immunization Coalition, Honoring Choices, and works with a number of insurance providers as well. Her desire is to make a difference in the fight for cancer and to give everyone the opportunity for many more birthdays.

**Speakers:**

**Kathleen Shattuck, MPH**, is Associate Director of the Immunization Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where she oversees program operations as well as the Immunization Program's Assessment Unit and the Massachusetts Immunization Information System. Kathleen has been with the Immunization Program for more than 12 years and prior to her role as Associate Director, she worked as an Epidemiologist managing immunization rates and data. Kathleen completed her MPH at Boston University.

**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. As a primary care clinician to adolescents, she encounters many patients with early onset of sexual activity and multiple partners, both of which increase their risk of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection (STI), human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and cervical cancer. She has had an interest in serving the pregnant and parenting teens population and has had special clinic sessions at Children's Hospital's Young Parenting Program and BMC's Teens and Tots program. She has been director of the teens and tots clinic at Boston Medical Center since January 2001. She has also been involved in cervical cancer prevention research since 2007, when she first collaborated with an obstetric colleague exploring parental acceptability of the HPV vaccine among adolescent girls. She aims to become a leader in teen pregnancy and parenting programs, to reduce disparities in adolescent prenatal care, birth and child health outcomes, and injury prevention between low-income and minority pregnant and parenting teens. She also wants to focus on cancer prevention, specifically cervical cancer disparities in minority communities.

**Ann Becker RN, DNP** is the University of Massachusetts Amherst Public Health and Infection Control Nurse. She has worked at University Health Services in this role since 2002. Ann is the director of the UMass Amherst Medical Reserve Corps a unit she co-founded in 2005 which embeds the MRC into the curriculum of the undergraduate nursing programs. Ann chairs the UMass Amherst Tobacco Free Policy Committee, and was part of the team that spearheaded the policy. Ann received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Simmons College in 1984 and her Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a concentration in public health nurse leadership in 2017. In addition to clinical work Ann teaches Community and Public Health nursing to undergraduate and graduate students at UMass Amherst.

**Afternoon Plenary:**

**Ann Becker RN, DNP** is the University of Massachusetts Amherst Public Health and Infection Control Nurse. She has worked at University Health Services in this role since 2002. Ann is the director of the UMass Amherst Medical Reserve Corps a unit she co-founded in 2005 which embeds the MRC into the curriculum of the undergraduate nursing programs. Ann chairs the UMass Amherst Tobacco Free Policy Committee, and was part of the team that spearheaded the policy. Ann received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Simmons College in 1984 and her Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a concentration in public health nurse leadership in 2017. In addition to clinical work Ann teaches Community and Public Health nursing to undergraduate and graduate students at UMass Amherst.



**Denise De Las Nueces, MD, MPH**, is a board-certified internal medicine physician with a focus on vulnerable populations. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and subsequently studied at Harvard Medical School, where she received an MD in 2008. She trained at the Brigham and Women's Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program from 2008 to 2011. Upon completion of residency training, Dr. De Las Nueces was granted a Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, completing a Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2012. She joined the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) in 2012. Dr. De Las Nueces was recognized in 2014 as one of Boston's Top 40 under 40 Leaders by the Boston Business Journal. She now serves as Medical Director of BHCHP and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine.

**April Donahue, BSN, RN** is a registered nurse with a focus on community health and education. She completed her BSN at Northeastern University in 2009 and now is a part time lecturer at Northeastern University where teaches public/community health clinical rotation. April joined Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program in 2011 and has worked in a variety of clinical capacities to meet the needs of the program, including the 2016 response to the meningitis outbreak in Boston and subsequent vaccination campaign. She is currently the Director of the Pine St. Inn Clinics run by Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program.

#### **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:**

##### **E. Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Working Together to Control the Spread**

**Marija PopStefanija, MPH, MS** received a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology in 1989 and Masters of Science in Health Education in 1992 from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She joined the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization in September of 1992. She has been working very enthusiastically with providers, school nurses, Hospitals, BOH, Public Health nurses and other local, state and federal organizations on disease control, reporting and surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases as well as increasing immunization rates and protecting the children and the adults of the Commonwealth.

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##### **F. The MIIS: One Key to Practice Improvement**

**Tricia Charles** is currently employed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and is the IIS Manager for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). In her current role, Tricia is responsible for coordinating, planning, and monitoring programmatic aspects of the MIIS. She is the liaison to the MIIS information technology group, ensuring that Immunization Program requirements are understood and implemented. She also oversees the provision of training and technical assistance to end users. Within her role, she is the SME for Meaningful Use and Vaccine Management. Prior to this position, Tricia worked at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) as a Research Analyst in the Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services (ISIS). She received a B.A. in Social Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

## G. The Keys to Success: Long Term Care Guidance on Vaccination, Infection Control, and Antibiotic Stewardship

### Moderator:

**Valerie Laurence LPN WCC.**, has worked in the field of Long Term Care and Rehab since 1994. She started doing floor nursing with charge responsibilities etc. For the last 17 years, as the Assistant Director of Nurses and Staff Development Role, Valerie has been overseeing the education and fundamental teaching as well as overseeing the infection control and prevention within multiple buildings. Valerie is an active member of professional organizations including MAIC, and an Advisory member of the Baypath Practical Nursing Academy and Tantasqua Certified Nursing assistant program. Valerie is a resident of Spencer Mass. and is involved in animal disaster within that region.

### Speakers:

**Christina Brandeburg, MPH**, is an HAI Epidemiology Coordinator with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where she works in the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. In this role, her primary functions are conducting infectious disease surveillance; performing data management and analysis on healthcare associated infection (HAI) data; and leading external data validation of HAI data entered into the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Christina received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Boston University.

**Joyce Cohen, MPH**, is an Epidemiologist and the Influenza Coordinator with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), where she works in the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. Prior to her work in the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, she worked on a pediatric HIV project at MDPH. She completed her MPH at the University of Texas, Health Science Center in Houston.

**Melissa Cummings, MS**, is a senior epidemiologist in the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She joined the Division eighteen years ago and is currently the statewide antibiotic resistance and hemovigilance coordinator. She is responsible for surveillance and response to multi-drug resistance activity as well as statewide antibiotic stewardship efforts. In addition, she works with Massachusetts blood banks to report their adverse events and transfusion activities through the National Healthcare Safety Network, and is tasked with monitoring and analysis of this data for the purpose of improving transfusion safety in Massachusetts. She earned her master's degree in environmental health with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistics from Tufts University.

## H. Communication Is Key: Optimizing the Patient Encounter

### Moderator:

**Robyn Alie** is co-facilitator of the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition. She is the Manager of Health Policy and Public Health at the Massachusetts Medical Society and editor of public health content for the Society's publications. In her roles, she is responsible for strategy development and execution of public health related campaigns, and manages public health communications, partnerships, policy development, outreach, professional education, and volunteer engagement. Areas of focus include social determinants of health, mental health, diversity in the medical workforce, obesity, environmental health, and occupational health. She is a graduate of The George Washington University, and holds graduate certificates in management and sustainability. The Massachusetts Medical Society is a professional association representing more than 25,000 physicians and medical students dedicated to educating and advocating for the patients and physicians of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Medical Society is the publisher of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, a leading global medical journal and web site, and [NEJM Journal Watch](#) alerts and publications covering 12 specialties.

**Speakers:**

**Judith A. Melin, M.A., M.D., FACP** served as a founding member of the ACO and MSO Boards of Lahey Health, and as a Trustee and member of the Trustees' Executive Committee at Lahey Clinic. She served as Chief Medical Services Officer and in other leadership roles at Lahey in the areas of physician quality measurement, population health, medical management, information technology, and health plan program planning and implementation work. Dr. Melin is a member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians Governing Council, and chairs its Awards Committee. She serves on the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition and the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committees on Quality Medical Practice and on Information Technology.

At the national and state levels, Dr. Melin has served on National Quality Forum Expert Panels, American Hospital Association's Board Committee on Clinical Leadership, AHA's MACRA Physician Advisory Task Force, Massachusetts Health Quality Partners Board, Massachusetts Hospital Association's Clinical Issues Advisory Committee, Eastern Massachusetts Healthcare Initiative's Steering Committee, and the Bridges to Excellence design team.

Dr. Melin graduated from Harvard College with high honors in Chemistry, from Harvard University with a Master's Degree in Chemistry, and earned her MD from Yale Medical School. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at University Hospital in Boston, and earned the Graduate Management Certificate at Radcliffe Seminars. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, practices Primary Care at Lahey Health, and is a Deputy Editor at UpToDate, for Primary Care and Pathways.

**Joanne Belanger, R.N., B.S.**, has worked in the field of Public Health since 1987. She started doing environmental work, septic and soils, camp inspections, food/restaurant inspections, housing code etc. For the last 20 years, as the Assistant Director, Joanne has been overseeing the clinical aspects of the Health Department. Joanne is an active member of many professional organizations including MAIC, Mass Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN) and an Executive Board member of the Massachusetts Health Offices Association (MHOA). She is also the Director of the Greater River Valley Medical Reserve Corp.(MRC), an eight town collaborative which Andover serves as the lead agency. MRC's have been established to organize and train local volunteers to assist Health Departments for both public health emergencies and non-emergency events. Joanne is a resident of Westford Mass. and is currently a member of the Westford Board of Health. She has a degree in Health Administration with a concentration in Public Administration from Providence College and a Nursing degree from Mass. Bay College.

**Janelle Herren, MSE, PharmD, RPh**, is the current Geriatric Fellow at the Pharmacy Outreach Program at MCPHS University. She received a Masters in Bioengineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1996, and worked for Baxter Health Care Drug Delivery and Devices. Most recently she received a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University in 2016. Prior to her fellowship, she worked as a retail pharmacist for Rite Aid Corporation in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She is a licensed vaccinating pharmacist and currently works to promote vaccinations with older adults in addition to developing appropriate material to present at various public Pharmacy Outreach programs throughout the state including medication safety and targeted disease states.

