



45TH Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

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Presenter Profiles



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health



Thomas J. Betlach has served as Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) since 2009. In this capacity, he reports to the Governor and is responsible for the Arizona Medicaid program. AHCCCS currently provides health care coverage to 1.3 million Arizonans at an annual cost of \$9 billion. The agency administers multiple sources of governmental funds and is responsible for regulatory oversight and compliance of Medicaid managed care health plans and health care providers to assure quality of care, fiscal accountability, program integrity and cost containment. Mr. Betlach earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin and his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.



Miyuki Blatt, MPH, is the epidemiologist for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Ms. Blatt graduated with a Master of Public Health from the Oregon State University School of Biological and Population Health Sciences. Before joining the ADHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention team in October of 2016, she completed her MPH internship with the ADHS Office of Border Health in Tucson.

Rachel Bus has been practicing exclusively in the area of immigration law since 2007, initially in Austin, Texas. Rachel returned to her roots in the Phoenix area in 2014 and joined the Law Offices of Brejle and Associates in 2015. She handles a wide range of cases, with a particular focus on employment based immigration for physicians and allied health workers. Prior to starting a career in law, Rachel served as a Volunteer with the United States Peace Corps in Ecuador from 2001 to 2003. Rachel graduated cum laude from the University of Arizona in 2001 with a B.A. in Latin American Studies and earned her J.D. from University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in 2007. Rachel is a member of the IMG Taskforce and AILA.



Jeri Byrne BA MS, has served in the role as Executive Director for the Eastern Arizona Area Health Education Center a Non-Profit Organization located in Globe, Arizona for 14 years. Born and raised in the Globe-Miami area along with her husband Bill of 42 years. Jeri and Bill have two children who both live in the area along with 4 grandchildren. Jeri's family has a long history of working in the Copper and Turquoise Mines located in Miami Arizona. Her husband comes from the ranching side of local industry. Jeri has served locally in the capacity as Chamber Director, Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator for the Cooperative

Extension, Director of Development and Marketing for the Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center among others. Jeri received her education at Eastern Arizona College and online through Bennington University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Business and Masters in Organizational Leadership. Jeri is a certified "Leadership" Trainer and enjoys designing and teaching professional and personal development programs particularly for rural audiences.

William Carson is a current intern at Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center working to develop culturally relevant public health courses for Tohono O'odham Community College. He attended Columbia University in the City of New York where he was a 4-year member of the football team and completed a degree in psychology. William is now enrolled at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health preparing for his second year. He works in the Sociomedical Sciences department with a focus on public health history, ethics, law, and social determinants that lead to health disparities.

Mariah Chingee is currently an intern at the Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center helping with public health curriculum development at the Tohono O'odham Community College. She was born in the central interior of British Columbia where her people, the Tsek'ehne people, are indigenous to. From Canada, she moved to Hawai'i where she attended high school and completed her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. Mariah will be second year Master of Public Health student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York where she specializes in Epidemiology.

Turiya Coll has a long-term dedication to social justice. She brings seven years of experience with HIV/HCV/STI prevention and advocating for health care rights for pregnant woman, intravenous drug users, and other marginalized populations. Turiya has worked as a Public Health educator, public speaker, and has the credentials of BHT/AA. Turiya has trained with the CDC on prevention interventions, crisis counseling, and trauma informed care. She is an outspoken and passionate member of the Sonoran Prevention Works family, and works as a regional overdose prevention coordinator.



Daniel Derksen MD, is the Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair and Director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health and Professor of Public Health at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. As AzCRH Director, he oversees and is Principal Investigator (PI) of the State Office of Rural Health, the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, the Navigator Consortium, and the SAMHSA-ADHS First Responder initiative. As principal investigator of state, federal, private foundation, and grants of \$60 million over his 30-year academic career, Dr. Derksen works to improve insurance coverage and access to high quality health care, emphasizing community-based service-learning models in rural areas. In 2017-18, Dr. Derksen was appointed to the Arizona State Legislature's Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Workforce that culminated in the passage and enactment of HB 2197 (Rep. Carter) creating a health professions workforce database starting in 2020. He serves on the Board of Directors of both the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians and the Arizona Rural Health Association. Since returning to the UA in 2012, Dr. Derksen gave 170 invited presentations; chaired 11 regional conferences; was quoted in 300 print, radio, television, and social media interviews; and been PI of grant awards of \$9.4 million, with \$4.5 million awarded for the next four years.



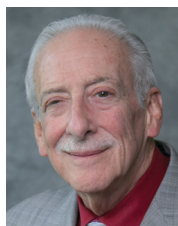
Gail Emrick is an International Health and Development Specialist who has dedicated her professional life to promote the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities in Central America and the U.S.-Mexico border regions. She has had challenging roles as Executive Director, Principal Investigator and other leadership roles for international and local non-profit organizations. Gail has worked with U.S.-based academic institutions including the University of Arizona. Currently, Gail is the Executive Director of the Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, SEAHEC, a health workforce development agency, which serves Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. SEAHEC recruits, trains and retains culturally competent health providers in rural, border and tribal communities.



Edgardo Figueroa, BA – Western Area Health Education Center (WAHEC) Director. Mr. Figueroa has over 10 years of experience in the behavioral health system in Arizona. Edgardo started working with RCBH in 2015 in the Behavioral Health Department where he assisted in the department with implementation of counseling programs such as Driving Under the Influence and Domestic Violence. In January 2018 Edgardo transitioned as the Director of WAHEC. Edgardo holds a bachelor's in psychology and he is currently completing his Master of Organizational Leadership. Edgardo is passionate working with disadvantage population, promoting education and the wellbeing of the community. In May 2018, Mr. Figueroa was elected as the Co-President for the Binational Council of Health and Environmental Council, San Luis R. C. Sonora/Yuma, County, AZ.



Amaury Gama is a Health Educator-Navigator for the Arizona Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona. He worked for and received his Associates degree from Cochise Community College in 2015. He recently worked at the Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales, Arizona; taught GED, Citizenship, ESL and other evidenced-based curriculum, and worked as a Navigator for Mariposa Community Health Center. Amaury is passionate about advocating for individuals facing healthcare access disparities and other social justice inequalities.



Leonard B. Goldstein, DDS, PhD, serves as A.T. Still University's Assistant Vice President for Clinical education Development, Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at the ATSU School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, and Professor of dentistry at both the ATSU Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral health and the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health. Dr. Goldstein earned his DDS degree from Case-Western Reserve University and his PhD from the City University of Los Angeles. Immediately following graduation from Dental School, Dr. Goldstein served in the U.S. Army as a Captain in the Dental Corps during the Viet Nam Conflict.

Lupita Gonzalez is the Program Assistant / Data Specialist at the Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, where she has worked for the past one and a half years. She coordinates the Future Health Leaders Program at Nogales and Ajo high schools. Lupita serves as co-Secretary for the Ambos Nogales Binational Health Council, where she enjoys applying her bilingual/ bicultural skills. Believing that all people deserve to have access to health and educational services, Lupita is committed to the SEAHEC mission and helping communities in need.



Brigid Holland has worked in a variety of roles in healthcare for the past 40 years. Her most recent roles include Compliance, Quality Assurance and Risk Management. She has worked in both large metropolitan facilities and rural facilities throughout her career. Brigid is a graduate of Capella University and holds a degree in Healthcare Management.



Joyce Hospodar, MBA, MPA, has spent her career of more than thirty-five years working for hospital systems in Utah, Kentucky and Arizona in the areas of strategic planning, marketing, and operations of community-based programs. Currently, Ms. Hospodar is the Senior Advisor, Rural Programs at the Arizona Center for Rural Health. Her efforts focus on providing technical assistance to the state's small rural hospitals and rural health clinics. She also works with statewide EMS and Trauma Systems now focused with others on the 4-year SAMHSA First Responder Opioid effort.



Jani C. Ingram, PhD is a professor at Northern Arizona University who specializes in translational environmental chemistry research to environmental health issues. She and her students characterize contaminants associated with abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation with the goal of investigating the relationship between health risk for the Navajo people and chronic exposure to environmental uranium. Efforts have focused on fostering collaborations with the Navajo community and leaders to build trust, obtain access to field samples and gain insights into their health concerns. Additionally, a goal is to develop programs that increase the number of Native American students obtaining baccalaureate and graduate degrees in the sciences. She is a member of the Navajo Nation and mentored over one hundred students ranging from middle school to doctorate levels.



Kendra Johnson, MD, is a board-certified Family Physician and a co-chair of the Hopi Health Care Center's pain management committee.



Allie Kaufman is a Master of Public Health student at the University of Arizona with a concentration in Health Behavior and Health Promotion. She is interested in how access to health care impacts health outcomes in under-served communities in Arizona.



Bryna Koch, MPH is a Special Projects Coordinator at the Arizona Center for Rural Health. At the AzCRH she works on multiple projects providing evaluation, data analysis, and reporting support. Ms. Koch has over 10 years' experience with direct evaluation services in partnership with community-based programs, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies. She has helped manage national capacity-building efforts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture using online data collection and training tools. Her evaluation experience includes medical curriculum evaluation, and providing evaluation services for juvenile restorative justice, substance abuse treatment and prevention, a pathways to post-secondary education programs.

Jillian Kohler is a Professor in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, Munk School of Global Affairs and Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Governance, Accountability and Transparency in the Pharmaceutical Sector. Her research and teaching are focused on global pharmaceutical policies related to improving fair access of those in need to critical medicines. She has worked on global pharmaceutical policy for a number of UN organizations including UNICEF, the World Bank and the WHO. She was responsible for developing a methodology on transparency in pharmaceutical systems that has been adopted by the WHO and applied in over 36 countries globally.



Melissa Kotrys is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Health Current, the health information exchange (HIE) that helps partners transform care by bringing together communities and information across Arizona. Ms. Kotrys currently serves on the Maricopa Health Centers Governing Council and on the board of the national trade association of community and regional HIEs, the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC). Prior to joining Health Current, Mrs. Kotrys worked as a consultant and health policy analyst at Deloitte Consulting. Mrs. Kotrys holds a Masters in Public Health from The George Washington University with a concentration in health policy, and a Bachelor of Arts from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Niki Lajevardi-Khosh is a health educator with the Office of Environmental Health at Arizona Department of Health Services. Alongside the SafeWatch Drinking Water program she works on the 4 Corner States Bio-monitoring Project a study looking at heavy metals in private well water and Arizonan exposure to various environmental contaminants. Niki received her MPH from Washington University in St. Louis.



Maria Dolores Losoya was born and raised in Mexico and immigrated to the United States in 1974. She started her career as a volunteer advocate for Mariposa Community Health Center in 1995. She was hired at Health Start-Comienzo Sano as a health promoter. From 1999-2008, she worked for South Eastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services. In 2009, she advocated for Immigrant rights while working with victims of domestic violence and immigrant women for Border Action-Accion Fronteriza. In 2012, she earned her degree in Social Services at Pima Community College. From 2010-2014, she worked for Hands of a Friend Foundation as a program coordinator. She currently works for the Arizona Center for Rural Health as a Health Educator-Navigator.



Shana Malone is a Clinical Initiatives Project Manager in the Office of the Director at the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. Shana oversees the agency initiative to reduce the effects of the opioid epidemic in Arizona. Shana has an M.S. in Human Development with a clinical specialty in family systems therapy and completed her doctoral coursework in the School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. Her academic work focused on computational social science, social and emotional development and dynamical systems applications. Prior to coming to AHCCCS, Shana was the Director of the Statistical Analysis Center at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission where she developed the original pilot model for the Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative. Shana has worked on several local and national multi-systemic prevention and evaluation health outcome projects, and she has experience as a therapist in Arizona.



Marica Martinic is the Northern Arizona Area Health Education Center (NAHEC) Director at North Country HealthCare based in Flagstaff, AZ. She received her Master of Public Health in Public Health Practice from the University of Arizona MEZCOPH. She has over ten years of experience in development, implementation, and evaluation of non-profit community health programs.



Martha McNair, RD, is the Center Director for the Greater Valley Area Health Education Center (GVAHEC) at Empowerment Systems, Inc. Martha is a Registered Dietitian, having earned a degree in Dietetics from Arizona State University. It was during her dietetics internship through the University of Northern Colorado that she first encountered GVAHEC. She strives to ensure that the GVAHEC internship provides its students with impactful hands-on community experiences exposing them to a wide variety of underserved populations. She also holds an MBA degree from UCLA. In her spare time she enjoys cooking and developing healthy versions of classic recipes.



Martha Moore-Monroy primary focus of her professional career has been community led participatory research and action (CBPR) to develop interventions to improve health in under-served communities. Her work has utilized a health equity lens to improve health outcomes in under-served communities through community led and engaged interventions, development of policy and environmental change. These projects have had local, regional and national foci. Her work with the National REACH coalition board of directors focuses on national health equity efforts and providing technical assistance to communities and organizations.

Ms. Jennie Mullins, MPH, BS, has over twenty years of experience in public health program development, workforce development, community capacity building and leadership development in governmental, tribal, community and academic settings. She has worked extensively with tribal communities throughout Arizona and is currently the Program Manager for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Diabetes Prevention and Treatment Program. Ms. Mullins is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute, Year 13, has served on the board of the National Public Health Leadership Development Network, the Public Health Leadership Society and is a Past-President of the Arizona Public Health Association.



Ashley Neves is the Workforce Health Planning Consultant for the Arizona Department of Health Services, Workforce Programs. Ms. Neves is responsible for providing administrative and programmatic support to the Workforce programs that include provider and site application reviews, site development and technical assistance, tracking/monitoring of provider documents/data, tracking/monitoring of loan repayments, training and technical assistance, and other recruitment and retention activities.

Jamescita Mae Peshlakai is currently serving her first term in the Arizona Senate as the state's first Native American woman senator, representing legislative district 7. She formerly served in the state House of Representatives in the Fifty-first Legislature from 2013 to 2015. She currently serves as an advisor on veterans affairs and Arizona issues to the Navajo Nation president in addition to her elected office. Sen. Peshlakai is Diné – Navajo, of the Tangle People clan, born for the Red House clan. Her maternal grandfathers are the Bitter Water clan, and her paternal grandfathers are the Cliff Dweller clan. She holds a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Northern Arizona University. As a young woman, she served in the U.S. Army and is a Persian Gulf War veteran. A veterans' advocate, she recently spearheaded an initiative to create an independent veterans affairs agency for the Navajo Nation and succeeded.



Ana Roscetti is the Workforce Section Manager for the Arizona Primary Care Office, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Bureau of Women's and Children's Health. In her current role, Ana provides oversight to 7 workforce programs that aim to increase the number of health care professionals working in medically underserved areas of Arizona. Those programs include the National Health Service Corps, State Loan Repayment, Nurse Corps, J1 Visa and the National Interest Waiver Programs. Ana received her Master of Public Health in Community Medicine from the University of Washington in 2004 and a Certificate in Epidemiology from the Arizona State University in 2008.



Troy Sebastian, MSHCA, RPSGT, RST, dual credentialed in sleep technology; has been involved the sleep medicine industry for two decades. Troy has opened sleep centers from Las Vegas to Tucson and for the last two years, the director of the sleep center of San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation in Peridot, Arizona. He also has worked as adjunct faculty at Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Arizona; teaching courses in polysomnography.



Jay H. Shore, MD, MPH is the rural Native Veteran Domain Lead for the Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Salt Lake City. Dr. Shore works to support the Office of Rural Health's mission to implement a targeted solution-driven approach to increase access to care for Veterans living in rural communities who rely on VA for health care. He is also a Professor at Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, Departments of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Shore is currently participating in multiple projects which include ongoing development, implementation, and assessment of programs in Native, rural, and military settings aimed at improving both quality and access to care. He has been involved in consultation for tribal, state and federal agencies and served on planning and/or grant review committees for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service and the University of Colorado. Dr. Shore has presented his work at numerous national forums and has authored a number of published manuscripts and book chapters focused on clinical and research topics in telehealth, rural health care, Veteran and Native populations. Dr. Shore has been is a fellow and active member, having held leadership roles, with the American Psychiatric Association, the American Telemedicine Association, and the American College of Psychiatrists.



Ariel Tarango is a Health Educator-Navigator for the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH) at the University of Arizona. She earned her Associates in Science from Central Arizona College in 2012. In 2015, she graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelors of Science degree. During her studies at NAU, she became passionate about population health promotion to prevent disease and improve health outcomes. She started her public health career by interning at community health centers and has been working at the AzCRH for nearly three years. A native to Arizona, Ariel was born and raised in Eloy. She enjoys assisting rural and underserved populations and educating about health insurance coverage and the Affordable Care Act.



Devyn Thurber currently works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Type 1 Diabetes Coordinator for Chiricahua Community Health Centers in Douglas, Arizona. She received her Masters of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Diabetes Management from Yale University and her Masters of Public Health from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College.



Born and raised in Mexico, **Ms. Lizbeth Vasquez** immigrated to the United States. She graduated from the Arizona Western College Community Health Worker program and completed a Credential of Family Development at the University of Connecticut. In her involvement with Promise Arizona, Ms. Vasquez was a community organizer and advocated for civil, labor, and immigrant rights. She mobilized Southern Arizona to rally against injustices faced in state and led large-scale voter registration campaigns, which engaged thousands of volunteers and increased voter turnout. She worked for Campesinos Sin Fronteras as a Health Educator and is currently working

for the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health as a Health Educator-Navigator.



Marc Verhoughstraete earned his B.S. in Environmental Biology and Zoology from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. Marc has held post-doctoral research positions at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and The University of Arizona. His previous research focused on microbial water quality focusing on understanding the sources, occurrence, and transport of waterborne pathogens using fecal indicator organisms and molecular source tracking. Marc is also interested in the integration of microbial water quality with hydrological catchment dynamics and landscape patterns to improve water quality policy and management

Darren Vicenti is a 1996 graduate of University of New Mexico School of Medicine. In 1999, he completed a Family Medicine Residency at Southern Colorado Family Medicine in Pueblo, CO. Mr. Vicenti was named IHS National "Rookie Physician of the Year" in 2000. He has had a dedicated career in IHS for 19 years, initially at Santa Fe Indian Hospital, and at Hopi Health Care Center since 2002, and as Chief Medical Officer since 2004. A decades-long member of the Hopi and Zuni Tribes, and career-long supporter of native youth attainment of health education and professional careers. His interest include outdoors activities, dry-farming, and praying for rain.

Rietta Wagoner is a PhD student in the Environmental Health Sciences Program at the University of Arizona, College of Public Health. She is passionate about addressing environmental health justice in the border region and agricultural communities. She has a broad background in public health promotion and prevention with detailed training in environmental and occupational health. She is currently involved in several rural and agricultural health projects including worker heat stress during the workday, community response to the Gold King Mine Spill, field-worker pesticide exposure, dairy workers' exposure to zoonotic organisms, and water quality in unincorporated communities.

Mary Walsh is a Return Peace Corps Volunteer (Cambodia '13-'15) who is currently studying for her Masters at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, with a concentration in Sociomedical Sciences and a certificate in Health Promotion Research and Practice. This summer, 2018, she is doing her Practicum with SEAHEC, helping to develop the Personal Health & Wellness 100-level class for the Tohono O'odham Community College, as part of establishing a curriculum for a Community Health Associate's degree that can be transferred for credit towards a Bachelor of Public Health. In her spare time, she likes running and traveling.

Lily Williams is the Outreach Manager at Desert Senita Community Health Center in Ajo, Arizona. Lily has a Bachelor's Degree from Arizona State University with 10+ years of community based programming. She recently moved back to her hometown and is working directly with partner organizations and members of the community providing and coordinating events and health education focusing on chronic disease prevention and the overall health and wellness of the frontier town of Ajo.

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