

National HPV Vaccination Roundtable

Regional Leadership Summit of
Southeastern U.S. HPV Coalitions

March 4-5th, 2019

Birmingham, AL

Speaker Bios



Michael J. Birrer, MD, PhD

Director, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Birrer earned his undergraduate degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and graduated with a BS in Biology. He subsequently was accepted into the Medical Scientist Training Program at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed his MD and PhD in 1982 with his principle area of study in microbiology and immunology. He performed a medical internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and subsequently completed a residency in medicine at MGH. Dr. Birrer entered the medical oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland and upon completion performed a postdoctoral fellowship. After completing his fellowship, Dr. Birrer joined the faculty at the NCI in the Division of Cancer Treatment as an investigator in 1988. Three years later, Dr. Birrer was appointed as a senior investigator (with tenure) and established the molecular mechanism section in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. Over the next 17 years, Dr. Birrer held a number of positions including the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board, Extramural IRB, Clinical Oncology Fellowship Section Committee, Chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Working Group in the Division of Clinical Sciences and Deputy Branch Chief of the Cell and Cancer Biology Branch. Dr. Birrer is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in gynecologic oncology. He has published over 270 peer reviewed manuscripts and another 27 book chapters and review articles. He has been the Chair and Chair Emeritus of the DOD Ovarian Cancer Research Program, Chair of the Committee for Experimental Medicine of the Gynecologic Oncology Group, a member of the Gynecologic Cancer Steering Committee and Chair of the Translational Science Working Group of the Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup. In November 2008, Dr. Birrer was appointed Professor of Medicine at the Harvard School of Medicine. Dr. Birrer assumed the position of Director of Gynecologic Medical Oncology at MGH and the Gynecologic Oncology Research Program. In August 2017, Dr. Birrer accepted the position of Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology and holds the Evalina B. Spencer Chair in Oncology.



Isabel C. Scarinci, PhD, MPH

Associate Director for Globalization and Cancer, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Isabel C. Scarinci, Professor of Medicine, Associate Director for Globalization and Cancer at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Associate Director for Faculty Development at the Division of Preventive Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham. As a behavioral scientist, the focus of her work is on the application of behavioral science to public health by promoting behavior change at the population level. She has expertise and experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of cancer prevention and control programs in low-resource settings. With the discovery of HPV as the primary cause of cervical cancer, Dr. Scarinci has focused her work on developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions focusing on the two promising strategies in cervical cancer prevention and control: HPV vaccination for primary prevention and screening/HPV testing for secondary prevention. She has been a pioneer in exploring the acceptability and uptake of self-collection for HPV testing among women who are not coming to the clinics for cervical cancer screening. In addition to her research, she is very engaged in evidence-based outreach activities as evidenced by her Sowing the Seeds of Health program that has reached over 4,000 Latinas in Alabama to engage in breast and cervical cancer screening. She has been a volunteer with the American Cancer Society for over 20 years.



Tammy Beckham, DVM, PhD

Acting Director, National Vaccine Program Office

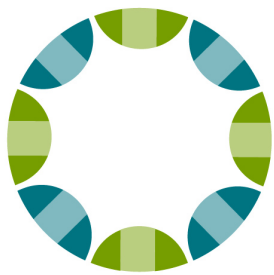
Dr. Beckham joined the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services (OASH) as the acting director of both the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) and Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP) in 2018. Dr. Beckham's extensive scientific experience and service leading large organizations and projects within academia, the military (she achieved the rank of CAPT in the U.S. Army), federal and state governments make her an ideal fit for both NVPO and OHAIDP. She joins OASH from Kansas State University where she is a professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine. Most recently, Dr. Beckham was working with the Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Department of Defense at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. In this role, she was responsible for managing a comprehensive international science engagement and diplomacy portfolio in the European and Central Command regions. From 2015-2017, Dr. Beckham was the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. As Dean of the College, she led more than 700 faculty and staff and was responsible for oversight of academic programs, the veterinary health center, and the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory. From 2010-2015, she was the Director of Infectious Animal Diseases at the Texas A & M University System. There Dr. Beckham provided leadership and oversight to the Institute and led and executed a multi-million dollar research portfolio aimed at defending the nation from high consequence foreign animal, emerging, and zoonotic diseases. From 2008-2014, Dr. Beckham was the director of the Texas A & M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. In this role, she provided leadership for one of the largest and busiest veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States. Dr. Beckham received her doctor of veterinary medicine (Magna Cum Laude) and PhD in biomedical science degrees from Auburn University. She also holds a master's degree in music from the University of Cincinnati.



Warner K. Huh, MD

Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Warner K. Huh is Professor, Vice Chair of Gynecology, Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and the Margaret Cameron Spain Endowed Chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Professor in the Department of Surgery, and Professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the UAB School of Public Health, and Senior Medical Officer and Senior Scientist in the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. His research interests include screening and prevention of HPV related diseases as well as novel immunotherapeutic approaches for pre-invasive disease of the cervix as well as cervical cancer. He has authored or co-authored over 225 articles in journals including The New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Lancet Oncology, Journal of the National Cancer Institute Cancer, Clinical Cancer Research, Gynecologic Oncology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (h-index: 47). He serves as co-PI of the Johns Hopkins-UAB-University of Colorado Cervical Cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) program (2P50CA098252-06A1). Dr. Huh serves on the editorial boards of Gynecologic Oncology and The Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease. He currently serves as President and sits on the Executive Committee of the ASCCP. He is on the steering committee for the ASCCP treatment guidelines and was cochair of the ASCCP colposcopy standards effort. Dr. Huh has also served on the Board of Directors for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) and is President Elect I (2019-2020). Dr. Huh is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Cervical and Uterine Cancers Panel.



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Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH

Director, Immunization Services Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Melinda Wharton received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Center, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and her infectious diseases fellowship at the Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Wharton joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in 1986 and was assigned to the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment in Nashville, TN. In 1989, she began work as a medical epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Program Office, CDC. She joined CDC's immunization program in 1992, and since that time has held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility. From 2006 to 2013 she served as Deputy Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. In December 2013 she became the Director, Immunization Services Division, NCIRD. She has worked extensively on issues related to vaccine policy, vaccine safety science, and public health response. Dr. Wharton has authored or co-authored more than 80 scientific journal articles, book chapters, and CDC publications.



Claire Hannan, MPH

Executive Director, Association of Immunization Managers

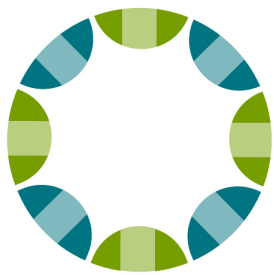
Claire Hannan has served as the Executive Director of AIM since 2004. AIM is a nonprofit, membership association whose members serve as directors in each of the 64 federally-funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs. She has over 18 years of experience working in children's health and immunization issues. After working on Capitol Hill for 5 years, Ms. Hannan spent three years lobbying for children's health issues. In 1997, she became the Director of Immunization Policy for the Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), where she worked with state health officials, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and other partners to improve and enhance immunization policies and practices. She joined the Association of Immunization Managers as its first Executive Director in 2004. Ms. Hannan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Wagner College in Staten Island, NY and a Master's degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.



Carmela Gupta, MPH

Senior Program Manager, American Immunization Registry Association

Carmela Gupta joined AIRA as Senior Program Manager in September 2014. Prior to this role, Carmela worked for the Idaho Immunization Program for five years, first as the School and Childcare Immunization Coordinator and later as the Immunization Outreach and Communication Manager. Carmela has experience with immunization policy, outreach and communication, conference planning, and immunization information system forecasting.



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Jane Pezua, MPH

Adolescent Immunization Coordinator and Health Educator, California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch

Jane Pezua is the Adolescent Immunization Coordinator and one of a team of Health Educators with the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch. Jane specializes in vaccines for adolescents, leading statewide projects and campaigns that strive to improve immunization rates of California's preteens and teens, with special focus on HPV vaccine. Having worked in immunization education for over 10 years, Jane is proud to be part of the pro-vaccine community, helping to educate friends, family, and the public about the importance of vaccines. Jane is fully vaccinated.



Citseko Staples Miller, MPA

Director, State and Local Campaigns, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Citseko Staples Miller is a member of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's State & Local Campaigns team, providing strategic campaign and issues support to the organizations field advocacy staff in all 50 states and the US territories. Her issues portfolio includes Medicaid, HPV and Health Equity and Disparities. Citseko has a background in health care, insurance and government finance. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Speech Communication and performed her graduate studies in Public Administration at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Citseko is an Illinois native, who resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Robert Clark, MS, FACHE

Chief Government Affairs Officer, St. Jude Children's Hospital

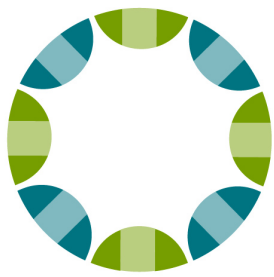
Robert Clark has been the Chief Government Affairs Officer at St. Jude Children's Hospital since 2002. He is a results oriented senior executive specializing in advancing bioscience and health care public policy initiatives at the local, state and federal levels. Robert has extensive knowledge of federal regulatory and bioscience policy infrastructure including FDA, NIH and Dept. of Agriculture. His value proposition includes successfully navigating legislation, including appropriations, through committees of jurisdiction and on to final passage and administration approval at federal and state levels. Robert leverages his extensive professional experience and network to provide advice and policy advocacy for legacy and early stage companies.



Sarah Strawbridge, MSM

Associate Director, U.S. Policy and Government Relations, Merck

Sarah Strawbridge has been the Associate Director of U.S. Policy and Government Relations at Merck since 2014. At Merck, Sarah assists in the development of state and local governments' policies, laws, and regulations designed to increase utilization of vaccinations. She supports state and local health departments, statewide associations/organizations, advocacy groups, and grassroots organizations in their efforts to improve access and affordability of vaccinations at the state and local level. Sarah also assists in coalition development and provides technical assistance in public health infrastructure development.



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Cindy Lesinger

Immunization Director, Alabama Department of Public Health

Cindy Lesinger has been with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) for over 25 years; 5 years in Epidemiology (EPI), 4 years in Center for Emergency Preparedness, 14 years with State Immunization Division, and 2 years with the Montgomery County STD Program. She also worked for FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness as a Pandemic Influenza Course Instructor for 5 years. While at the EPI, Cindy coordinated EPI's outbreak investigation processes, consulted on hundreds of outbreaks, created the Notifiable Disease awareness campaign, developed seven new EPI Websites, and numerous education flyers to educate the general public and notifiable disease reporters. Cindy's previous experience with the Immunization Division included Registry Director, Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator, School and Childcare Assessment Coordinator, Smallpox and Pandemic Influenza State Coordinator. Cindy was also the first VFC Director in Alabama. Cindy graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Health Service Administration. She worked in several private healthcare settings including life and health insurance, a private physician office, hospital medical records, and outpatient physical therapy before coming to ADPH.



Mark Talluto, MHA

Vice President, Strategy and Analytics, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Mark Talluto serves as vice president, Strategy and Analytics, for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), a national federation of 36 independent, locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. The Blue System is the nation's largest health insurer covering one-in-three of all Americans. Talluto is responsible for BCBSA's strategy function, which includes the management of Blue Cross Blue Shield Board-directed strategic assessments, market intelligence and strategic consulting services. Talluto started his career in healthcare more than 20 years ago in strategic consulting services within the BCBS System. He spent nearly a decade working first in strategy, marketing and product development at Horizon BCBS of New Jersey and then as chief marketing and sales executive at Anthem BCBS of Maine. Before joining Blue Cross Blue Shield, he also served as senior vice president of Matria Healthcare, a population health and disease management company, where he was responsible for sales and account management in health plan and employer markets. Talluto earned a master's degree in health services administration from Cornell University and a bachelor's degree in economics from St. Lawrence University.



Lisa Wright, MD

Medical Director, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

Dr. Lisa Wright grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University. She attended medical school at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and completed her Internship in Internal Medicine at The University of Tennessee, Memphis and her Residency and Chief Residency in Internal Medicine at Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Wright has over 20 years of practice experience in private practice, urgent care, and clinical research. Dr. Wright has been a Medical Director at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama since August 2014 and is principally responsible for Medical Policy. She is a member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's Medical Policy Panel and Medical Policy Panel Executive Committee.