

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2021

GREAT WOLF LODGE, LAGRANGE, GEORGIA



DISCOVER TELEHEALTH

CONFERENCE 2021

Welcome!

On behalf of Global Partnership for TeleHealth, welcome to Discover Telehealth 2021! This event is especially significant to us because our last conference was in the Spring of 2019 and COVID-19 prevented us from gathering in 2020. It is a joy and privilege to gather together with each of you now.

By attending this regional “pandemic era” telehealth conference, you will have the opportunity to network with key telehealth stakeholders and learn how telehealth is impacting and transforming the delivery of healthcare. You are sure to benefit from the array of topics presented by experts and providers of telehealth services.

During this event, please engage with the exhibitors who have generously given of their time and money to support this conference. Without their support, this conference would not be happening. These exhibitors have a wide variety of services and products that should interest you and your organization. Please talk with them and thank them for supporting telehealth in our region.

Before I close, I’d like to thank each of you for attending. You, as organization and community leaders, have the vision, the knowledge, and the experience to promote, provide, and advance telehealth throughout the region. Over the next two days, I ask you to stay engaged, network with your peers, and leave determined to be the greatest of telehealth champions in your organization and community.

My personal respect and thanks go out to each of you.



Rena Brewer
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Telehealth, Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibitors

Exhibits are located in the hallway just outside of the conference room. We encourage all attendees to spend time getting to know the exhibitors. Each attendee has an "Exhibitor Meet & Greet" sheet. Once you meet with an exhibitor, you will receive a sticker. Each attendee who meets with all of the exhibitors will submit their completed sheet for a drawing.

Global Partnership for Telehealth would like to express our sincere appreciation to these exhibitors for their participation and in helping to make sure this conference is a success.

Networking Stretches and Breaks

There will be breaks scattered throughout the conference. We strongly encourage you to take these opportunities to visit with the exhibitors. If you need more time than the break allows to have a meaningful discussion with an exhibitor, you are encouraged to request and schedule extra time with that exhibitor.

Door Prizes

Door prizes will be given out at the conclusion of the conference on Friday. You must be present to win.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Global Partnership for Telehealth is committed to safety. To that end, guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Great Wolf Lodge will be followed. Guidelines that will be observed are:

- Health questionnaire must be signed to attend
- Temperature checks will occur as attendees enter the conference space and wristbands will be required
- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be available
- Masks are not required but are encouraged
- Be mindful and respectful of those that wish to maintain social distancing
- Signage will be displayed throughout the conference center as reminders of safety protocols
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in dismissal from the event

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to ensure a safe event!

Host Sponsor



**Global Partnership for Telehealth
is honored to host the exhibitors, special guests
and attendees to the
Discover Telehealth 2021 Conference**

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AGENDA

Wednesday, November 3

- 2:00 - 6:30 Exhibitor Setup
- 4:00 - 6:30 Attendee Check In

Thursday, November 4

- 7:00 - 4:00 Attendee Check In
- 7:00 Networking Breakfast
- 8:00 Welcome
Rena Brewer, GPT CEO
Lloyd Sirmons, SETRC
- 8:15 KEY NOTE ADDRESS
Rural Health In the COVID
and Digital Age

Alan Morgan, CEO
National Rural Health Association
- 9:00 Telehealth as a Public Health
Strategy During COVID-19

Eric Wallace, MD
Telehealth Medical Director, University of
Alabama Birmingham

Suleima Salgado, MBA,
Telemedicine & Rural Health Initiatives
Director, Georgia Department of Public
Health

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10:00

Networking Stretch and
Break with Exhibitors

10:30

National Policy Update

Mei Kwong, JD
Center for Connected Health Policy

11:15

Digital Literacy Training
Program for Seniors

Kathy Schwarting, Director
Palmetto Care Connections

12:00

Networking Lunch

12:30

Dessert with Exhibitors

1:00

HIPAA Compliance
Considerations

Sarah West
*U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services*

1:45

Toddler Tracks: Pathways To
Tackling Autism

Boyd Mark
*Special Projects Officer, Southeastern
Telehealth Resource Center*

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2:30

Population Health
Management: The Role Of
Telehealth

Laura Cooper, RN
*School-Based Telehealth Program,
Glen County Schools, Brunswick, GA*

Valerie Morrison, DBA
*University Telehealth
University of North Florida*

Margaret Jaynes, MD
West Virginia University

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

3:40

Networking Stretch and
Break with Exhibitors

4:00

Addressing The Barriers of
Maternal Health

Dexter Page, MD
Atlanta Perinatal Associates

Steven Fein, MD
HemeOncCall

Jennifer Barkin, PhD
Mercer School of Medicine

Enjoy Your Evening
Dinner Own Your Own

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Friday, November

- 7:00-10:00 Attendee Check In
- 7:30 Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 Telehealth for Population Health:
Perspectives by State Leaders

April L. Golson
*Director, Office of Telehealth
Alabama Department of Public Health*

Stephen Register
Director, Georgia State Office of Rural Health

Lela Shepard
Director, Florida State Office of Rural Health

Shannon Chambers
*Director of Provider Solutions,
South Carolina State Office of Rural Health*

- 9:30 Workforce Development:
University Technology and
Telehealth Training Initiatives

Dayne Alonso, PA-C
*Professor, Health Studies
Miami Dade College*

Jean Sumner, MD
*Dean
Mercer School of Medicine*

April Jones, LCSW
*Department Chair, School of Social Work
Tuskegee University*

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10:30

Networking Stretch and
Break with Exhibitors

11:00

Telehealth, Cybersecurity and the
Cyber Workforce Gap

Michael Barker
*Director, Cybersecurity Center
Columbus State University*

11:45

Rural Health Systems:
Meeting the Global Demand for
Telehealth Education

Michael Hermosa
CEO, Telehealth Institute

12:15

Door Prizes & Closing Remarks

About the Speakers

Dayne Alonso, PA-C

Dayne Alonso graduated in 2004 from Nova Southeastern University's PA program in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She has dedicated her entire PA career to caring for patients with cancer. She started her career at the VA Medical Center in hematology/oncology then transitioned to a private practice in 2007 where she worked alongside Dr. Steven Fein in the inpatient setting caring for patients with hematological malignancies, benign hematological disorders, and solid tumors. She has been extremely involved within the PA profession from graduation serving first in multiple committees within the FAPA and in 2010-2011 served as President. She is the immediate past Legislative and Governmental Affairs chairperson and most recently was appointed by Governor Rick Scott as the Chair of the Council on Physician Assistants within the Board of Medicine. She served as Director of the Miami Dade College PA program from 2012-2016 while continuing to work clinically in hematology/oncology. In 2016, she became the Director of Advanced Practice Providers at the Miami Cancer Institute in Miami, FL and oversaw the practice and operations of 100+ physician assistants and nurse practitioners. In 2020, after completing the Executive MBA program at the University of Miami, she transitioned to become the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Physician Assistant of Heme Onc Call, the country's first hematology telemedicine practice alongside her collaborating physician Dr. Steven Fein. Dr. Fein and Dayne have been working together for over 15 years. She has a love for teaching and therefore, in her spare time, she is an adjunct faculty at Miami Dade College teaching hematology/oncology curriculum, medical documentation and introduction to the PA profession. She loves to travel, fine dining, and spending time with her family and friends.

Michael Barker

Michael Barker is director of the TSYS Cybersecurity Center in the TSYS Department of Computer Science. Michael holds a Bachelor degree in Nuclear Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology (1983), a Graduate Certificate in Information Security Analysis (2012), a Master of Science in Information Security Management (2012) and is enrolled in a Doctor of Science in Information Technology with expected graduation in 2023. Michael holds a number of cybersecurity and IT industry certifications including the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Information Systems Security Professional and Senior Systems Manager, ISC2 CISSP, ISACA's CISA, CompTIA's A+, ITF+ and Network+ as well as various digital forensic software specific certifications. He is a State of Georgia licensed private detective, classroom instructor and firearm instructor. He is a past President of the Georgia Association of Professional Private Investigators (GAPPI) and the High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTICA) and currently serves on the Atlanta ISACA board, The Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) Columbus board and the Georgia State Defense Industry Base DoD Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Task Force. He is one of only two Georgia Police Officer Standards Training (P.O.S.T.) certified cyber forensics instructors. He has more than 25 years of industry IT, cybersecurity and digital forensics experience.

About the Speakers

Jennifer Barkin, M. S., Ph.D.

Dr. Barkin is an Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia. At Mercer, Dr. Barkin mentors undergraduate, masters, doctoral and medical students through her research program which is focused on perinatal mental health and other key maternal child health issues. A University of Pittsburgh-trained biostatistician (M.S.) and psychiatric epidemiologist (PhD) (Graduate School of Public Health), she completed a postdoctoral scholarship at the prestigious Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her undergraduate educational training took place at Carnegie Mellon University (B.S., Statistics) – also in Pittsburgh. Dr. Barkin’s intellectual property, the Barkin Index of Maternal Functioning (BIMF), has been translated into over 20 languages and has been used in industry-sponsored trials, and clinical, academic, and community-based settings. Barkin collaborates with groups all over the world to validate the Index and explore pertinent research questions related to maternal functioning. Recently, the BIMF was featured on the Academic Minute National Public Radio Program, sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). She has participated on national advisory panels, various expert panels related to perinatal mental health, and serves on the Board of Directors for Postpartum Support International, Georgia Chapter where she is the Chair of Corporate Sponsors and Partnerships. She has achieved national and international recognition as a thought-leader in her field and recently testified before the Georgia House of Representatives Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Committee.

Shannon Chambers

Shannon Chamber serves as the Director of Provider Solutions for the South Carolina Office of Rural Health. She assists private physician offices who desire to convert to Rural Health Clinic status and also provides technical assistance to Rural Health Clinics in maintaining compliance in RHC regulations. Shannon also provides technical assistance in billing and coding, EHR implementation and Practice Management for all RHCs. Shannon is a certified professional coder with the American Academy of Professional and a Certified Revenue Cycle Associate. Shannon serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the National Association of Rural Health Clinics. Additionally, she serves as a contractor for NOSORH.

Laura Cooper R.N.

Laura Cooper has been the school nurse at Needwood Middle School in Glynn County, Georgia for 10 years. This Jersey girl turned Georgia peach obtained her associates degree in nursing from Bergen Community College in Paramus N.J. Ms. Cooper worked in a busy pediatric practice for 14 years, which gives her a perfect background for school nursing! She was also a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for six years. (Her favorite siren was the Hi/Lo!)

Ms. Cooper very much enjoys working with the adolescent population and has been piloting and expanding the telehealth program for the Glynn county school system.

Steven Fein, MD

Dr. Stephen Fein is the medical director of Heme Onc Call, has a deep-seated passion for helping people with blood disorders including clotting, bleeding, abnormal blood counts, and blood cancers. He trained at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Duke University, and University of Miami. After dedicating himself to hospital-based hematology/oncology for 15 years, he created “Heme Onc Call” to provide access to care by telemedicine for inpatients admitted to hospitals that have little or no heme/onc support and for outpatients who have limited access to care or who prefer to see a hematologist from the comfort and convenience of their home.

About the Speakers

April L. Golson, B.S.

April is the Director of the Office of Telehealth for the Alabama Department of Public Health. She started her career with the Alabama Department of Public Health at the Lowndes County Health Department. She then moved to Central Office and worked for the WIC Program before transitioning to the Office of Telehealth in July 2018. She was promoted to Director in January 2020. She is a graduate of the University of South Alabama.

Micheal Hermosa

Michael is the managing partner of Telehealth Institute whose mission is to raise the standard of care, globally, by democratizing US medical education to teach international medical students and physicians the competencies and skills required to practice virtual care. To that end, Michael has organized a network of strategic partnerships and alliances with US hospitals/clinics, medical and nursing schools (Mercer University, University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Delaware) and teaching physicians dedicated to training current and future clinicians in developing countries. The company actively collaborates with governments, ministries of health, physicians associations and medical schools to source US medical education courses and programs that address knowledge gaps in their healthcare training. Previously, Michael was the Chief Operations Officer of Genesis Medicus Clinical Campus, one of the largest providers of US clinical rotations for international schools of medicine. He actively managed a portfolio of client-schools which included St. George's University School of Medicine, American University of Antigua, American University of the Caribbean, Saba University Medical School, and Medical University of the Americas, among others.

Maggie Jaynes, M.D.

Dr. Jaynes is a pediatric neurologist with thirty year experience in serving children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and other special healthcare needs. She is Professor of Pediatric Neurology and Child Development within the West Virginia University Department of Pediatrics. She has advocated for the use of telehealth on both the university and the state level. She has directed telehealth clinics for more than twenty years. She serves on several telehealth committees for WVU Medicine. She served on the WV Telehealth Alliance Board from 2010 through 2017 and was chairman from January 2014 to January 2015. She is an Advisory Board member to the Mid Atlantic Regional Telehealth Center. She has provided program development consultative services to the University of Nebraska Center for Excellence in Disabilities and the University of Kansas for development of pediatric neurology telemedicine services. She was an invited panel participant at conferences including the 2007 1st Office of Health Information Technology meeting and the 2013 WV State Broadband conference as well as the 2015 Senator Capito sponsored Broadband Conference. Dr. Jaynes is the Principal Investigator for the HRSA funded LEND Program. She is the Principal Investigator for the WV state funded Paths for Parents project. Dr. Jaynes is participating in a pilot telehealth demonstration project involving other members of the WVU Health Sciences faculty with the Take Me Home (TMH), West Virginia Program is a federally funded Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration program funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The goal of this project is to collaborate with, provide insight to, and develop a pilot telehealth demonstration for West Virginians transitioning from long-term care facilities to the community.

About the Speakers

April L. Jones, PhD, LMSW, MS, MSW, BA

April Jones is the department head of social work and assistant professor at Tuskegee University. With over two decades as a business and social sciences professional, Dr. Jones has experience in independent research, direct family practice, community and organizational development, talent management, public relations, education and training, entrepreneurship, and program evaluation. She has presented her published research around the world in Paris, France, Seoul Korea, Rhodes, Greece, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Berlin, Germany, Finland, Orange Beach, Alabama (Alabama Psychological Association) and Peachtree City, GA (Auburn University). Well known for her ability to successfully engage clients and facilitate dynamic education seminars, Dr. Jones provides subject matter expertise in an array of business and talent management consultations. Dr. Jones's education includes a BA in sociology from Stillman College, an MSW in social work from the University of Alabama, an MS in management from Faulkner University, a certificate in instructional design and technology, MS in instructional design and technology and a PhD in organizational psychology from Walden University. She is a member of the the America Association of University Women, National Congress of Black Women Birmingham Metro Chapter, American Evaluation Association, Federally Employed Women Montgomery Chp. 162, the American Psychological Association, the Society of Human Resources Management, the Association for Talent Development, National Association of Social Work, Council on Social Work Education, Bachelors Program Directors, and the Society of Industrial Organizational Psychology, among others.

Mei Wa Kwong, JD

Mei joined the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) in March 2010 as a Policy Associate and was named Executive Director of the program in January 2018. Ms. Kwong leads the organization's work on , public policy issues as they impact telehealth on the state and federal level. She is also the project director for the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center. Ms. Kwong is a nationally recognized expert on telehealth policy. In her current role at CCHP she works with the organization's multitude of national and regional partners on telehealth issues and oversees CCHP's projects, provides policy technical assistance to state and federal lawmakers, industry members, providers, consumers and others. She manages CCHP's staff and works closely with CCHP's consultants. She has been published in peer review journals and is a sought after speaker at national conferences. Prior to joining CCHP, Ms. Kwong was a public policy analyst for Children's Home Society of California, working on child care and early education issues on the state and federal levels. She also worked extensively with the Child Development Policy Institute, a statewide public policy organization, and was recognized by them in 2004 for her work in the early care and education field. She was at the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts in Washington, DC working on federal tax issues, and administered the association's political action committee. Ms. Kwong holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University, and a JD from George Washington University Law School.

About the Speakers

Boyd Mark

Boyd Mark is dedicated to transforming access to healthcare by leveraging technology and innovation. He is a Program Manager for the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center (SETRC) and founder of Pediatric Telemedicine of America. He founded the national Autism Telehealth Program at the non-profit The Scott Center for Autism Treatment on the campus of the Florida Institute of Technology, a Tier 1 STEM university. Boyd has extensive experience in management, operations, and finance with fortune five hundred companies including Microsoft, Intuit, and Apple. He holds a BA in history from the University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. Boyd resides with his family on Florida's Space Coast.

Alan Morgan, MPA

Recognized as among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare by Modern Healthcare Magazine, Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. He has more than 30 years experience in health policy at the state and federal level, and is one of the nation's leading experts on rural health policy. Mr. Morgan served as a contributing author for the publications, "Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care," "The Handbook of Rural Aging" and for the publication, "Rural Populations and Health." In addition, his health policy articles have been published in: The American Journal of Clinical Medicine, The Journal of Rural Health, The Journal of Cardiovascular Management, The Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology, Cardiac Electrophysiology Review, and in Laboratory Medicine. Mr. Morgan served as staff for former US Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden. Additionally, his past experience includes tenures as a health care lobbyist for the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the Heart Rhythm Society, and for VHA Inc. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University.

Valerie Morrison, Ph.D.

Dr. Valerie Morrison hails from the "Sunshine State," growing up in Ocala, Florida. She attended the University of North Florida where she received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy Nurse Corps in 1991. She also holds a Master of Science in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Doctorate in Business Administration from Northcentral University. Dr. Morrison retired in August 2020 from the U.S. Navy as a Captain, serving 30 years and 6 months on active duty. In her distinguished career, she served in a variety of clinical and leadership positions, to include four Navy Medicine Headquarters tours working for the Chief Executive of the Navy Nurse Corps and the Deputy Chief of Total Force, and as the Chief Nursing Officer of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where she led a team of over 1,200 nurses to the historical achievement as the first Department of Defense medical center to attain the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Pathway to Excellence designation. In June of 2020, Dr. Morrison returned to the University of North Florida as the Director for Student Health Services, with oversight of a 10-room ambulatory care clinic providing diagnosis and treatment of illness, injury, and emergencies, women's health, immunizations, x-rays, laboratory, and telehealth services on behalf of 17,000+ students. Dr. Morrison serves as the Chairperson for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission (ANCC) on Pathway to Excellence. She is an ANCC Board Certified Advanced Nurse Executive and a Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional. She holds certifications as an Executive Coach and a Healthcare Leadership Coach through the Center for Executive Coaching, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace through the University of South Florida.

About the Speakers

Dexter M. Page, MD, FACOG

Dr. Page is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Page received his medical degree in 1989 from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. He completed his OB/GYN residency through Columbia University at Harlem Hospital Center in New York City, in 1993, and his fellowship training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Obstetrical Sonography in 1995 also through Columbia University at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Page has earned a reputation among his peers as a dedicated physician and instructor involved in resident education at multiple Atlanta area hospitals. He was appointed, and served as a trustee on the board of the Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority, where among other responsibilities he was the Chairman of Risk Management. Through Atlanta Perinatal Associates/PageMed, Dr. Page is available for consultations from physicians to address the many emotional and complex issues associated with a high risk pregnancy. Dr. Page has presented on a national platform, that presenting at the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine national conference. Through Atlanta Perinatal Associates/PageMed Dr. Page continues to participate in ongoing clinical research to explore ways to improve maternal and fetal outcomes through research and technologic advancement, to include being one of the 1st perinatologist in the state to use telemedicine as a part of his daily practice. As a respected leader and innovator Dr. Page continues to improve pregnancy outcomes servicing the largest geographic area within Georgia.

Stephen Register

Stephen Register began his new role at SORH as the Executive Director on May 16, 2020. Stephen is a native of Georgia and a graduate of Valdosta State University with a degree in Organizational Communication. He is an experienced healthcare and business development leader and has served as the Chief Executive Officer for hospitals in Tennessee, Florida, and Georgia. In his early career, Stephen was a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative in Valdosta and a Cardiovascular Territory Business Manager for pharmaceutical companies in Albany, Macon, and Valdosta Ga. He has also served in the United States Navy.

Suleima Salgado, MBA

Suleima Salgado is the Director of Telemedicine & Rural Health Initiatives for the Georgia Department of Public Health. With over 15 years' experience in state and local government, healthcare education, and public relations she has led various public health initiatives in both Georgia and Florida. As the director of telehealth, Suleima manages a \$2.4 million budget and is responsible for setting strategic goals to increase access and bring health equity to underserved areas of the state through collaboration with Georgia's 159 county health departments. To address these needs, Georgia DPH initiated telehealth pilot projects in 2003 with a formal network buildout in 2012 and statewide network connectivity in 2016. This resulted in a robust telehealth network, which has become a best-practices model of care. Suleima works daily with state and federal agencies, health systems, county health departments, private providers, public schools, colleges/universities, and non-profits to develop and implement telemedicine programs across Georgia. In 2009, Ms. Salgado moved to Georgia to serve as the Director of Communications & Health Promotions/Risk Communicator for the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments where she was the spokesperson for the district and was involved in several health response events such as the H1N1 pandemic, multiple infectious disease outbreaks, vaccine shortages, mosquito-borne illnesses, and various interagency and multi-jurisdictional incidents and disasters. Mrs. Salgado holds a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern University in Florida. Suleima also serves her community as a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Gwinnett, is a member of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, is on the Medical Reserve Corp- GEM response team, and also serves as a board member for MentorEvolution and the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services.

About the Speakers

Kathy G. Schwarting, MHA

Kathy G. Schwarting, MHA serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Palmetto Care Connections, a non-profit telehealth network for SC that was founded in 2010. PCC primarily focuses on improving access to care for rural/underserved populations through the use of telehealth. PCC serves as the administrator for South Carolina's Broadband Consortium called the Palmetto State Providers Network (PSPN) which is used to ensure appropriate bandwidth for health care providers for telehealth services. Kathy also serves as the Co-Chair of the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) along with the Medical Director for MUSC Health. PCC is also responsible for coordinating a Telehealth Summit for SC on an annual basis and it showcases telehealth success stories in SC and around the nation. Kathy has 25 years of experience in rural health care working with various types of providers to improve the overall health care delivery systems. Kathy received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina and holds a Master of Health Administration degree from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Lela Shepard, PMP

Project Management Professional (PMP) with thirteen years experience in developing and implementing public health programs. Combination of experience and credentials in project, contract and grants management; facilitating state-wide task forces, advisory councils, and working groups; interpreting state and federal policies and procedures; drafting grant applications, reports, and performance measures; and coordinating successful community partner collaboration.

Jean Rawlings Sumner, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Dr. Sumner is the Dean of Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM). She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia and served as a registered nurse for the Veterans Administration in Dublin after moving to nearby Wrightsville. She was a member of the first class at MUSM and practiced internal medicine in Washington and Johnson Counties for more than 25 years. Dr. Sumner is a third generation Georgia physician and is committed to rural health. She has served on multiple state boards including Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, State Medical Education Board, Public Health Advisory Committee, Georgia Composite Board of Medicine where she served as President and Medical Director. Dr. Sumner has used her experience as a physician, nurse, hospital chief of staff and nursing home medical director to understand rural health issues. She is married to Joe Sumner, a pharmacist, and they have two children and four granddaughters. Dr. Sumner enjoys raising chickens, fishing, art, and creating pottery.

Eric Wallace, MD

Dr. Wallace is a native of Alabama. He received his BS in Spanish from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He graduated AOA from medical school at UAB. He completed his residency training at UAB as well after which he served as Chief Medical Resident. He then pursued a nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University and served as Chief Nephrology fellow. After his fellowship, Dr. Wallace joined the faculty at UAB. Currently, he is the UAB Medical Director of Telehealth, Director of the UAB Home Dialysis Program, and co-director of the UAB Fabry Disease Clinic. Since becoming faculty, his research has been focused on eliminating geographic and socioeconomic barriers which prevents patients from accessing specialized care. Primarily, he has focused on telemedicine in the provision of care in home dialysis and rare diseases such as Fabry disease, a rare genetic disease. Using the platform of telemedicine established for his studies on home dialysis, he is focused on creating a network and establishing processes by which physicians at the University of Alabama at Birmingham could provide medical expertise across the state of Alabama using telemedicine thus increasing access to care to patients who due to geographic and/or financial constraints may not be able to travel to UAB. It is his hope that with these studies, the physician workforce distribution issues can be addressed and access to care across the country can be improved.

About the Speakers

Sarah West

Sarah West has been an Investigator with US Department of Health and Human Services in the Office for Civil Rights in the Southeast Region for the past five years. She responds to HIPAA complainants and conducts HIPAA breach investigations and compliance reviews. She is also responsible for responding to complaints submitted by individuals who feel they have been discriminated against by an individual or entity that receives federal financial assistance from HHS on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex and in limited circumstances religion. Prior to joining OCR she practiced law at a large law firm in Atlanta as part of a health law practice group. She is currently working on her masters in law in Health Law at Loyola Chicago's School of Law, with a focus on healthcare compliance and risk management. She attended law school at Georgia State University's College of Law, obtained a masters of arts in bioethics from Case Western Reserve University, and completed a bachelor's in arts at Furman University, in Greenville, South Carolina.

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