

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Morning Plenary A: National Update, What's New in Adult Immunization? Recommendations, Coverage, and Policy Musings

Dr. David Kim is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service currently assigned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Immunization Services Division. He is the CDC Lead of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Adult Immunization Work Group and heads the effort to publish the annual adult immunization schedule. During his tenure at CDC, Dr. Kim worked in a variety of programs including immigrant and refugee health, quarantine, HIV drug resistance surveillance, and public health emergency preparedness.

Morning Plenary B: Massachusetts Update, Vaccine-Preventable Outbreaks, Immunization Coverage, Partnerships, and Initiatives

Larry Madoff, MD, is the Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Sciences at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He is an infectious disease physician specializing in the epidemiology of emerging pathogens, bacterial pathogenesis, and international health. He is Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Lecturer on Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

He is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, Massachusetts Medical Society, past President of the U.S. Lancefield Streptococcal Research Society, a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. A graduate of Yale College and Tufts Medical School, he performed his Internal Medicine Residency at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and his Infectious Disease Fellowship at the Harvard Medical School-Longwood program. Dr. Madoff has directed the International Society for Infectious Diseases' Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED), since 2002 and serves as ISID's Director of Emerging Disease Surveillance.

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 Division. 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.

Sarah Wright, MA, is a Senior Program Manager within the Immunization, Infectious Disease, and Public Health Preparedness Department at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). She currently serves as a program manager on two immunization cooperative agreements funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of which has included on-going collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Ms. Wright has more than 9 years' experience working in women's and maternal health, including prior roles with the March of Dimes, a large regional health care system, and a local rural health department. She obtained her Master of Arts degree in Health Education and Promotion from East Carolina University.

Question & Answer Session:

Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH is the Director of the Immunization Division 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.

Ted Clark, MS, is the Outreach Coordinator for the Immunization Division at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). He coordinates health education and outreach activities for the Division; develops messaging and communication strategies to promote immunization; provides outreach to develop and maintain partnerships and coalitions; plans trainings and conferences; and oversees the Division's online presence and printed content. Prior to joining the Immunization Division, Ted spent 10 years in MDPH's Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, working on reducing the burden of Chronic Disease in the Commonwealth. He holds an MS in Public Relations from the Boston University College of Communication, and a BS in Economics from Santa Clara University.

Afternoon Plenary: Improving Immunization Coverage in High-Risk Populations to Reduce Health Disparities

Elisa Choi, MD, is the current Governor of the MA Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), and is on the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of ACP. She is a representative of the ACP to the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases, and practices both as an Internist & as an Infectious Disease, HIV, and Hepatitis infection specialist. Dr. Choi has a particular interest in healthcare disparities, & in providing culturally competent care of health issues affecting Asian-Pacific Islander and minority pops. Dr. Choi is on the faculty at Harvard Medical School, and holds a clinical & educational leadership positions. She serves as a Chief of the Internal Medicine dept. at her practice. Dr. Choi is the Co-Chair Emeritus of the Health and Public Policy Committee of the MA ACP Chapter & an active member. She has extensive experience in healthcare and public health advocacy efforts at Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, & has also been actively involved in the planning and organization of an annual Advocacy Day at the MA State House for the MA ACP Chapter since 2016. Dr. Choi has rec'd the MA ACP Chapter's Leadership Award in 2014, and serves on numerous national ACP committees. Dr. Choi is the first woman, and only Asian American female, to serve as Governor, in the history of the MA ACP chapter. In addition to her professional efforts, Dr. Choi has been active in the Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for many years. She was appointed by the MA Treasurer's Office as a Commissioner for the Commonwealth of MA Asian American Commission, for which she served as the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Health and Human Services Committee Chair, during her 6 year tenure. Dr. Choi has also held titles as a Board member, Board Secretary/Clerk, Board Chair, and current role as Board Chair Emeritus of MAP (MA Asian & Pacific Islanders) for Health, a community-based nonprofit org. that works to improve healthcare access, disease prevention, and service delivery for the API community in MA. She also serves on the Board of numerous other non-profit (ATASK – Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence; NAAAP Boston – Nat'l Assoc. of Asian American Professionals, Bos Chapter), supporting API communities. Dr. Choi has been a member of the MA Adult Immunization Assoc. (MAIC) for many years, and has advocated for heightened immunization awareness among adult medicine practitioners.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

A. Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Lindsay Bouton, MSc has worked as an Epidemiologist at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for three years, focusing primarily on foodborne illness and viral hepatitis. Before coming to MDPH, Lindsay worked at the FDA and as a high school biology teacher. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Williams College and a Master of Science in Global Health and Population from the Harvard School of Public Health.

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. Introduction to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)

Christine Bradley, MA, is the Lead Trainer for the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). In her current role, Christine organizes outreach and recruitment to health care providers to onboard with 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. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist through the National Commission for Health Education Credentials Inc. Christine received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and her Master's Degree in Health Education from Columbia University.

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. Refugee Health Care on the Continuum: The Case of Massachusetts

Sergut Wolde-Yohannes, Ed M, MPH, is the Coordinator of the Direct Services for the Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention. She oversees and supports the community health worker (CHW) outreach and follow-up services provided by the Division to individuals affected by Tuberculosis and newly arrived refugees and immigrants in Massachusetts. She is a public health practitioner, an educator and a researcher with extensive experience in developing, implementing and evaluating public health and educational programs. Before joining MDPH, Sergut has lectured at Boston University School of Public Health and School of Education and worked as a Research Fellow and Research Data Analyst at the Data Coordinating Center of Boston University. She has also served as an Associate Research Scientist at the New England Research Institutes, Inc. (NERI) - a private public health research firm - and as the Director of Programs at Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC), a community-based non-profit agency that resettles and provides social and health services to newly arrived refugees in Massachusetts. Sergut has been involved in refugee and women's health issues and advocates for culturally and linguistically accessible social and health services to refugee women. She holds a Master's in Public Health and Education degrees from Boston University.

Zakaria Ahmed-Gas is the Refugee Health Assessment program coordinator for the MADPH. Zakaria is also a former refugee himself from Somalia. Zakaria has worked with refugees in many capacities over the last two decades. In his current role as Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) coordinator, he works closely with refugee health providers and resettlement agencies across Massachusetts to ensure that all eligible individuals get referred and go through the health assessment process in accordance with domestic screening guidelines.