

HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics Mini-Series
Session #6— Patient/Provider Outreach
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (12-1 PM ET)
Meet the Faculty

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Meredith Chuk, MD, FAAP

Lead, COVID-19 Therapeutics Allocation & Distribution Team; Washington, DC



Dr. Chuk is the Lead for the Allocation, Distribution, and Administration team at ASPR/HHS working with the COVID-19 Therapeutics Team. She completed her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at the Johns Hopkins/National Cancer Institute (NCI) fellowship program. She was an instructor in the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the NCI while completing a master's degree in Clinical Research through Duke University. Dr. Chuk was an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in the Department of Hematology/Oncology before joining the FDA in 2013 as a medical officer and then serving as the Acting Associate Director for Safety in the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in CDER at FDA and in the Oncology Center of Excellence.

Dr. Chuk can be reached at Meredith.Chuk@fda.hhs.gov.

Jeffrey Bander, MD, FACC

Medical Director, Network Development, Mount Sinai Hospital Network; New York City, NY



Dr. Bander is the Medical Director of Mount Sinai Hospital Network in New York. He is also the Chief of Cardiology at Mount Sinai West. During the pandemic he helped coordinate the health system's convalescent plasma program and coordinate large donor drives for Hyperimmune Globulin. He has helped operationalize monoclonal antibody infusion at Mount Sinai and led patient awareness campaigns. Working with local community partners and Operation Warp Speed, Dr. Bander is working to operationalize monoclonal antibody administration at FQHCs.

Dr. Bander can be reached at Jeffrey.bander@mountsinai.org.

Robert McKinnon Califf, MD, MACC

Head of Clinical Policy and Strategy for Verily and Google Health & Adjunct Professor, Duke University and Stanford University; San Francisco, CA



Dr. Califf is the Head of Clinical Policy and Strategy for Verily and Google Health for Verily and Google Health. Prior to this Dr. Califf was the vice chancellor for health data science for the Duke University School of Medicine; director of Duke Forge, Duke's center for health data science; and the Donald F. Fortin, MD, Professor of Cardiology. He served as Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 2015-2016, and as Commissioner of Food and Drugs from 2016-2017. A nationally and internationally recognized leader in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, healthcare quality, and clinical research. Dr. Califf is a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Califf was the founding director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute and is one of the most frequently cited authors in biomedical science.

Dr. Califf can be reached at Robertcaliff@verily.com.

Theresa Cullen, MD, MS

Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department; Tucson, AZ



Dr. Cullen is a retired Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service and former CIO with the Indian Health Service (IHS) who has led numerous large-scale software development and deployment initiatives.

Between 2012-2015, she was the Chief Medical Information Officer for Veterans Health Administration. From 2015-2020, she led the utilization of appropriate technology to meet identified clinical needs and improve health outcomes in low and middle income countries with Regenstrief Institute.

Dr. Cullen is currently the Public Health Director for Pima County, Arizona, a county of over 1 million people that encompasses urban and rural communities as well as two American Indian/Alaska native reservations. In this role, she has overseen the Pima County COVID-19 response, including testing, case investigation, contact tracing, support for appropriate therapeutic interventions and the County accelerated immunization plan. Pima County recently surpassed 100,000 COVID-19 cases as well as over 100,000 immunizations. Pima County is committed to health justice and equity and using novel technologies as well as interventions to accelerate a healthy community.

Dr. Cullen can be reached at Theresa.Cullen@pima.gov.

Liza Dawson, PhD, MA

Chief of Bioethics, Institutional Review Board Chair, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; Silver Spring, MD



Dr. Dawson is Chief of Bioethics, IRB chair, and Research Integrity officer at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in Silver Spring, MD. WRAIR is a DOD-funded research institution conducting research in infectious diseases and brain and behavioral health in the US and at multiple international sites. Dr. Dawson leads a bioethics consultation service at WRAIR to assist researchers and leaders grappling with ethical issues in research. She also leads a small team which provides training and education on Responsible Conduct of Research for all WRAIR investigators and research staff. Recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Dawson's team has initiated a Community Engagement program for WRAIR in the DC metropolitan area. Within bioethics, Dr. Dawson's main interests and publications are in the area of clinical trial design, community engagement, intersection of research and public health activities, and oversight of human research.

Prior to joining WRIAR in 2019, Dr. Dawson worked for 16 years at the National Institutes of Health, including 11 years at the NIAID Division of AIDS (DAIDS). While at DAIDS, she spearheaded a unique grant program for bioethics scholarship in research which funded grants from 2012 to 2016, as well as serving as a bioethics consultant for the Division. She previously worked for three years as a Senior Policy Analyst in the NIH Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director, on human research protections and related policy issues. She also worked as a faculty Research Associate at the Johns Hopkins University Berman Institute of Bioethics, focusing on international research ethics and ethical issues arising in novel scientific areas such as stem cell research.

Dr. Dawson studied molecular microbiology and public health and received a PhD at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and received a Master of Arts in Philosophy and Social Policy from George Washington University.

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David A. Nace, MD, MPH, CMD

Director, Long-Term Care, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA



Dr. Nace is an Associate Professor and Clinical Chief of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He also serves as the Chief of Medical Affairs for UPMC Senior Communities. He is the president of AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. His research focuses on antimicrobial stewardship and infections in older adults. Dr. Nace is a member of the White House Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes and leads the Western PA Regional Response Health Collaborative program providing COVID-19 support to 600 long-term care homes in western PA. He has participated in a variety of NIH, CMS, HHS, CDC and AHRQ projects and task forces, and is the principal-investigator of the AHRQ funded "Improving Outcomes for UTI Management" in Long-Term Care (IOU) Study.

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Linda Thomas-Hemak, MD, FAAP, FACP

CEO, The Wright Center for Community Health, an FQHC Look-Alike; Scranton, PA



Dr. Thomas-Hemak is the Chief Executive Officer of The Wright Center for Community Health and President of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education.

As CEO of The Wright Center for Community Health and a triple board-certified internal medicine, pediatrics, and addiction medicine primary care physician, Dr. Thomas-Hemak teaches and practices in her hometown of Jermyn, PA, concurrent with her responsibilities as an executive. She is a committed advocate of the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) delivery model, promoting patient, family and community empowerment, constructive consumerism and patient self-management in an environment emphasizing team-based care delivery. Dr. Thomas-Hemak is also a champion for Electronic Medical Records Meaningful Use, behavioral health integration and inter-professional healthcare workforce development. She is a relentless advocate for accessible, non-discriminatory care for patients and the elimination of stigma surrounding addiction and infectious disease. Prior to becoming board certified in addiction medicine, she achieved a certification in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to assist individuals struggling with substance use disorder.

She was named one of the 'Top 25 Women in Business' by the Northeast Business Journal in 2019 and her favorite professional activity is patient care delivery to multi-generational families within her community, optimized by point-of-care medical education.

Dr. Thomas-Hemak can be reached at Thomasl@thewrightcenter.org.
