

**HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics Mini-Series**  
**Session #11— Where We’re Headed**  
**Wednesday, March 24, 2021 (12-1 PM ET)**  
**Meet the Faculty**

**Our Panelists:**

**Brandi M. Limbago, PhD ..... 1**  
*Lead for the Laboratory and Testing Task Force in the CDC COVID-19 response .....1*

**Meredith Chuk, MD, FAAP ..... 2**  
*Lead, COVID-19 Therapeutics Allocation & Distribution Team; Washington, DC.....2*

**Chaim Lebovits ..... 2**  
*Co-founder, COVID Plasma Initiative; Monsey, NY .....2*

**Rick Foster, MD ..... 3**  
*Senior Physician Advisor, COVID-19 Therapeutics, South Carolina Department of Health.....3*

**Brandi M. Limbago, PhD**

*Lead for the Laboratory and Testing Task Force in the CDC COVID-19 response*



Dr. Limbago is current Lead for the Laboratory and Testing Task Force in the CDC COVID-19 response. The Laboratory and Testing Task Force supports all CDC-based testing for COVID-19, and provides technical and field assistance for external testing needs. These include such diverse activities and the development and deployment of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza multiplex diagnostic assays in advance of flu season, diagnostic and sero studies to better understand COVID transmission, viral genomic surveillance for the detection of emerging variant strains, as well as phenotypic characterization of these strains.

When not in the Task Force, Dr. Limbago is the Associate Director for Laboratory Sciences in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), a position she has held for the past four years. As ADLS, Dr. Limbago promotes the advancement and expansion of Quality Management Systems across NCIRD laboratories, and works across the Agency to inform, develop, and implement laboratory policy.

Dr. Limbago can be reached at: [eocevent177@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent177@cdc.gov).

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## **Meredith Chuk, MD, FAAP**

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



Dr. Chuk is currently the Lead for the COVID-19 Therapeutics Team at HHS/ASPR. 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 at 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 now serves 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](mailto:Meredith.Chuk@fda.hhs.gov).

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## **Chaim Lebovits**

***Co-founder, COVID Plasma Initiative; Monsey, NY***



Mr. Lebovits is the CEO of his own import and wholesale shoe company, with his primary distribution to small businesses. He has remained active during his entire adult life within the Orthodox Jewish community in New York. Mr. Lebovitz has focused on helping people in the community with complex medical issues gain access to the best possible medical care regardless of their financial abilities.

In March of 2020, Mr. Lebovits began working with physicians on the Convalescent Plasma Project. Working with this great coalition, Mr. Lebovits has set out to raise awareness about the potential benefits of treating COVID-19 patients at the early on-set of the disease with convalescent plasma.

In addition to his work with the Convalescent Plasma Project, Lebovits co-founded the COVID Plasma Initiative in April of 2020. The COVID Plasma Initiative is a volunteer-run organization that focuses on educating individuals and patients on the potential benefits of using plasma and antibodies to treat COVID-19 early on in the disease and where they can seek treatment.

Alongside his co-founding of the Convalescent Plasma Initiative, Mr. Lebovits is a founding member of The Fight is in Us, an international coalition working to maximize the understanding of the individual and societal benefits of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in order to accelerate the development of potentially life-saving therapies.

Mr. Lebovits can be reached at [Chaiml@cslshoes.com](mailto:Chaiml@cslshoes.com)

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## **Rick Foster, MD**

*Senior Physician Advisor, COVID-19 Therapeutics, South Carolina Department of Health*



Dr. Rick Foster serves as a senior physician advisor to SC DHEC in the areas of COVID therapeutics and population and community health improvement. He also serves as a consultant to SC DHHS in the areas of birth equity and rural maternal/child health improvement, and as a physician advisor to Help Me Grow SC. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina and as Senior Advisor to the SC Hospital Association in the area of Population Health Improvement. Dr. Foster served in a senior executive role with SCHA between 2007 and 2019, initially serving as Senior VP for Quality and Patient Safety. Prior to joining SCHA, Rick served as chief medical officer for Trident Health System in Charleston, S.C.

His primary responsibilities at SC DHEC include leading the COVID monoclonal antibody treatment program and the work of the SC Pandemic Ethics Advisory Council and the SC COVID Clinical Treatment Advisory Team. He also works with the COVID vaccine advisory committee and provides consultation to the population health analytics and community health improvement teams at DHEC.

Dr. Foster received his Undergraduate Bachelor of Science Degree from Clemson University and his Medical Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed his residency in Family Medicine at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, SC, and was in the private practice of Family Medicine in Surfside Beach and Charleston prior to serving as Chief Medical Officer at Companion Healthcare and then at Trident Health.

Dr. Foster presently serves on the Boards of Palmetto Care Connections, PASOs, the SC Translational Research Center, the Carolinas Center for Palliative and Hospice Care, and Fetter Health. He also serves on the Advisory Council for the SC Telehealth Alliance, the SC Birth Defects Prevention program and the Institute for Health Care Improvement's Maternal Health program.

Dr. Foster is married to Lesa Hart Foster and has four children and five grandchildren.

Dr. Foster can be reached at [fosterrp@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:fosterrp@dhec.sc.gov).

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