

2012 MCH & IMMUNIZATION CONFERENCE - PRESENTER BIOS

Joshua Arvidson is the founder and Director of the Alaska Child Trauma Center and Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, a center that specializes in serving children who have experienced complex trauma. Joshua is also the Director of the Alaska Trauma Training Initiative and teaches courses on childhood trauma for the University of Alaska. Joshua is a senior ARC trainer and consultant, and has a long-term collaboration with TC-JRI on the application of trauma-informed services in a range of provider settings. Joshua currently directs the Pacific Northwest/Alaska regional hub on the TC-JRI led Complex Trauma Treatment Network through NCTSN.

Julie Atkinson is a research professional at the University Alaska Anchorage Center for Human Development, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. She is the Project Coordinator for the Friendships & Dating program, overseeing training, implementation, evaluation, and technical assistance. She also oversees the evaluation activities of the FASD Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Demonstration project and the Positive Behavior Supports project. Ms. Atkinson holds a Master of Science from Utah State University.

Laura Avellaneda-Cruz (formerly Norton-Cruz) is a social worker and epidemiologist who focuses primarily on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and child maltreatment. She is a former sexual violence educator and victim advocate, school teacher, and researcher. She works at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Epidemiology Center, compiling and sharing data about violence affecting Alaska Native and American Indian people in Alaska, helping with evaluation of prevention and intervention programs, and offering assistance to health organizations to assess for violence. She is actively involved with racial equity issues as a volunteer host with the Alaska Native Dialogues on Racial Equity project, and with the Alaskan arts community as a photographer and artist.

Jennifer Baker has lived in Alaska for seven years and has worked with youth of all ages. She has engaged youth in trainings, experiential education, group facilitation and leadership, program development and community engagement. Jennifer Baker is the Adolescent Health Project Coordinator for the Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health.

Desiree Bergeron is Tlingit Indian from Southeast Alaska. She is a registered dietitian specializing in Alaska Native Traditional Diet. She is currently the Nutrition Research Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Her research includes interventions to healthily incorporate FDPIR packaged foods and traditional Alaska Native foods into the everyday diet. She has been an Adjunct Professor at both the University Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses for the past five years. She is Vice President of the Board for Cook Inlet Native Head Start and is co-author of the *Traditional Food Guide for Alaska Native Cancer Survivors*. Her most recent work involves creating *The Store Outside Your Door* program and producing regional webisodes across the state for the *Traditional Foods Contemporary Chef* series.

Michael Bruce is a public health physician and medical epidemiologist trained in both Internal and Preventive Medicine. He is the Epidemiology Team Leader at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Arctic Investigations Program in Alaska. After graduating with an MD/MPH from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, he completed an Internal Medicine residency at Oregon Health Sciences University and began his career at CDC in 1997 as an Epidemiologic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in the Meningitis and Special Pathogens Branch, Atlanta. His work has focused on the creation of a sentinel surveillance system in Alaska for detecting infection caused by *Helicobacter pylori*, and setting up, managing and analyzing data from the International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) system for invasive bacterial diseases to include Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

Jamie Blei is the patient and community relations lead at Alaska Center for Pediatrics. She has been with ACP for a combined nine years. In 2010, she assisted in establishing a **WeCan!** (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition) community site in Anchorage and she is currently helping to organize the fourth **WeCan!** Family Program this fall.

Kate Burkhart has been Executive Director of Alaska's behavioral health planning councils since 2007 and of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council since 2010. She is a graduate of Tulane Law School and served as a public interest lawyer with legal services organizations in Tennessee and Alaska for eight years, with a special focus on serving rural communities and individuals experiencing disabilities and the consequences of interpersonal and family violence. Kate has lived and worked in Alaska since 2001.

Aulasa Camerlin manages the Alaska Birth Defects Registry, a passive surveillance system that monitors the distribution and trends of birth defects throughout the state. Prior to her service with the State of Alaska, Aulasa worked as an epidemiologist at a tuberculosis research center in southern Texas/northern Mexico. Publications include peer-reviewed journal articles on tuberculosis and diabetes comorbidity, as well as Lassa fever. She has a Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Linda Chamberlain is a scientist, author, professor, dog musher, and founder of the Alaska Family Violence Prevention project. Dr. Chamberlain is an international speaker and champion for health issues related to domestic violence, children exposed to violence and implications for brain development. Dr. Chamberlain holds faculty appointments at the University of Alaska and Johns Hopkins University. She earned her public health degrees from Yale School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins University. She has authored numerous publications and domestic violence training resources to include the *Public Health Toolkit*, the *Amazing Brain* booklets for parents, the *Reproductive Health and Violence Guidelines*, and a train-the-trainer curriculum for home visitors. Dr. Chamberlain is editor for the e-journal, *Family Violence Prevention and Health Practice* and serves on the National Advisory Board for the Institute for Safe Families. Awards and recognition for her work include a National Kellogg Leadership Fellowship.

Cristi Chambers is the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Coordinator for the Alaska Immunization Program. She was actively involved in the development and implementation of the Perinatal Hepatitis B program and currently oversees the case management activities. Cristi has been working in the public health field for over 10 years as a CDC Public Health Advisor and earned her MPH from the University of South Florida.

Michael Cooper moved to Anchorage to work with the State of Alaska's Division of Public Health, in July, 2011. After receiving his medical degree from Michigan State University in 2003 and completing Family Medicine training in Duluth, Minnesota, he completed a two year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service fellowship. He then worked in Kotzebue, Alaska for two years before moving briefly to Vermont. Last July, Dr. Cooper returned to Alaska to manage the Infectious Disease program within the Section of Epidemiology and act as Deputy State Epidemiologist for the State of Alaska. Much of his job involves tuberculosis (TB), where he serves as Alaska's TB Controller.

Jessica Daniels is a registered nurse who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alaska Anchorage. For over two years she has fulfilled the lead nurse position at Alaska Center for Pediatrics; and more specifically works as Dr. Woodard's nurse within the practice's team approach. Her interests include public health and breast feeding support and education.

Mark Erickson completed a master's degree in biological psychology at the University of California at Berkeley and subsequently a medical degree at the University of Texas. His residency training in psychiatry was at Columbia University and the University of California at San Diego. He was the 1992 recipient of the Karl Jaspers' Award from the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry for research on the ethological foundations of familial bonding. His published work has explored the natural boundaries of familial affiliation and how these can be disrupted. Mark is currently a staff psychiatrist and Medical Director of Behavioral Services at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage.

Deb Evensen is a pioneer in discovering practical solutions that work with individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. A master teacher and behavior specialist with more than 35 years experience teaching children, adolescents and adults with highly challenging behaviors, she has the unique

perspective of one who has spent thousands of hours helping to problem solve solutions with communities from middle America to the far north of Alaska, Canada, and Japan. Deb has received many awards, and was the inaugural recipient of Alaska's *Vision, Leadership and Commitment to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome* award in 2001. Deb founded Fetal Alcohol Consultation and Training Services (FACTS), the Alaskan affiliate of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She travels internationally as a consultant and lives in Homer, Alaska.

Barbara Jean Franks (Tlingit originally from Hoonah, Alaska on Chichagof Island) is the Program Associate for the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Suicide Prevention programs for ANTHC Division of Behavioral Health & Rural Services. A life-changing event of losing her youngest son to suicide at the age of 23, two days before her husband of 25 years died of cancer, led her to seek counseling to get back on her feet. Being told by the counselor, "It's been six months, get over it," prompted her to go back to school. She received her A.A.S. degree in Human Services. She is trained on the ASIST, safeTALK, QPR, Level One on CISM and in the AFSP's Workshop on Bereavement Help for Suicide Survivors. She holds positions on the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council and the AFSP SPAN.

Gary Ferguson, is Director of Wellness & Prevention at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and a staff doctor at Avante Medical Center in Anchorage. Dr. Ferguson is of Unangan/Aleut ancestry and grew up in the Shumagin Island community of Sand Point. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Multnomah University, and his Naturopathic Doctorate degree from National College of Natural Medicine. He is a board member of The American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific and the Aleut Foundation. He also serves on the steering committees for Take Heart Alaska, the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance, the National Diabetes Education American Indian/Alaska Native Workgroup and the American Diabetes Association Native American Initiative Subcommittee.

George J. Gilson is the on-staff Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. He completed residencies in Family Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, as well as a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine, at the University of New Mexico. He served in the Indian Health Service in Pawnee, OK, and Chinle, AZ, and in the National Health Service Corps in rural northern NM, and on the US-Mexico border in Brownsville, TX. He has extensive international rural experience and served as an OB-GYN consultant for both MotherCare/USA and Johns Hopkins in Guatemala, Honduras, and Bolivia. He has worked extensively with Mayan indigenous people in Guatemala and spent a sabbatical year working in that country with traditional birth attendants. Prior to moving to Alaska, he worked at the University of New Mexico as an Associate Professor of OB-GYN, medical student clerkship director, and Medical Director of Labor and Delivery. He is author of the IHS web page, *The Perinatologist's Corner*.

Debbie Golden is a Perinatal Nurse Consultant for the Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health. For 30 years she has worked in Alaska in a variety of public health positions for both state and municipal governments and March of Dimes. Her primary focus has been perinatal health, and she also has worked in the areas of sexually transmitted infections, healthcare provider training, staff development, childcare health and school health. Debbie received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from University of Nevada-Reno and her M.S. degree in nursing from University of Portland in Oregon. She is a member of the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs; American Nurses Association; Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN); the Alaska Public Health Association; and is also a March of Dimes volunteer.

Yvonne Wu Goldsmith is the Manager of the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit within the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health. Ms. Goldsmith oversees the operations of the Unit which maintains five surveillance programs: the Maternal and Infant Mortality Review/Child Death Review, the Birth Defects Registry, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey, and the Surveillance of Child Abuse and Neglect. She has a major role in helping stakeholders understand and use maternal and child health indicators, particularly for the MCH Title V Block Grant activities.

Tom Hennessy is trained in Preventive Medicine and Family Practice. He worked for the Indian Health Service on the Navajo Reservation from 1990 -1994. He joined CDC through the Epidemic Intelligence Service where he served at the Minnesota Department of Health and later with the CDC Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch in Atlanta. Tom moved to Alaska in 1998 where his work with the Arctic Investigations Program has focused on addressing infectious disease health disparities among Alaska Native and American Indian persons. He directs the 35-person CDC infectious disease field station located on the Alaska Native Medical Center campus in Anchorage.

Angela Manderfeld is a registered dietitian, certified diabetes educator and has her master's degree in food and nutrition specializing in community nutrition. She has spent the last 10 years working with people with diabetes in an outpatient setting. She has extensive experience as a Diabetes Clinical Manager teaching healthcare providers how to manage patients on insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors, as well as working with patients themselves. Angela recently had the opportunity to work with the Alaska Parent Teacher Association on their *Nutrition and Fitness Toolkit*. She is currently the Diabetes Nutrition Consultant with the Alaska Native Diabetes program.

Joe McLaughlin is the State Epidemiologist for Alaska and the Chief of the Alaska Section of Epidemiology. He began his career in Alaska as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2001. After completing his two-year fellowship with CDC, he was hired on with the Alaska Section of Epidemiology in 2003. He completed his medical school training at the University of Minnesota, a Master's in Public Health and Tropical Medicine degree at Tulane University, and residency training in Preventive Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. He is an Assistant Professor with the University of Alaska's Master's in Public Health program and a member of the Alaska Area Institutional Review Board. He is also a member of the Delta Omega National Public Health Honorary Society and was the recipient of the *Rising Star Award* by the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Rebekah Morisse is a perinatal nurse consultant for the Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health. She is in charge of administering the maternal/child health nursing home visitation program for the State of Alaska. Rebekah has also worked as a public health nurse manager in family planning, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV. Before moving to Alaska, Becky was a public health nurse for a local health department in Wisconsin and also worked as a surgical intermediate care nurse. Becky received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Edgewood College in Madison, WI and is currently working on finishing her Master's of Public Health degree.

Corinna Muller is an attending perinatologist with Providence Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Providence Alaska Medical Center. She is a lifelong Alaskan, and attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks for undergraduate studies. She received her medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. She went on to complete an Obstetrics & Gynecology residency at Memorial Hospital in York, PA, and is board certified in OB/GYN (FACOOG). Dr. Muller completed her fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA in 2010. She was a 2010-2011 research grant award winner from the Medical Education Foundation of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians & Gynecologists for her work investigating kidney damage caused by preeclampsia in pregnancy.

Laura Muller is the Associate Director of Program Services for the Alaska Chapter of the March of Dimes. Laura graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies, with a concentration in Political Science. Before joining the March of Dimes this year, she served as the Tobacco Control Manager for the American Lung Association in Alaska and for the Alaska Native Health Board providing policy technical assistance to community coalitions. Laura's strength is applying grassroots community organizing principles to public health policy change processes to empower and improve the health of communities. As a tribal member of the Alaska Native Village of Ouzinkie and shareholder in the Koniag Regional Corporation, her interest has focused on support to rural communities seeking policy and behavioral social norm change.

Neil Murphy has worked within the Indian Health system since 1985 and currently practices obstetrics and gynecology at Southcentral Foundation on the Alaska Native Medical Center campus. Dr. Murphy received his medical degree from the University of Washington and completed a Family Medicine residency at the University of Arizona. He worked in Bethel and Sitka as a family physician from 1985 – 1990. He completed his Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training at St. Luke's Hospital in conjunction with the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1993. He was the IHS Chief Clinical Consultant for Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2000 – 2008. He is an Advisory Faculty for Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics. He is a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington.

Diane Peck is the Community and Evaluation Specialist for the Alaska Obesity Prevention and Control Program. Diane is a registered dietitian with over twenty years of experience in the field of nutrition and public health, and has worked with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services for over 10 years. Diane provides assistance and technical support on policy, environmental change, and public health approaches to prevent and control obesity, and has co-authored several reports on obesity in Alaska. In 2011, Diane partnered with the Division of Agriculture and the Division of Public Assistance to establish the Alaska Farmers' Market-Quest program to improve access to fresh, healthy, local foods for low income Alaskans.

Kathy Perham-Hester has worked in the public health arena for 20 years and has been administering and shaping the Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) project in the maternal and child health epidemiology field for nearly the same amount of time. She holds a master's degree in biostatistics from UCLA and a master's degree in public health from INSP in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Marilyn Pierce-Bulger is a certified nurse-midwife and family nurse practitioner who has spent many years providing care and creating services tailored to the unique needs of the Alaska Native population. She has expertise working with high social risk women and designed a nationally-recognized infant mortality reduction project for the Alaska Native Medical Center (Nutaqsiivik). She currently works part time for Southcentral Foundation Primary Care, is a consultant working on the National Institutes of Health SIDS reduction effort (*Healthy Native Babies*) that targets northern Alaska Native/American Indian communities, and is a founding member of the Anchorage FASD Diagnostic Team.

Troy Ritter manages ANTHC's Applied Sciences Unit. This Unit includes several environmental health programs spanning the topic areas of indoor and ambient air quality, healthy homes, water and sanitation, solid waste disposal, children's environmental health, water fluoridation and infectious disease control. The ANTHC Applied Sciences Unit also administers the newly-formed National Tribal Water Center and sponsors the annual Alaska Conference on Tribal Environmental Management. Mr. Ritter has a master's degree in public health practice and is pursuing a PhD in environmental public health. He is a registered environmental health specialist and a diplomat of the American Academy of Sanitarians.

Beth Saltonstall is the Medical Director of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Early Interventions HIV/AIDS Services clinical team. Since 2002, she has overseen clinical care for HIV patients in the Anchorage bowl as well as all rural areas of Alaska. She provides clinical consultative services for providers across Alaska. Dr. Saltonstall is a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine Specialist (AAHIVMS).

Ann Schaack is a licensed clinical social worker and has worked in the acute care and emergency rooms settings with behavioral health for many years. Ann is a Director at North Star Behavioral Health and also a representative for The Jason Foundation, a national youth suicide prevention and education foundation. The Jason Foundation opened an affiliate office in Anchorage in September, 2011.

Sharon Schlicht, is the Sealant Coordinator for the State of Alaska Oral Health Program. She has coordinated a school-based sealant pilot project at Taku Elementary School in Anchorage from 2010 to the present. Prior to her employment with the State of Alaska, she was a clinical dental hygienist.

Sarah Shoffstall-Cone, DDS, MPH received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from The Ohio State University in 2005 and her Master of Public Health degree from A. T. Still University in 2010. Upon graduation from dental school Sarah moved to Bethel, AK to work for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). During her time at YKHC she served as a staff dentist, deputy dental director and acting dental director. In 2009, Sarah moved to Anchorage, AK to work as the DENTEX Clinical Site Director for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Ros Singleton received her medical degree from Northwestern Medical School, Chicago, completed her Pediatric residency at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, and her MPH from Loma Linda University. Ros started her career as a pediatrician on the Navajo reservation. Since 1988, she has worked as a pediatrician at the Alaska Native Medical Center. She is the Director of the Immunization Program for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and a guest researcher with the Arctic Investigations Program – Centers for Disease Control. Ros has conducted research on RSV, Hib, pneumococcal disease and respiratory disease.

David Sperbeck is the Director of Psychological Services at North Star Behavioral Health Hospital, where he has evaluated and treated children and adolescents since 1984. Dr. Sperbeck is a Full Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where he has taught principles of clinical diagnosis, forensic psychology, and neuropsychology since 1987. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology and has practiced in Anchorage since 1982.

Doreen Stangel joined the Alaska Immunization Program as the Education & Training Manager in 2003. She coordinates consumer and health care provider educational, outreach, and customer service activities, directs childhood, adolescent and adult immunizations program components, manages the Division of Public Health efforts to increase childhood immunization rates, and is program liaison for the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition (Alaska's statewide immunization coalition). She is often the voice answering the Alaska Immunization Helpline (269-8088 or toll free 888-430-4321), "How can I help you?".

Sarah Switzer is a licensed clinical social worker and Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) Mentor. She has lived in Alaska for 10 years, and has been a BHC at Southcentral Foundation for seven years. Her work has been with substance abuse, domestic violence, and helping families plan for pregnancy and parenting. She also enjoys helping moms and babies with breastfeeding.

Brit Szymoniak is a research analyst with the State of Alaska Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. Brit manages the survey operations for two statewide health surveillance systems, the Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS). Brit previously worked as a policy research professional for the Institute of Social and Economic Research where she studied a variety of Alaska and Arctic social and economic issues. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University Alaska Anchorage.

Stephen Tower was born in Anchorage at the old Providence Hospital and is a graduate of West Anchorage High School. He received his medical degree from the University of Washington in 1983. He completed his internship and residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock in 1983-1984, served with the Public Health Service from 1984-1988, and worked with Oregon Health Sciences University Orthopedics from 1988 to 1992. He has worked at Anchorage Fracture and Orthopedics Clinic since 1992. Dr. Tower volunteered in Uganda in 2005, Uganda and Kenya in 2006 and Liberia in 2007.

Leah Walsh works for Cooperative Extension Service in Bethel. As a nutrition educator she is passionate about teaching skills and sharing resources around food and nutrition as a way to increase awareness of the abundance of healthy food options available within our state. Leah has lived in Bethel for 5 years.

Ben Westley was raised in Anchorage and attended A.J. Dimond High School prior to leaving for Bowdoin College in Maine. After studying biochemistry and Spanish, he came back to Alaska to attend medical school through the WWAMI program at the University of Washington, receiving his MD degree in 2005. In 2009 he completed a four-year residency in Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the

University of California, San Diego, followed by two years of Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Brown University in Rhode Island.

Brad Whistler is a Dental Official with the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services Chair and is on the Data & Surveillance Committee. Brad is a member of the Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors and he serves on the Oral Health Technical Advisory Group to the U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Thad Woodard is a general pediatrician with a particular interest in child and adolescent asthma, patient education, and science as a way of knowing how the natural world works. He came to Anchorage as an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control in 1978 and has been here ever since. From 1980 until now he has worked at the Alaska Center for Pediatrics. For over 10 years he has also produced and hosted *Line One: Your Health Connection*, a weekly call in radio program that interviews local and national experts on health related issues on the Anchorage National Public Radio affiliate, KSKA.

Brian Yablon grew up in northeast Wisconsin and received his Bachelors in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin--Madison. He was a high school mathematics teacher in Miami, Florida for two years before attending Yale School of Medicine, where he received his M.D. in 2007. He completed residency training in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Minnesota in 2011 and he stayed on as a chief resident in pediatrics there from 2011-2012. He is currently a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer assigned to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology.