



COVID-19: The Saga Continues

Successful Strategies for Keeping Safe at Work

January 23-24, 2021

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Saturday, January 23, 2021



MODERATOR:
RUPALI DAS, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Dr. Das is Clinical Professor, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of California San Francisco, and Medical Director for Zenith Insurance. She previously served as Executive Medical Director of California's Division of Workers' Compensation and held various leadership positions in occupational and environmental health at the California Department of Public Health and California EPA. Dr. Das is President Elect of the Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association and serves on committees of the California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI) and Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Board. She is board certified in internal medicine and preventive medicine and occupational medicine.



KURT T. HEGMANN, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Dr. Hegmann is Chief of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City. He also directs the University's Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and serves as an occupational medicine consultant. He is board certified in occupational medicine. Dr. Hegmann serves as Editor-in-Chief of ACOEM's Practice Guidelines since 2006. The newest ACOEM Practice Guideline is for COVID-19, which is now on its 7th edition.



SARA E. LUCKHAUPT, MD, MPH

Dr. Luckhaupt is the Associate Director for Science of the Division of Field Studies and Engineering at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. She received a medical degree from the Ohio State University and completed a preventive medicine residency at the University of Michigan, then joined the CDC/NIOSH and the Commissioned Corps as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in 2006. Dr. Luckhaupt served as part of the Worker Safety and Health Team within the CDC COVID-19 response full-time from April through July 2020, and since then continues to support the response part-time.



KARIN PACHECO, MD, MSPH

Dr. Pacheco is Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado, and the University of Colorado School of Public Health in Aurora, Colorado. She is board certified in occupational medicine, internal medicine, and allergy and immunology. Dr. Pacheco specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of occupational asthma and allergic disease. She is the founder and director of the MetALLs program that assesses sensitization to metals and bone cement as a cause of joint failure in orthopedic populations. She assists ACOEM in developing its *Practice Guidelines* by serving on its Occupational Asthma and COVID-19 evidence-based practice panels.



JOHN HOWARD, MD, MPH, JD, LLM, MBA

Dr. Howard is the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Administrator of the World Trade Center Health Program in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was first appointed NIOSH Director in 2002 during the George W. Bush Administration and served in that position until 2008. In 2009, Dr. Howard worked as a consultant with the US-Afghanistan Health Initiative. In September of 2009, Dr. Howard was again appointed NIOSH Director, and was reappointed for a third six-year term in 2015. Prior to his current appointments, Dr. Howard served as Chief of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in the State of California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency from 1991 through 2002. Dr. Howard earned a Doctor of Medicine from Loyola University of Chicago; a Master of

Public Health from the Harvard University School of Public Health; a Doctor of Law from the University of California at Los Angeles; and a Master of Law in Administrative Law and Economic Regulation, and a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management, both degrees from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Howard is board-certified in internal medicine and occupational medicine. He is admitted to the practice of medicine and law in the State of California and in the District of Columbia, and he is a member of U.S. Supreme Court bar. He has written numerous articles on occupational health, policy, and law.



WENDY THANASSI, MD, MA, MRO

Dr. Thanassi is an Associate Professor Affiliate at Stanford and the Chief of the Occupational Health Service at the Palo Alto VA. She is board-certified in emergency medicine. Her interest and time are spent almost entirely on issues of tuberculosis (TB) testing and treatment for U.S. healthcare workers. She has been the Principal Investigator on FDA trials for TB tests, and the plenary speaker at multiple international conferences on TB testing in health care workers. Dr. Thanassi served as the national lead for TB screening and testing policy for the Veterans Health Administration's

400,000 health care workers for nearly 10 years. She co-authored the 2019 CDC guidance on TB Testing in Health Care Personnel and first-authored its companion implementation document. Dr. Thanassi has worked all over the world, including in TB hospitals in South Africa.



ELIE F. BERBARI, MD, FIDSA

Dr. Berbari is Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He graduated with a MD degree from St. Joseph University, Beirut Lebanon. He did his internal medicine residency training at SUNY in upstate New York and his infectious diseases fellowship training at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Berbari is the past president of the Musculoskeletal Infection Society and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Bone and Joint Infection between 2018 and 2020. He has served as the program director for the infectious diseases fellowship training program at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota between 2009 and 2017 and has published more

than 160 peer reviewed publications and book chapters. Dr. Berbari's research interests evolve around the topics of prosthetic joint infections, vertebral osteomyelitis, prevention of surgical site infection and more recently COVID-19. He has led or participated in a number of national guidelines including the Infectious Diseases Society of America's (IDSA) guidelines on Vertebral Osteomyelitis and PJI and the CDC Guidelines on the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections. Dr. Berbari is also the current Chair of the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 diagnostic stewardship task force and is an executive member of the COVID-19 Mayo Clinic practice reactivation as well as COVID-19 business engagement task force.



WENDY E. BRAUND, MD, MPH, MSED, FACPM

Dr. Braund serves as the COVID-19 Response Director for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Previously, she was the Director of the Center for Public Health Practice, Associate Dean for Practice, and a Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Prior to her time in academia, she served as the Wyoming State Health Officer and Public Health Division Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Health. Before working at the state level, Dr.

Braund was employed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, first in the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, and then at the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. Dr. Braund is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Preventive Medicine Residency Program and is board certified in public health and general preventive medicine. She is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Sunday, January 24, 2021



MODERATOR/FACULTY:

MAGGIE K. COOK-SHIMANEK, MD, MPH

Dr. Cook-Shimanek is Medical Director for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry Employment Relations Division and a physician for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. She also works with the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation as the Medical Treatment Guidelines Medical Director. Dr. Cook-Shimanek is board certified in both occupational medicine and general preventive

medicine and completed her residency training programs at the University of Colorado. She has a Master of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology from the Colorado School of Public Health. She is President-Elect of the Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational & Environmental Medicine and served as an editor of Colorado's CURE Occupational and Environmental Medicine Opioid Prescribing and Treatment Guidelines. Additionally, Dr. Cook-Shimanek serves on the Evidence-based Practice Shoulder Panel for the ACOEM Practice Guidelines and sits on the External Advisory Panel for the Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center located at the Colorado School of Public Health.



MODERATOR/FACULTY:

GLENN S. PRANSKY, MD, MOCCH, FACOEM

Dr. Pransky is Associate Professor, Departments of Family Medicine and Quantitative Health Sciences, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and visiting lecturer at Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Massachusetts/Lowell. He is a senior editor for the *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation*. Dr. Pransky founded and directed the Center for Disability Research at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety from 1999-2017. His research group conducted investigations on disability prevention strategies, enhancing recovery in musculoskeletal disorders, work disability in older workers, and methods to achieve

safe, sustained return to work. Dr. Pransky is a member of the ACOEM COVID Task Force, and is board certified in occupational medicine and internal medicine.



MIKE VAN DYKE, PHD, CIH

Dr. Van Dyke is a certified industrial hygienist, researcher, public health practitioner, and educator. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and the Center for Work, Health and Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health. Dr. Van Dyke is recognized for his contributions related to exposure assessment, occupational beryllium exposure, first responder exposures in clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, indoor air quality, public health aspects of legalized marijuana, and community exposures related to oil and gas extraction. Dr. Van Dyke is also an

expert in evidence-based decision-making and risk communication.



ROBERT J. HARRISON, MD, MPH

Dr. Harrison is board certified in internal medicine and in occupational medicine and is Clinical Professor, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, at the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). He founded and has directed UCSF's occupational health services for more than 15 years and is now senior attending physician. He has diagnosed and treated more than 10,000 patients with work- and environmental-induced diseases and injuries. He also directs the worker tracking investigation program for the California Department of Public Health. Dr. Harrison has also served on the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) Standards Board.



NIRAV N. DESAI, MD

Dr. Desai is a cardiologist at Kaiser Permanente in California. He received his medical degree at New York Medical College, completed his internal medicine training at UCLA, and his Cardiology Fellowship at University of Southern California, where he was named the Cardiovascular Fellow of the Year. He then completed his interventional cardiology fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan. Dr. Desai is board certified in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Desai was in private practice for 4 years in Bakersfield, California where he performed

numerous procedures in most acute settings.



ALEX SWEDLOW

Mr. Swedlow has more than 25 years of experience in health services research, public policy analysis, and data development and has published numerous research studies in the areas of managed medical and disability systems, evidence-based medicine, pharmaceutical utilization, access to care, return-to-work and key performance indicators of California workers' compensation reform. In 2013, he was named President of the California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI) after having served as Executive Vice-President of Research for 13 years. Prior to that he had been an independent consultant to CWCI from 1988 to 1999, working to enhance data collection and research on

topics including medical and indemnity benefit development, 24-hour coverage and medical treatment utilization, and cost drivers. In 1998, he served as the Systems Architect and Project Manager for CWCI's primary claims database, the Industry Research Information System (IRIS), one of the largest and most robust workers' compensation transactional data warehouses in the nation. Mr. Swedlow earned his master's degree in Strategic Planning and Health Services Research from the George Washington University and was awarded GWU's International Research Fellowship Award. He is an active participant in industry advisory committee work and a frequent speaker at regional and national conferences and forums.



RENA DAVID, MBA/MPH

Ms. David is Senior Vice-President, Research & Operations, CFO and Treasurer of the California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI). She provides leadership and oversight for the CWCI research function as well as the tools and systems necessary to support it. In addition, as CFO, she oversees budgeting, human resources, facilities and systems. Ms. David has expertise in 24-hour coverage models and has published research on medical dispute resolution and other impacts of recent California Workers' Compensation Report. She holds a bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford and master's degrees in business administration and public health from the University of California,

Berkeley. Prior to joining CWCI in 2013, she worked as a consultant and manager for more than 25 years in finance, data systems development, product development, workers' comp and group health pricing, health services research and hospital operations, primarily at Kaiser Permanente.



JAMIE C. RICHES, DO

Dr. Riches cares for the hospitalized patients of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center overnight, in the role of oncology hospitalist. She is an Assistant Clinical Attending Physician in the Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Riches holds a B.A. from Hartwick College, where she majored in Chemistry, a medical degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, and is currently enrolled in a

graduate program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. She completed internal medicine residency training at Mount Sinai Morningside and Mount Sinai West and a chief resident year at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Riches has been an outspoken advocate for institutional reform to foster physician wellbeing and resilience, beginning in residency training. She has a specific interest in secondary traumatic stress, as it directly relates to acute and end-of-life care. She facilitates Narrative Medicine workshops with faculty and trainee groups, with a specific focus on techniques that can approach the issues of burnout and moral injury in health care. At Memorial Sloan Kettering, she works on committees such as the Building Resilience Through the Arts, the Physician Burnout Working Group, and GME Wellness.