

# Navigating a Post-Vaccine World: Virus, Vaccine and Variants

June 11-12, 2021

## FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Friday, June 11, 2021

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**MODERATOR:**

**TANISHA K. TAYLOR, MD, MPH, MBA, CIME, FACP, FACOEM**

Dr. Taylor is Chief Medical Director for RWJBH Corporate Care in New Jersey where she has been instrumental in improving outcomes for workers' compensation clients for both her organization as well as for clients and oversees employee health services. She is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at Rutgers School of Public Health. Dr. Taylor has served on the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's (ACOEM) Board of Directors and is currently ACOEM Treasurer. She is board certified in occupational medicine and internal medicine and is also a Medical Review Officer and listed on the

FMCSA National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.



**JEFFREY SILVERS, MD**

Dr. Silvers is the Medical Director of Infection Control and Pharmacy for Sutter Health, where he serves as physician lead and expert on COVID-19 for the health care system. In this role, he works closely with the California Department of Public Health, where he serves on several advisory committees. After completing his medical training in the UCLA healthcare system, he and his wife moved to Northern California, where he spent 35 years caring for patients with complex infectious diseases. He is on the board of directors for the Infectious Disease Association of California, the Advisory Council for the California Immunization Coalition, and has spoken nationally on immunizations.



**ISMAIL NABEEL, MD, MPH, MS, FACOEM**

Dr. Nabeel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He serves as Deputy Medical Director of Employee Health, Safety, and Wellness for the Mount Sinai Health System. Having expertise in internal medicine, occupational/ environmental medicine, and clinical informatics, his focus is to bring in cutting-edge innovative perspectives and solutions to enhance the health and wellbeing of people in the working environments. With New York as the epicenter for the COVID-19 disease outbreak, as part of the Employee Health Service, he has led the response to protect and care for healthcare workers who have been serving on the frontlines

taking care of the sick patients, impacted by this disease at the Mount Sinai Health System. He is a fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) and was recently being awarded the President's award in 2021 for his contributions to the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Nabeel held faculty appointments at Occupational Medicine and Internal Medicine departments at Wexner Medical Center at the Ohio State University.



### **JEFFERY E. HESS, MD, MS, FACOEM**

Dr. Hess is currently the Corporate Medical Director for General Motors. He has completed medical board certifications in family medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, and is designated as a Fellow in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Dr. Hess received his medical degree from the Northeast Ohio Medical University. He received training in aerospace medicine from the U.S. Air Force and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Hess has over 37 years of combined experience in the fields of occupational medicine, aviation medicine, family medicine, and environmental health. He has worked in a variety of settings which include a private medical practice, a hospital based occupational medical clinic, as well as government and corporate settings. Prior to his role at General Motors, he spent 22 years with the Ohio Air National Guard, 2 years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and 11 years as the North America Medical Director for the Procter & Gamble Company.



### **JACQUELINE M. COOK, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Cook is the Medical Advisor for the Office of Occupational Health and Safety for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) since 2019. She previously served as the Chief of Occupational Health Services at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System from 2015 to 2019. Dr. Cook trained at the Yale-New Haven Hospital/Yale University School of Medicine for both internal medicine residency and occupational and environmental medicine fellowship. She holds board certification in the specialties of internal medicine and preventive medicine/occupational and environmental medicine, and she maintains an Assistant Professor faculty appointment at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Cook holds positions on the Board of Directors for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) and the Board of Directors for the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (NECOEM) and serves as a delegate for NECOEM on the ACOEM House of Delegates.



### **JESSICA R. DESLAURIERS, MD, MPH**

Dr. Deslauriers is the Acting Section Chief of Employee Occupational Health for the Orlando Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. She has been extensively involved with the workplace response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developing processes and plans for employee COVID-19 exposures, contact tracing, quarantine, and vaccination. Dr. Deslauriers is a graduate of the Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine Fellowship, Yale School of Public Health, and Yale Internal Medicine Residency. She has been an ACOEM member since 2017 and is a member on ACOEM's Council on Government Affairs.



### **ERIC FRANCE, MD, MSPH, MBA**

Dr. France is the Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). He has been at the department since February 2020 where he is actively working on the COVID-19 response helping to create the Community Standards of Care, working closely with the Governor's office in the pandemic response, vaccine education and allocation. Prior to joining CDPHE, Dr. France served as the west region Medical Director for Merck Vaccines in 2019, traveling to the west coast to help care delivery organizations in their efforts to improve vaccination delivery. He was also a physician researcher (vaccines, cancer

screening, tobacco cessation), the Chief of Preventive Medicine, the Director of Population Health and the Executive Director for Sales & Marketing during his 25 years with the Colorado Permanente Medical Group, the physicians of Kaiser Permanente. After attending medical school at McGill University, Dr. France completed residencies in pediatrics and preventive medicine at the University of Colorado.



**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 is also Center Director for 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 with the ACOEM Practice Guideline for COVID-19 now on its 8th edition.



**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.

## Saturday, June 12, 2021

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**MODERATOR:**

**KATHRYN L. MUELLER, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

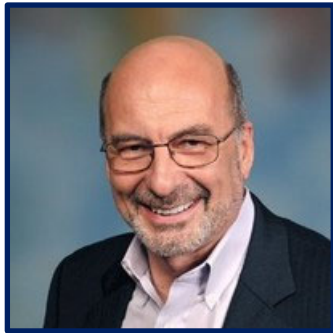
Dr. Mueller is a professor at the Colorado School of Public Health, former Medical Director for the Division of Workers' Compensation in Colorado. She is also past president of ACOEM. Her research interests are in developing evidence-based guidelines for work-related musculoskeletal disorders and in disability assessment. Dr. Mueller served as one of the six section editors for the American Medical Association's *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*, 6th edition, and has published research in such areas as impairment ratings, use of practice guidelines, and interstate variation of practice in workers' compensation.



**JAMES B. TALMAGE, MD, FACOEM**

Dr. Talmage has served as the Assistant Medical Director for the State of Tennessee Division of Workers' Compensation since 2014. Dr. Talmage retired from clinical practice in April 2016 as a treating physician in orthopaedics and occupational medicine. Since 2005 he has been an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Division of Occupational Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He is board certified in orthopaedic surgery and previously certified in emergency medicine (1987-2017). He is a Fellow in, and Past President of, the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators. He is a frequent contributor to, and the Associate Editor of *The Guides Newsletter*, published

by the American Medical Association (AMA). He was a reviewer for the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* and was an author/contributor to the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, and a member of the Errata Committee. Dr. Talmage is also co-editor and a chapter author for *A Physician's Guide to Return to* (2005), *Guides to the Evaluation of Work Ability and Return to Work* (2008), and *Guides to the Evaluation of Disease and Injury Causation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (2013) published by the AMA. Since 2010, he has served on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Spine Journal* and has attained elite reviewer status as a peer reviewer for *The Spine Journal* and *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.



#### **LES KERTAY, PHD, ABPP**

Dr. Kertay is owner and president of Dr. Les Kertay & Associates, LLC. He also serves as Medical Director for New York Life Insurance Company. His work is focused on improving individual and corporate health, well-being, and work performance. Dr. Kertay has over 40 years of experience in health and human services, including 15 years in executive leadership positions in the group insurance industry, with a focus on absence management. He is a licensed and board-certified clinical psychologist with expertise in the arena of mind-body health including disability medicine, chronic pain, and health behaviors. He is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences on topics related to

the psychological aspects of work and disability, practical approaches to managing psychosocial issues in medical practice, pain management, somatoform and personality disorders, and professional ethics. In addition to other publications, he is a contributor to three books on the psychosocial aspects of complex disability claims and is lead editor for the *AMA Guides to Navigating Disability Benefit Systems*.



#### **GREG S. VANICHKACHORN, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Vanichkachorn is an occupational and aerospace medicine physician with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Over the last ten years, he has helped injured workers manage their work-related injuries and the complicated psychosocial factors that can affect recovery and return to function. In addition, he uses skills in cognitive behavioral therapy to better understand patient's concerns and thought processes. Finally, as a pilot and endurance athlete, he is committed to optimizing health and safety. Dr. Vanichkachorn is board certified in occupational medicine and family medicine, is a certified commercial driver examiner, and a senior aviation medical examiner to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).



#### **ROBERT C. BLINK, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Blink is the Medical Director and CEO of Worksite Partners Medical Group. He serves as national medical director to corporations, joint labor-management health programs and for a large medical provider network and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group of an international manufacturers' association. He is Medical Advisor to RETAIN-California, a federally funded research project to reduce needless work disability. He holds leadership roles with ACOEM and is a past president of the Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA). He

previously served on the Cal-OSHA Standards Board and has written and spoken widely on Fitness for Duty issues.



### **JENNIFER CHRISTIAN, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Christian is president of Webility Corporation, a consulting firm, and part-time senior advisor providing in-house subject matter expertise to the ODEP team overseeing RETAIN. She also moderates the Work Fitness and Disability Roundtable, a free multi-stakeholder e-group devoted to work disability prevention and management. Dr. Christian is board certified in occupational medicine and has chaired ACOEM's Work Fitness & Disability Section for 20 years, retiring in 2020. She has worked in a wide variety of roles in urban, rural, and remote settings in seven states, including Alaska where she was president of the state medical association. Dr. Christian has been employed by or done projects with health care delivery organizations, health, disability, and workers' compensation insurers, federal, state and local government agencies.



### **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. Mr. Swedlow earned his master's degree in Strategic Planning and Health Services Research from the George Washington University (GWU) and was awarded GWU's International Research Fellowship Award.



### **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' compensation and group health pricing, health services research and hospital operations, primarily at Kaiser Permanente.



**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.



**DAVID BERUBE, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Berube is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. In addition to teaching at Yale, he is the Chief Medical Officer of Lincoln Financial Group, and he previously served in similar roles at Liberty Mutual Insurance, and Aetna, Inc. Dr. Berube is board certified in internal medicine and in preventive medicine in the subspecialty of occupational and environmental medicine. He serves on the Board of Directors of the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Dr. Berube is interested in population health with a focus on

employee benefits and disability, absence, and return to work medical management.



**NAOMI BARDACH, MD, MAS**

Dr. Bardach is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Policy in the Department of Pediatrics and the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California San Francisco. Since December, she has been serving almost full time as CA Health and Human Services Agency as the state lead for the multi-agency Safe Schools for All team. In this role, she is using an evidence-based approach and implementation science lens to inform public policy around safe in-person instruction and to support multi-stakeholder conversations. Prior to taking on that role, she led a study of COVID19 testing in indoor camps for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders and served as a thought leader in the media and for public health leadership, translating evidence via major news outlets nationally and internationally.



**PAUL J. PAPANEK, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Dr. Paul Papanek has served as a Public Health Medical Officer within the Cal/OSHA Medical Unit since 2012. He previously served as both a staff physician and as Chief of the Department of Occupational Medicine within Kaiser Permanente at the Los Angeles and West Los Angeles Medical Centers from 1995 to 2012. He trained in family medicine and following his MPH degree in 1986 from UCLA, he became board certified in occupational medicine. Dr. Papanek has served as a Board member and as President of WOEMA, and on the Board of the ACOEM. He serves on the clinical faculty and on the Residency Advisory Committee of the Division of Occupational and Environment Medicine at UC Irvine.