

## 2018 7<sup>th</sup> Annual AL Telehealth Summit Bios

**Amy Adams, DNP, FNP-C**, is an Assistant Professor at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing, where she obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Nursing, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. She also works clinically as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Mobile County Health Department. Her greatest interests are improving healthcare access and literacy to rural and underserved populations. As coordinator of the University of South Alabama's HRSA funded grant, Partnership for Quality Student and Preceptor Education, Dr. Adams works collaboratively with the College of Nursing's grant team and the practice partnership sites to integrate telehealth into the education of family nurse practitioner students.

**Amy Ellison, CPA** has been with Blue Cross for 16 years. She has worked in a number of different areas including Medicare Accounting, Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk Management and Corporate Strategy. In her current role, she works in the Healthcare Network division as a Hospital Contracting Manager focusing on hospital education and outreach, facility contracting and network strategy. Amy is a certified public accountant who received her undergraduate degree from Jacksonville State University and her master's in accountancy from the University of Alabama.

**Andrew Butler, MD**, is a neuroscientist and physical therapist. He is a Senior Health Scientist in the Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation at the Atlanta VA medical center. He is a professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Associate Dean for research in the Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University. At present his laboratory is pursuing the use of robotics and telemedicine in the rehabilitation of the upper limbs of people post-stroke (VAORH N07-FY13Q1-S1-P00621: Expanding stroke telerehabilitation services to rural Veterans).

**Betty Lang, DNP, FNP-C**, is an Assistant Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner Track Coordinator at the University of South Alabama. She received her MSN from the University of Mississippi and her DNP from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Lang has practiced for over 25 years in the underserved populations at Community Health Centers and School-Based Health Centers as well as in the in-patient population with medical/psychiatric illnesses and has taught nursing at undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate levels. Over the years, she has served as a clinical preceptor for many NP students. As a National Health Service Corps Scholar recipient and because of her involvement with national programs such as the Institutes for Healthcare Improvement and the Bureau of Primary Healthcare, she has brought evidenced based practice to the populations she serves as well as taught other clinicians to incorporate best practices in the fields of asthma and diabetes mellitus.

Presently, with involvement in the HRSA funded Advanced Nursing Education grant: Partnership for Quality Preceptor and Student Education received by the University of South Alabama, Dr. Lang's interest is in improving communication between clinical preceptors and faculty in evaluating clinical competencies of NP students. With the addition of the telehealth component to the grant, she is assisting to develop opportunities for faculty to collaborate with preceptors in providing objective clinical evaluations for students in remote locations.

**David Rosen, JD**, is a partner and public policy lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP. Mr. Rosen has extensive experience in health law, life sciences, and food and drug regulation, including a range of Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) regulatory issues affecting prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biologics. He is co-chair of the firm's Life Sciences Industry Team and is also a member of the firm's Government & Public Policy Practice and the Health Care and Food & Beverage Industry Teams. Mr. Rosen earned his J.D. at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (1991). He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy (1978).

**Elizabeth Krupinski, Ph.D.**, is an Experimental Psychologist with research interests in medical image perception, observer performance, medical decision making, and human factors as they pertain to radiology and telemedicine. The goal of her research is to improve our understanding of the perceptual and cognitive mechanisms underlying the interpretation of medical images in order to reduce errors, improve training, and optimize the reading environment, thereby improving patient care and outcomes. She is the Associate Director of Assessment for the Arizona Telemedicine Program, co-Director of the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, co-editor of the Journal of Telemedicine & Telecare, and Past President of the American Telemedicine Association.

**Elizabeth (Beth) Smith, CRNP**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences. She received her MSN at the University of Alabama in Birmingham with a primary focus in community health. She is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a family nurse practitioner with a focus in pediatric care for the past 17 years. Her interests include telemedicine, asthma education, otolaryngology, children with special needs and disabilities and school health nursing.

**Eric Wallace, MD**, is a native of Alabama. He received his BS in Spanish from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He graduated AOA from medical school at UAB. He completed his residency training at UAB as well after which he served as Chief Medical Resident. He then pursued a nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University and served as Chief Nephrology fellow. After fellowship, Dr. Wallace joined the faculty at UAB. Since becoming faculty, his research has been focused on eliminating geographic and socioeconomic barriers which prevents patients from accessing specialized care. Primarily, he has focused on telemedicine in the provision of care in home dialysis and rare diseases such as Fabry disease, a rare genetic disease. He has ongoing research and has published on the role of geography in access to home dialysis, as well as research in providing home dialysis follow up remotely using telemedicine. He was the first to fully replace a comprehensive follow up visit for peritoneal dialysis patients using telemedicine. Using the platform of telemedicine established for his studies on home dialysis, he is focused on creating a network and establishing processes by which physicians at the University of Alabama at Birmingham could provide medical expertise across the state of Alabama and globe using telemedicine thus increasing access to care to patients who due to geographic and/or financial constraints cannot access subspecialized medical care. Due to his research, he was named to the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Health Initiative that is focused on furthering the use of technologies such as telemedicine and telemonitoring to improve the care of patients on home dialysis. In 2017, he was appointed as the Medical Director of telehealth at UAB and continues to further telehealth in the state of Alabama.

**Jennifer R. Bonds MHA, FACHE**, serves as the Administrator for the Regional Telehealth Service at the Atlanta VA Health Care System. Board Certified in Healthcare Management, she is responsible for business and

clinic operations for multiple telehealth services, such as Tele-Primary Care and Tele-Ophthalmology, provided predominately to Veterans in rural Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. Prior to this role, Jennifer served as the Business Manager for the Primary Care Service Line, Surgical Service Line, and Interim Medical Center Facility Planner. Prior to working at the Atlanta VA, she previously served as Executive Assistant to the Chief Medical Officer for the VA Southeast Network—VISN7. VISN 7 staff manage care for our nation's heroes in Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. Jennifer received a Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Behavior from the University of Florida *cum laude* and a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2016, she completed a Graduate Theological Certificate in Faith and Health from North Park Theological Seminary. She is also a Graduate of the Class of 2014 of LEAD Atlanta and a 2012 Graduate of the United Way Volunteer Involvement Program.

**Karen Burgess, MD**, graduated from the University of Alabama and completed her pediatrics residency training at the Children's Hospital of Alabama before joining the faculty at the University of Alabama, College of Community Health Sciences. Her research interests include pediatric obesity and asthma telemedicine. Dr. Burgess serves as the pediatrics department chair and is also the medical director for the Medicaid care coordination organization for West Alabama, Alabama Community Care, tasked with achieving better health outcomes for Medicaid recipients in West Alabama.

**Kelly Stauter, DNP, FNP-C**, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of South Alabama where she received her Advanced Family Nursing and Doctorate of Nursing Practice degrees. Her professional experience focuses on nursing education, the role of nursing faculty, and the delivery of healthcare for individuals and families across the lifespan. For many years she has practiced in the Nurse Practitioner role providing health care to rural and underserved communities as part of service with the Alabama Department of Public Health and Ascension Health Ministries. Currently, she instructs graduate and doctoral nursing students at the College of Nursing. Dr. Stauter currently serves as project director for the College of Nursing's HRSA funded Advanced Nursing Education grant: Partnership for Quality Preceptor and Student Education. The 3-year grant program aims to improve the readiness of Family Nurse Practitioner students to practice upon graduation in medically underserved areas through enhanced preceptor preparation. Dr. Stauter strives to bridge gaps between academic and practice partnerships to ensure project goals are met and promotes the use of innovative technology to facilitate connecting faculty with practice partners located in remote health care settings.

**Larry Steinberg, MBA**, is EVP, Global Business Development and Co-founder of Cloud DX –the Qualcomm Tricorder XPrize Bold Epic Innovator Award Winner. Larry has been focused on the Telehealth/Telemedicine market for the last 8 years and has been involved in some of the largest Remote Patient Monitoring deployments in the US. His vast experience in Telehealth includes deploying thousands of vital sign monitoring devices to 10's of thousands of patients. Prior to being a Co-founder of Cloud DX, Larry was Director of Business Development at Trapollo, the leading Telehealth Logistics Service Provider that was purchased by Cox Communications in 2015. Cloud DX and Trapollo have a strategic partnership.

**Leland E. Garrett, MD, FACP, FASN, CPC**, works with Dr. Feliciano and Dr. Sculimbrene and serves as a Contractor Medical Director for Part A and Part B coverage policy. Dr. Garrett is a nephrologist and internist by training. Before coming to Palmetto GBA, he served for 20 years as a physician in the United States Air Force, was in private practice in Raleigh North Carolina for 20 years and then was a Medical Director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina in the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Programs and subsequently

the Special Investigations Unit. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology and a certified coder.

**Lloyd Sirmons** received his Associates Degree in Computer Science from Columbus State University 1998. He immediately began his IT career working with TSYS of Columbus, GA where he worked as a mainframe programmer. He worked many years with Columbus Regional as a System's Analyst before entering full time ministry where he served in pastoral leadership for nearly fourteen years before joining the GPT team in August of 2010 as the BTOP Project Director. He completed his BS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University in 2009. Lloyd not only brings a sound knowledge of IT solutions, but also brings strong leadership and communication skills as the Director of the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center

**Melinda Rowe, MD, MBA, MPH**, became the Assistant Medical Director of Health Systems, Alabama Medicaid Agency, on December 1, 2011. She received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and her medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama. She also received masters' degrees in public health and business administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Dr. Rowe is board certified in both Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine. Prior to serving in her current position, she practiced pediatrics in rural Alabama and Mississippi and served in leadership positions in public health departments in Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky from 1985 to 2011. Dr. Rowe grew up in north Alabama's Limestone County where her father was a cotton and soybean farmer and her mother was a nurse. Access to health care in all of Alabama's counties has been one of her interests for decades.

**Monica R. Chmielewski, JD**, is a partner and health care lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP. She focuses her practice solely in representing health care providers and pharmaceutical and medical device companies in the area of health care, health care transactional work, clinical research and food and drug law. Ms. Chmielewski is co-chair of the firm's Life Sciences Industry Team. She is also vice chair of the firm's Health Care Industry Team.

Health Care and Life Sciences Operations and Compliance

Ms. Chmielewski counsels healthcare entities and pharmaceutical companies regarding the operation and functions of their corporate compliance and integrity programs, including assisting with the composition and development of programs; reviewing and assessing existing program effectiveness; providing compliance education and training of personnel, executive management and board members; coordinating internal investigations of compliance related concerns; and recommending any needed corrective action. She has counseled, in both in-house and outside counsel roles, individual hospitals, health systems, hospices, skilled nursing facilities and pharmaceutical companies on matters of corporate compliance. Ms. Chmielewski earned her law degree, cum laude, from Wayne State University and is a member of the Order of the Coif. She received an undergraduate degree in government and ancient history and archeology from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

**Nathan Culmer, PhD**, graduated from The University of Iowa with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and an affinity for technology – how it can both help and hinder us in all our endeavors. Upon graduation, he worked at Penn State University where he further refined these interests. Currently, Dr. Culmer oversees all telehealth and academic technology initiatives in the College of Community Health Sciences at The University of Alabama

and has been heavily involved in the implementation and research of telehealth as a means of delivering care and education. He has worked individually and as a part of multidisciplinary teams to acquire funding to begin new projects that promise both to improve care as well as provide opportunities for research. He has also been involved in the developmental and research aspects of existing projects and enhancing them the sake of improving care and developing new models of delivery. He is active in publishing the results of these projects and oversees a research lab devoted to technology, well-being, and education in health care. He lives in Tuscaloosa, AL with his family – and loves it there.

**Paula Brennan** is the Director of Women and Children's Services at Baptist Medical Center East (BMCE) in Montgomery, Alabama. She was hired in 1990 to develop this service line at Humana Medical Center East (now BMCE) and through her continued leadership and that of her team, has expanded the program to become one of the top-ranking hospitals for deliveries in the state and has received multiple national awards for quality patient care in a fiscally responsible and safe environment. A registered nurse for 37 years with a background in Labor and Delivery, Paula is passionate about patient care, believing that quality patient care should be available to every patient at any entry point into the medical system. As her career began in nursing with almost no technology, she has been able to realize the impact of technological advances on a patient's outcome. She has developed a team of leaders and staff that share the same passion, creating a culture of relationship-based care-compassionate, quality, skilled care to every patient, every time. Paula enjoys traveling around the world, meeting new people, exploring, hiking, camping and other outdoor activities. When she isn't working, she is planning the next adventure!

**Rena Brewer, RN, MA**, CEO of Global Partnership for Telehealth, Inc. (GPT), has 12 years' experience in building telemedicine networks across the southeast and beyond. GPT is a charitable nonprofit corporation that is the umbrella organization for several entities to include the Georgia, Partnerships for Telehealth, Inc. and the HRSA funded Southeastern TeleHealth Resource Center. GPT is dedicated to promoting improvements in healthcare by assisting in the establishment and on-going network support of telehealth programs. GPT's robust telehealth network has over 650 end points of providers and receivers of clinical services in 10 US states and 4 international countries. Partners include rural & urban health systems, healthcare providers, skilled nursing facilities, schools, jails, public health departments, and a variety of clinics.

As GPT has expanded operations; international opportunities with mission organizations have developed resulting in the 2013 formation of GPT Missions. GPT Missions is partnering with various charitable groups to implement telehealth services in orphanages, clinics, and hospitals in Guatemala, Honduras, Macedonia, and Afghanistan.

**Rodney O. Tucker, MD, MMM**, is a native of Alabama and currently serves as the Director of the UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care. Dr. Tucker graduated from UAB in 1984 and again from medical school at UAB in 1989, subsequently entering the Internal Medicine residency program at Carraway Methodist Medical Center. Dr. Tucker is board certified in Internal Medicine, as well as Hospice and Palliative Medicine. After a successful career in private practice and working with a regional provider of home care and hospice services, Dr. Tucker returned to his alma mater in 2002. Since that time, he has been actively engaged in the development of one of the most comprehensive clinical, educational and research programs in palliative care in the United States. Dr. Tucker completed his Master's in Medical Management at the University of Southern California in the Marshall School of Business in 2009. In 2011, he assumed a leadership role in the UAB Medicine Reaching for Excellence culture renovation initiative as part of the Academic Medical Center of the

21<sup>st</sup> Century strategic plan and served as the Chief Experience Officer for UAB Medicine from 2013-2018. In that role, Dr. Tucker worked with stakeholders numbering over 14,000 in Alabama's largest employer in the practice of evidence-based leadership and enhancing the patient experience in the setting of a changing healthcare environment. He has been serving as Director of the UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care since 2013. In February 2016, Dr. Tucker was appointed as the first holder of the Christine S. Ritchie, M.D., Endowed Chair in Palliative Care Leadership at UAB.

**Dr Salma de la Feld, MD**, is an assistant professor at Emory University Department of Dermatology, where she is also Co-Director of the Patch Testing Clinic and Director of the Sub-I Medical Student Rotation. She has been involved with Emory VA Teledermatology since June 2017, helping to expand the education piece. She completed her residency at University of AL-Birmingham, including being the Chief resident, and medical school at Brown University

**Sherrie Williams, LCSW**, Chief Operations Officer for Global Partnership for Telehealth, knows that telemedicine is THE answer for the nation's healthcare shortage. After graduating with a Masters of Social Work degree from Valdosta State University she began working in the private mental health field and public-school system. For nearly 15 years, she witnessed first-hand what happens to children and families when necessary medical and mental health care is out of reach. As more and more rural health providers disappear and fewer specialist move into rural locations, Mrs. Williams understands the critical nature of strengthening and expanding the Global telehealth network. By working with existing and potential partners in Georgia and beyond to implement and design sustainability strategies for telemedicine programs, she believes that all US residents will remain connected to healthcare.

**Tanya Mack**, President of Women's Telehealth, is an operations and business transformation specialist in healthcare. Throughout her career, she has worked with national healthcare organizations such as Johnson and Johnson, HCA and Mednaxto to help launch new divisions, realign business processes, implement new HIT systems and facilitate healthcare change management. Tanya speaks frequently on telehealth topics and hosted two radio shows, "The Doctor's Roundtable" and "Top Docs" for several years. Women's Telehealth's accomplishments under her leadership include: being named one of three HIT Innovation Companies by TAG after only 7 months in business, creation of the first Georgia high-risk obstetrical telemedicine services to rural areas with the GA Dept of Community Health, a nomination for ATL Healthcare Heroes, and being featured on NPR and in the Wall Street Journal.

**Thomas (T.J.) Ferrante, JD MBA**, is senior counsel and a board-certified health care lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP, where he focuses his practice on telemedicine, telehealth, and virtual care, as well as a wide range of transactional and related regulatory issues for health industry clients.

Mr. Ferrante works with hospitals, health systems, providers and start-ups to build telemedicine arrangements across the United States and internationally. He has experience with a variety of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic affiliations, obtaining and maintaining tax-exemption, employment contracts and leases, and other transactional matters. Mr. Ferrante also advises health care clients in all aspects of federal and state regulatory matters, including anti-kickback, self-referral laws, state licensure, fee splitting, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and compliance. In addition, Mr. Ferrante handles federal and state tax matters with respect to individual, corporate, tax exempt organization, and pass-through entities.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama TeleHealth Summit – August 14, 2018

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill, Prattville,  
2500 Legends Cir, Prattville, AL



Mr. Ferrante earned his law degree from Boston University School of Law. He also received an LL.M. in taxation from Boston University and an M.B.A. from the University of Tampa. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and in Spanish.