



Cara Christ, M.D., M.S.
Director and Chief Medical Officer
Arizona Department of Health Services

Cara M. Christ, M.D., M.S. became Director for the Arizona Department of Health Services in May 2015. Dr. Christ has served the agency for more than nine years. Among her many accomplishments at ADHS, Dr. Christ collaborated with health partners and stakeholders to develop strategic plans for infectious disease prevention and control, including the Governor's Council on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. She was involved in leading statewide efforts during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, and worked with partners to find solutions to improve childhood vaccination programs. In 2012, Dr. Christ managed the development and implementation of 20 Articles of Arizona Administrative Code for Health Care Institutions allowing integration of physical and behavioral health services statewide. Dr. Christ obtained her master's degree in microbiology with an emphasis in molecular virology and public health. She earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Arizona College of Medicine.



Dianna Contreras
Manager, Birth Defects Monitoring Program
Arizona Department of Health Services

Ms. Contreras has a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from Arizona State University, and public health graduate education from Benedictine University with a focus on health education and promotion, as well as health policy and leadership. She has experience in public, private, and community health. She has worked for the State of Arizona since 2007, and has been ADHS since 2011. Her current role allows for birth defects surveillance, family assistance, and birth defect prevention efforts.



Aubrey Joy Corcoran, J.D.
Assistant Attorney General, Education and Health Section
Arizona Attorney General's Office

Ms. Corcoran is an Assistant Attorney General representing the ADHS. She earned her M.P.H. from Emory University. She worked as an HIV Program Specialist with the Indian Health Service, an Epidemiologist with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, and a Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Trainer with ADHS. Ms. Corcoran received her J.D. from Arizona State University and was the first Fellow and Faculty Associate for the Public Health Law and Policy Program at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.



Richard Cumming
Vector Control Specialist
Yuma County Health Services District

Mr. Cumming started his career at a private pest control company in 1989. It was then that he learned the value of community outreach and education in increasing public awareness. He has been with Yuma County since 1994 and recognizes that vector control requires not only hard work, but also a sense of community commitment and pride in public service. For the past 22 years Mr. Cumming has studied the life cycle and habits of the different vectors, including techniques that are most effective for control.





Kate Fitzpatrick
Virology/Serology Section Supervisor, Arizona State Public Health Laboratory
Arizona Department of Health Services

Ms. Fitzpatrick graduated from ASU in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Microbiology. Utilizing her expertise, she has implemented several testing methods for arboviruses including molecular and serological testing for chikungunya, dengue virus, and Zika virus.



Timothy Flood, M.D.
Medical Director, Bureau of Public Health Statistics
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Flood received his medical degree from the University of Arizona, where he also completed his residency in Occupational and Preventive Medicine. He has worked for ADHS since 1986. Dr. Flood assists in producing health statistics that cover many chronic disease topics, including data from the state cancer registry, birth defects registry, vital statistics, hospital discharge data, and the behavioral risk factor survey.



Francisco Garcia, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Chief Medical Officer
Pima County Health Department

Dr. Garcia is a member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which produces national evidence-based clinical guidelines, as well as the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities. Prior to joining Pima County, he was a Distinguished Outreach Professor of Public Health and Obstetrics & Gynecology, and served in a variety of leadership roles at the University of Arizona.



Diana Gomez, M.P.H.
Director, Public Health
Yuma County Public Health Services District

Ms. Gomez has 20 years of experience working in public health. She has an interest in community health research and policy development which was sparked during her work as a student health advocate and research assistant while at the University of Arizona. Since that time she has served on various local, state, and national committees and workgroups. Ms. Gomez is currently the President of the Arizona Health Officers Association.



Jefferson Jones, M.D., M.P.H.
Epidemic Intelligence Officer
Centers for Disease Control

Dr. Jones is co-assigned to the Arizona Department of Health Services and Maricopa County Department of Public Health. He has investigated outbreaks and conducted preventive research on several diseases, including Ebola, Zika, measles, dengue, and valley fever. He received his Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering at Northwestern University, where he also earned a M.P.H. and M.D.





Nathan Lepp, M.D.
Neonatologist
NAL

Dr. Lepp practices predominantly at Maricopa Medical Center and the Abrazo system hospital. In addition to his NICU duties, he is the Medical Director for Air Evac Neonatal Transport Services in Phoenix and on the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the Arizona Perinatal Regional System, Inc. He is also involved in advocating for Arizona's infants through his work on Safe Sleep, the AzAAP advocacy committee, and is on the steering committee of The Arizona Partnership for Immunizations and the March of Dimes Program Services Committee. He is currently pursuing his MPH in Maternal Child Health from the University of Minnesota.



Joe Manfrida, Ph.D.
Chief, Arizona State Public Health Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Manfrida has been an integral part of the State Lab's ongoing clinical lab outreach program as well as assisting with the deployment and development of their Select Agent, Laboratory Response Network, and statewide biosafety outreach programs. He holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Arizona State University. Dr. Manfrida is a member of both the American Society for Quality and the American Society for Microbiology.



Joey Martinez
Vector Control Specialist
Yuma County Health Services District

Mr. Martinez has 20 years of experience working as a Vector Control Specialist. He has worked for a private pest control company, is a certified pesticide applicator, and was part of the local team that worked with the CDC Dengue Epi Aid team in December of 2014. His daily mosquito surveillance routine involves larviciding, adulticiding, trapping, identifying, and testing of mosquitoes. Mr. Martinez also develops educational material used in public outreach campaigns in order to ensure the community has access to timely and accurate information.



Dee Quinn, M.S., CGC
Clinical Lecturer, Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
University of Arizona

Ms. Quinn, a board certified genetic counselor, has been Director of the Arizona Pregnancy Riskline since it began in 1999. She is a Clinical Lecturer in the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy at the University of Arizona and teaches genetics and teratology to medical students, residents, and other allied health professionals. She received a B.S.N. degree from the University of Bridgeport in 1975 and her Master's degree in Genetic Counseling from Sarah Lawrence College in 1981. Since coming to the University of Arizona in 1989, she has provided prenatal and teratology counseling. She served as President of the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists (OTIS) from 1999-2001 and Executive Director from 2005-2012.





Jessica Rigler, M.P.H.
Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control
Arizona Department of Health Services

Ms. Rigler has served in a variety of roles with the CDC and ADHS, primarily in support of infectious disease prevention and control. She started at ADHS in 2008, supporting evaluation activities with the state immunization program. Following that, she served as the state's first Healthcare Associated Infections Coordinator, establishing a multidisciplinary Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee. She has an M.P.H. from Emory University, is a Certified Health Education Specialist, and is certified in infection prevention and control.



Karen Rose, R.N., B.S.N.
Disease Surveillance Nurse
Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Ms. Rose moved from Santa Barbara, CA to Phoenix in 1978 to attend Arizona State University where she graduated with a B.S. in Nursing. As a Disease Surveillance Nurse in the Office of Epidemiology at MCDPH, she investigates a wide variety of communicable diseases and reportable conditions as outlined in the AZ Administrative Code, including new and emerging diseases such as Zika Virus. She is bilingual in English and Spanish, and enjoys educating others about controlling communicable disease spread in our community.



Irene Ruberto, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Surveillance Epidemiologist
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Ruberto is from Padua (Italy), where she studied Medical Biotechnologies. She completed a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Edinburgh focusing on molecular mechanisms involved in the transmission of the infectious agent of African Sleeping Sickness. Due to her interest in public health, Irene decided to further pursue an M.P.H. at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine with a final dissertation on Malaria Knowledge, Attitude and Practice in Guinea, West Africa. She is responsible for reporting infectious disease data to CDC and is the point of contact for the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.



Bill Slanta
Assistant Director, Arizona State Public Health Laboratory
Arizona Department of Health Services

Mr. Slanta has over 30 years of experience in laboratory work; including testing supervision and management. He started with the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory in January of 1987. He currently manages the planning, organization and supervision of the Offices of Microbiology and Bio-Emergency Preparedness. His major duties include directing and evaluation all technical elements of laboratory testing, preparation and response to grant proposals, monitoring the status of all grants throughout their cycles, and monitoring and oversight of laboratory budgets. He holds certifications as a registered microbiologist with the ASCP and NRM, as well as a Specialist in Medical and Public Health Microbiology with the NRM.





Kirk Smith, Ph.D.
Laboratory Supervisor
Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Dr. Smith serves as the vector control laboratory supervisor for the Maricopa County Environmental Health Services Department. Prior to this role, he worked as a field supervisor with the vector control program, serving the needs of the community. He received his Ph.D. in 1987 in entomology from the University of California-Davis. Dr. Smith is the current chair of the office of pest management advisory committee with the Arizona Department of Agriculture.



Rebecca Sunenshine, M.D.
Medical Director, Disease Control Division
Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Dr. Sunenshine is a CDC Epidemiology Field Officer assigned to Arizona since July 2006. She is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service, trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Oregon Health & Science University, and completed her CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellowship in 2006 with the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. Her research and publications focus on infectious disease epidemiology, coccidioidomycosis, infection control, and multidrug resistant organisms.



John Townsend
Division Manager, Environmental Services Vector Control
Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Mr. Townsend is an Arizona native. He grew up in Gilbert and graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Environmental Resources. He has worked for Maricopa County for 25 years and has been the Environmental Services Vector Control Division Manager for 17 years.



Lisa Villarroel, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Villarroel received her Bachelors in Biology at Princeton University and her Doctor of Medicine at Northwestern University before getting her Masters in Public Health and becoming board certified in Family Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to her work at the health department, she is an assistant professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and a practicing locum tenens.



Victor Waddell, Ph.D.
Director, Arizona State Public Health Laboratory
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Waddell earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetics at Queen's University, Belfast. He has worked for the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory since 2001 and was appointed as Laboratory Director in May 2004. Dr. Waddell is responsible for overseeing the laboratory, including the Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology, Newborn Screening, BioEmergency Response, and Chemical Emergency Response Sections. He was part of the design build team who led the development and planning of the new Arizona State Public Health Laboratory.





Holly Ward
Communication Director
Arizona Department of Health Services

Ms. Ward directs the agency's internal and external communication. Primary operations involve media response and engagement for a wide variety of ADHS interests. Prior to her role with ADHS, she worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation managing graphic design, website development, and video production services. She earned her B.S. in Broadcast Journalism from Northern Arizona University and cut her teeth in local television news and video production for ten years before jumping into work for local and state government.



Joli Weiss, Ph.D.
Manager, Infectious Disease Preparedness Epidemiology
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dr. Weiss is the Infectious Disease Preparedness Epidemiology Program Manager for the Office of Infectious Disease Services. She oversees the vector/zoonotic disease program, the food and waterborne disease program, and preparedness activities for Arizona. Dr. Weiss has conducted numerous outbreak investigations and participated in a variety of response activities including Ebola, dengue, and salmonella. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health as well as her master's and bachelor's degrees from the University at Buffalo.



Hayley Yaglom, M.S., M.P.H.
Vector-borne and Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Arizona Department of Health Services

Ms. Yaglom is the Vector-borne and Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist. She participates in a multitude of surveillance and outreach activities with local, tribal, state, and federal public health partners. One of her main roles is her work on the arboviral diseases—those native to Arizona and the emerging ones that have yet to appear in our state. She received her Master's in Animal Biotechnology from the University of Massachusetts and her M.P.H. in Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology from the University of Missouri. She is also an affiliate faculty member for the University of Missouri's M.P.H. program, teaching an online course in Emerging Zoonoses.

