

Speaker Biographies

Lynn Koenecke Bradley PA-C

Lynn Koenecke Bradley PA-C initiated the Hepatology Clinic at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center and, under the supervision of Dr. Curt Hagedorn, has been the primary caregiver for veterans with hepatitis C at the Atlanta facility. The clinic has followed over a hundred patients on treatment for hepatitis C and also cares for patients with chronic hepatitis B, liver cancers and other liver diseases. Ms. Bradley has been in the VA system since 1996, and prior to hepatology, worked in the substance abuse and mental health departments. She received her BA in Biology from Wake Forest University and her Physician Assistant Certificate from Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Jane D. Burgess, ACRN, MS

Jane D. Burgess is an AIDS Certified Registered Nurse. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in organizational behavior. She began with VA in December 2001 as the HIV/Hepatitis C National Clinical Coordinator and has worked with the AIDS epidemic for 20 years. For the 8 years prior to her joining the VA, she was the director of the Connecticut AIDS Education and Training Center, as well as manager of two research projects conducted out of the Yale University School of Nursing. She has set up educational programs on AIDS for nurses in resource-poor countries and is the lead educator in an ongoing project in China. Since coming to the VA, she has been actively involved with the hepatitis C resource centers and has a special interest in working with mid-level providers to enhance their skills in providing care to patients with hepatitis C and conditions such as substance use and psychiatric disorders.

Sophia Chang, MD

Dr. Sophia Chang is the Director of the VA Center for Quality Management in Public Health. The Center is located at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and is a part of the Public Health Strategic Health Care Group of VA's Central Office in Washington, DC. Dr. Chang is the former Director of the HIV/AIDS program for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation where her work informed national debates in HIV policy. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Chang was the Medical Director of the San Francisco Health Plan, a managed health care plan for Medicaid recipients. She continues to practice general internal medicine at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System as a Stanford University faculty member. She received her MPH degree from the University of California at Berkeley and her MD degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Victoria J. Davey, RN, MPH

Victoria J. Davey received an AB in Biology from Smith College, a BS in Nursing from Boston University, a master's degree in Public Health from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and was a Senior Executive Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Prior to joining VA in November 1999, she was an intensive care unit nurse and a clinical research coordinator, and served as Associate Clinical Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH, where she was a manager of NIAID's intramural clinical research operations, including facilities, staff, clinical quality, and clinical protocol review. At VA, she works with staff on the range of VA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group functions of planning, coordinating and communicating clinical policies and programs in public health for the VA health care system.

Lawrence Deyton, MSPH, MD

Dr. Lawrence Deyton is Chief Consultant, Public Health Strategic Health Care Group of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and is Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Deyton serves on several advisory boards related to hepatitis C including the American Liver Foundation's Veterans Hepatitis C Council. Dr. Deyton is a founder of the Whitman Walker Clinic, a community based AIDS service organization in Washington, DC. Dr. Deyton is a graduate of the Harvard School of Public Health and the George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Deyton's post-doctorate medical training was at the University of Southern California/Los Angeles County Medical Center.

Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD

Dr. Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao received her medical degree from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City. She completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the Instituto Nacional de la Nutrición in Mexico City and a fellowship in hepatology at Yale University/West Haven VA Medical Center. Dr. Garcia-Tsao is currently Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. She is Staff Physician at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven Connecticut, where she is also Program Director of the Hepatitis C Resource Center. Dr. Garcia-Tsao is Associate Editor of the *Journal of Hepatology* and is a member of the NIDDK-C study section of the National Institutes of Health. She was recently named secretary-elect for the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Dr. Garcia-Tsao has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts, mainly related to cirrhosis and its complications.

Everett R. Jones, Jr., MD

Dr. Everett R. Jones, Jr., is the Clinical Director of the Performance Analysis Center for Excellence in the Office of Quality and Performance. Dr. Jones's responsibilities include providing leadership in the synthesis of performance data, patient functional data, patient clinical data, and patient satisfaction data into evidence-based information that compels action at the front line of VA health care in. Prior to this assignment, Dr. Jones was Clinical Director of the Mental Health Service Line in the VA Mid-Atlantic Network. While in that role, he also served as the Interim Chief Medical Officer and later, as Acting Chief of Staff at the Salem VAMC. Dr. Jones has been a VA employee for over 12 years serving as the Chief of Geriatric Psychiatry first at the Houston VAMC then at the Salem VAMC, where he also served as the Assistant Chief of Psychiatry until his selection as the VISN Mental Health Service Line Clinical Director. Dr. Jones received his MD from SUNY Upstate Medical Center Syracuse and completed his psychiatry residency at Wright State Affiliated Hospitals. .

Susan H. Mather, MD, MPH

Dr. Susan H. Mather received her MD degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and her Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She completed her training in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore, and spent a year as a Senior House Officer and Locum Registrar at the London Chest Hospital, London, England. In 1979, she came to the Department of Veterans Affairs where she has held a variety of positions including Program Chief for Pulmonary and Infectious Diseases, first Director of the AIDS Program Office, Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, and her present Chief Officer position. Throughout her VA career, she has maintained a strong interest in women veterans' health issues.

Alexander Monto, MD

Dr. Alexander Monto received his bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California at Berkeley, and studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland, and Cordoba, Argentina, during his undergraduate years. He attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons for medical school. His internship in internal medicine was at Columbia, and he completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Monto's interest in hepatitis C began at that hospital, where he worked with Dr. Ray Chung. He examined the role of mutations in the NS₅A region of the hepatitis C genome in determining patients' response to interferon therapy. At the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), he has worked closely with Dr. Teresa Wright since 1999. He has been on the faculty of the UCSF School of Medicine since 2001 and has published numerous review articles and spoken at national meetings on the field of viral hepatitis. He is a staff physician at the VA medical center in San Francisco.

Michael O. Rigsby, MD

Dr. Michael O. Rigsby is currently the Director of the National HIV and Hepatitis C Program Office for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He is a graduate of Yale Medical School where he also completed his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Infectious Diseases. Dr. Rigsby has been involved in a number of research activities related to HIV infection and its complications and has published many articles, book chapters and abstracts related to HIV and other chronic viral infections. He has been a staff physician at the VA Connecticut Health Care System since 1993 where he previously held the positions of Director of HIV Care and Primary Care Firm Chief.

Robert H. Roswell, MD

Dr. Robert H. Roswell was nominated by President Bush to be Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs on February 6, 2002, and was confirmed by the Senate on March 22, 2002. As Under Secretary, he heads the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and is responsible for the operation of the Nation's largest integrated health care system. Prior to his nomination, Dr. Roswell directed VA's health care network for Florida and Puerto Rico since 1995. Based in Bay Pines, Florida, the network includes seven VA medical centers, 10 satellite outpatient clinics, and 34 community clinics. He also served as Executive Director of the federal Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board from 1994 to 1999. Dr. Roswell previously held positions as chief of staff at the VA medical centers in Birmingham, Alabama, and Oklahoma City, and held leadership positions in other VA facilities. Dr. Roswell is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, where he completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism. Dr. Roswell served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1978 through 1980 and is currently a colonel in the Army Reserve Medical Corps.

Kristy Straits-Tröster, Ph.D.

Dr. Kristy Straits-Tröster is a clinical psychologist from the Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle and the Center of Excellence for Substance Abuse Treatment and Education. Currently, her clinical work includes group and individual treatment of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and provision of smoking cessation services within the PTSD and Addictions Treatment Center programs. She is affiliated with the NW Hepatitis C Resource Center and co-facilitates the hepatitis C support group in Seattle. Dr. Straits-Tröster's research interests include the effect of stress on health, quality of life in chronic illness, and the efficacy of novel clinical interventions on health and well-being. Following several years of HIV- and Parkinson's disease-related research, her current research collaborations are focused upon better understanding issues related to hepatitis C infection among veterans, and examining the efficacy of specific clinical interventions.

Mark L. Willenbring, MD

Dr. Mark Willenbring, is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, and Director of the Addictive Disorders Section at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. His research has focused on developing and testing innovative management strategies for patients with complex addiction problems, such as combined mental and addictive disorders, medically ill heavy drinkers, and homeless public inebriates. A particular emphasis of these interventions has been case management and continuity of care. He is the national Clinical Coordinator for the Substance Abuse Module of the VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative, a large-scale initiative to determine the utility and feasibility of implementing practice guidelines in treatment of addictive disorders. Current projects include translation of evidence-based practices for methadone maintenance into practice settings and a series of studies of the nature and treatment of psychiatric and addictive disorders in patients with chronic hepatitis C.