

## 2019 DSHS Healthcare Safety Conference

### “Protection Through Prevention”

#### *Speaker Biographies*



**Dany Anchia, BSN, RN, CDN, Clinical Quality Manager, ESRD Network of Texas, Inc., “*ESRD BSIs and Hospitalizations*”**

Dany Anchia is a Registered Nurse and the Clinical Quality Manager for the ESRD Network of Texas, Inc., a subsidiary of Alliant Health Solutions. The ESRD Network of Texas holds the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services contract for ESRD Network 14 and serves the State of Texas. Mr. Anchia is responsible for ensuring compliance with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) clinical quality and provides expert guidance to the Network team and ESRD providers in Texas. Mr.

Anchia possesses over 17 years of experience in healthcare with a special emphasis on end-stage renal care. Additional areas of expertise include knowledge on various ESRD treatment modalities and equipment, home health pediatrics, project development and management, technical writing, and Federal and State ESRD rules and regulations. Before joining Alliant Health Solutions, Mr. Anchia served a variety of roles as an experienced Registered Nurse for distinct dialysis providers.

After obtaining an Associate of Science in Nursing degree from Brookhaven College in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Anchia attended Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He possesses a Certified Dialysis Nurse certification from the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission. Additionally, he is the 2018-2019 American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) Dallas Chapter President.



**Cheri Lattimer, RN, BSN, Executive Director National Transitions of Care Coalition, “*How Safe is the Patient’s Journey Through the HealthCare Maze?*”**

Cheri Lattimer is the Executive Director for the National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC) and President/CEO of Integrity Advocacy & Management. Her leadership in quality improvement, case management, care coordination, and transitions of care is known on the national and international landscape. Her work has been featured in several publications, including the *Healthcare Executive*, *Dorland’s Case in Point*, *Professional Case Management*, *Social Work Today* and

*Seniority*. She is affiliated with various professional organizations and maintains active roles on several national boards and committees including URAC’s Redefined Health, CMS Caregiver Workgroup, ACHIEVE, ABQAURP CME Committee, and American Nurses Association. Cheri has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix and Graduate Studies in Organizational Re-design and Human Resources.



**Belinda Ostrowsky, MD, MPH, Field Medical Officer, NY, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP), CDC, *"Lessons learned from the Frontline: C. auris in NY and Beyond"***

Dr. Ostrowsky is currently a Field Medical Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Quality Healthcare Promotion (CDC, DHQP) in New York. She works closely with NYSDOH, other public health, facility and professional groups on Healthcare Associated infections (HAI), Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) and Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) topics, including *C. auris*. She formerly was the Director of Epidemiology, Stewardship, and Infection Prevention at Montefiore/ Einstein, Bronx NY and remains an Associate Professional at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Ostrowsky has worked locally in the N.Y. area and nationally on a series of ASP and HAI collaboratives. This is included being the co-lead context expert for the United Hospital Fund (UHF) Outpatient Stewardship Initiatives for Acute Respiratory Infections. She is a fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of American (IDSA) and the Society for Health Care Epidemiologist of America (SHEA), was the chair of the SHEA Annual Spring Meeting in 2017 and is the current chair of the SHEA Education Committee. Dr. Ostrowsky earned a M.D. from State University of New York at Stony Brook, School of Medicine, Stony Brook, NY, and Master of Public Health at Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA.



**Anna Nutt, MPH, CIC, DSHS Epidemiologist, *"HAI-lights from the Field"***

Anna Nutt has coordinated infection prevention in acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, and surgical hospitals. Since 2016, she has been serving as the Department of State Health Services' Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Epidemiologist for East Texas. She received a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Austin and maintains Board Certification in Infection Prevention and Control. Anna has presented at various city and statewide conferences including the APIC East Texas annual conference and the annual statewide epidemiologist conference in Texas.



**Susana Baumann, MPH, CIC, DSHS Epidemiologist, *"HAI-lights from the Field"***

Susana Baumann is a Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Epidemiologist for the Texas Department of State Health Services in Region 9/10. Susana was a Certified Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician for 2 years, and an Infection Preventionist in Austin area healthcare facilities for 3 years before joining DSHS as a healthcare data analyst, where she became Certified in Infection Control in 2017. Susana has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from North Carolina State University and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Texas in Austin. As a HAI epidemiologist who is Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control, she works with facilities to address issues of MDROs, outbreaks, antibiotic stewardship and reduction of device-associated infections. She has special interests in environmental infection control, tribal epidemiology, and zookeeping.



**Bobbiejean Garcia MPH, CIC, FAPIC, DSHS Epidemiologist,  
*"HAI-lights from the Field"***

Bobbiejean Garcia attended the University of Texas at San Antonio received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Behavioral Science from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. As a HAI epidemiologist, she is the subject matter expert on multidrug resistant organisms (MDROs) and infection prevention and control practices for a 16-county region, including all local health departments and healthcare facilities within those counties. She works with the DSHS HAI team creating education, public policy, performing surveillance of reportable MDROs and conducting and assisting with investigations of public health significance. Bobbiejean has a Certification in Infection Prevention and Control and is a Fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (FAPIC).



**Thi Dang, MPH, CHES, CIC, FAPIC, DSHS Epidemiologist,  
*"HAI-lights from the Field"***

Thi Dang is a Healthcare Associated Infection epidemiologist for the Texas Department of State Health Services. Thi has 10 years of experience as a public health epidemiologist with involvement in a variety of epidemiology investigations and responses in Texas, including foodborne outbreaks, the influenza pandemic, Ebola, hurricane responses, and various healthcare associated investigations in acute care hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. She also worked as an Infection Preventionist at different acute care hospitals where she had experience with regulatory compliance surveys, infectious disease cluster investigations and many HAI prevention efforts. Thi has earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies from the Texas Woman's University and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology. She is Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control. Thi's current position combines her experience in epidemiology and infection prevention by assisting public health epidemiologists, infection preventionists, and other healthcare professionals in decreasing the number of healthcare associated infections. Thi is also actively involved in the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). Recently, she has been designated as a Fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (FAPIC). Thi has presented oral and poster presentations at various conferences and meetings throughout her career. Most recently, she presented at Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference and the 2018 APIC National Conference.



**Melba Zambrano, MSN-IC, RN, CIC, DSHS Epidemiologist,  
*"HAI-lights from the Field"***

Melba Zambrano is the HAI Epidemiologist for Region 11 with Department of State Health Services. Melba is responsible for the MDRO case load in her region which includes MDRA, CRE, and development of IP in LTCF, integrating new IP to the position in their health care facility, ICAR visits in Region 11 and Targeted assessments for prevention analysis in PHR 11. Prior to joining DSHS, Melba worked in an acute care setting as an IP director, and oversaw Infection Control, Occupational health, Work Injury, and Employee Advocacy Programs. Melba has extensive knowledge in

hospital preparedness/ occupational safety. She has developed programs in facilities for surveillance and linkage to care for Hepatitis C patients. Melba has assisted LTCF in her area develop their antibiogram, enhance their IC programs in LTCF, and deliver evidence-based research into practice. Melba is a master's prepared registered nurse with an Infection Control Specialty that she earned from the American Sentinel University in Aurora, Colorado and is Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control. Melba is an active member of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiologist (APIC). Melba has served as president, president elect, and chapter secretary for RGV-APIC chapter 105.



**Gretchen Rodriguez, MPH, CIC, DSHS Epidemiologist, "*HAI-lights from the Field*"**

Gretchen Rodriguez received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Biotechnology from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She is Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control and is expected to earn a Doctor of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in 2020. Gretchen is a Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Epidemiologist with the Texas Department of State Health Services and serves as a subject matter expert performing senior-level epidemiological work related to the reporting, control and prevention of HAIs and outbreak response for Texas Public Health Region 8. Prior to her current position, she was employed as a Region Supervisor for

Infection Prevention & Management Associates and an Infection Control Practitioner for Acuity Healthcare and an Epidemiologist for the San Antonio Metro Health District.



**Eunice Halverson, MA, CPPS, Center for Patient Safety, "*KEEPING PATIENTS SAFE---ONE AT A TIME*"**

Eunice Halverson maintains a passion for improving patient safety. As such, in her role as Patient Safety Specialist for the Center, she enthusiastically assists organizations to improve their patient safety culture and processes. She also leads the Center's Patient Safety Organization program by providing participants with education, data analysis, and sharing trends and practices to improve patient safety across the continuum of health care. She brings 35 years of leadership and hands-on experience working for a large health care system, focusing on patient safety, quality, risk

management, performance improvement and regulatory and accreditation compliance. The last 11 years of her full-time career were spent as Corporate Vice President for Patient Safety and Quality. As a member of the first healthcare Baldrige recipient, she presented at numerous national, state and local conferences and meetings.

Eunice holds a master's degree in Healthcare Management Services from Webster University and is a TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer. She served as a Malcolm Baldrige examiner for five years and was a member/chair of the Overseer Board for the Midwest Excellence Institute from 2001 – 2017. Known for her long-standing leadership in patient safety and quality initiatives, she was the recipient of the Missouri Hospital Association's Quality Professional Award in 2008 and the Missouri Governor's Award for Quality by the Excellence in Missouri Foundation in 2009.



**Kiran M. Perkins, MD, MPH, Lead, Response Team, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP), CDC, *"Patient Notification of Infection Control Breaches and HAI Outbreaks"***

Commander Kiran Perkins is a board-certified OBGYN and a medical officer of the U.S. Public Health Service serving as lead of the Outbreak and Response Team in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) at CDC in Atlanta, GA where she coordinates local and national healthcare-associated infection outbreak response. During her time at DHQP, she has overseen over 200 outbreak and infection control responses from all U.S. states, including helping lead the investigation of nontuberculous mycobacterial infections associated with heater-cooler devices used during cardiac surgery, leading to the notification of thousands of U.S. patients at risk. While at CDC she has also worked on

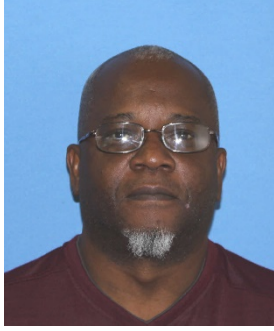
agency-wide emergency response efforts surrounding the Ebola and Zika outbreaks. Dr. Perkins completed her undergraduate degree in Human Development at Cornell University, her medical degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and a Master of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her residency training was completed at Magee Women's Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. After practicing in Pittsburgh, she moved to Atlanta to complete the two-year Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) fellowship program in applied epidemiology at the CDC.



**Hosam Kamel, MD, MPH, AGSF, FGSA, FACP, CNS, CCD, Associate Professor University of Arkansas School of Medicine, President, Geriatrics Consulting Services, LTD, *"Facing the Challenge of Fall Prevention in the Nursing Home"***

Dr. Hosam Kamel received a Doctor of Medicine from Kuwait University School of Medicine and a Master of Public Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is board certified in Geriatrics and Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine and has numerous other medical certifications. He is an Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor of Geriatrics at the Donald W. Reynolds Institute

on Aging, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Kamel has been frequently named one of the Best Doctors in Arkansas and in America by Geriatric Medicine and recently was awarded the Most Compassionate Doctor Award from Vitals.com. He presents for national conferences, webinars and schools of medicine, is a peer reviewer for a number of professional medical journals and editorial boards and is widely published in medical journals and books.



**Randy Moten, NCI, Zone Manager-San Antonio, Texas, Health Care Quality Section Zone 3, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, *"Requirements and Rules for Operating a Licensed and Certified Ambulatory Surgery Center"***

Randy Moten has a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences from Touro University and is a Nationally Certified Investigator. He is the Manager of Texas Health and Human Services Health Facility Compliance Zone 3 and the HHSC Pre-Survey Conference Zone Manager. He has been a speaker for the Texas Ambulatory Surgical Center Society.



**Bob Marrs, CRCST, CIS, CHL, VP of Organizational Development, Beyond Clean, *"OR to CSD Best Practices for Sterilization in Health Care Facilities"***

Bob Marrs is the VP of Organizational Development for Beyond Clean. Previously he was the Director of Consulting Services & Field Operations for 9 years with Aesculap. Bob worked in the Perioperative setting for 21 years in various roles from Certified Surgical Technologist to CSD Technician, Case Cart Coordinator,

Sterile Processing Manager and Director.

Bob maintains certifications as a CRCST, CIS, CHL and is an Instructor for IAHCSSM. He served as the President of the Texas State Association of Central Service Professionals for 6 years and an IAHCSSM Executive Board member for two. Bob also served as the Co-Chair of the IAHCSSM membership committee and Orthopedic committee. He is a current member of the Foundation Board. Bob holds a bachelor's degree in Professional Communications from Xavier University in Cincinnati Ohio. He travels throughout the US and the world speaking about various CSD and Infection Control issues. He is published in numerous healthcare periodicals and contributed to the IAHCSSM CRCST 7th edition and CHL Leadership Manual. Bob has a passion for excellence in Sterile Processing and believes that certification through education provides the foundation needed for superior patient care.



**Michael Castro, MPH, Western Hemisphere Product Manager of Healthcare Water Portfolio, Pall Medical, *"Basics of Potable Water Systems: The Interplay of Mechanical, Operational and Chemical Challenges"*, and *"Water Management, Environmental Sampling and Outbreak Investigation"***

Michael Castro, MPH is the Western Hemisphere Product Manager of the Healthcare Water portfolio for Pall Medical, a manufacturer of specialty filtration for healthcare settings. His main responsibility is to deliver high-level, non-commercial educational programs across the USA through educational grants which allow local healthcare organizations to learn from and meet with internationally renowned experts. As a member of The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and

Epidemiology (APIC), American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE), American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), he has served as Pall Medical's liaison standards writing committees since 2013. Michael has over 19 years of experience consulting healthcare

facilities, universities and manufacturing sites on risk minimization strategies addressing waterborne pathogens in both domestic and industrial water. Michael is a member of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188 - Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems as a NVM Manufacturer Representative; a voting member of NSF's Protocol P376 for evaluation of Mechanical Water Filtration Systems for the Reduction of Bacteria and Fungi for Handwashing and Showering in Health Care Settings; a Technical Advisor to the California Department of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Committee, Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Subcommittee; as well as The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials' (IAPMO) Legionella Task Group as they work towards developing new plumbing standards which balance the risk of scalding and *Legionella*. Michael is frequently called upon by healthcare facilities as a consultant to their water safety team during waterborne pathogen outbreaks as well as proactively to consult on minimizing risk within immunocompromised populations through nutrient and microbial reduction strategies. Michael has a Master of Public Health from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Bucknell University.



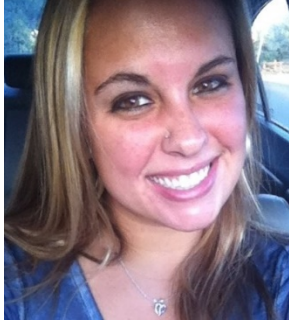
**Ryan G. Vaughn, Senior Vice President, ASC Strategy, U.S. Anesthesia Partners, *"Impacting Situational Adverse Events"***

Ryan has been in the healthcare environment holding various executive roles and titles for over 17 years. Most recently Ryan took on the role for US Anesthesia Partners as their Senior Vice President, National ASC Strategy. The focus of this position was to build out their ASC Division and give USAP a stronger foot hold into this ever-changing surgical market shift. Within his role the focus is not only on growth within this arena, but to also find ways to create a more partner focused anesthesiologist that enjoys taking on a more active role in the patients' health and outcomes. Prior to working with US Anesthesia Partners Ryan held roles with Surgical Care Affiliates as a Vice President, Operations. This role allowed Ryan to see deep within the inner workings of the ASC's from both the physician, administrative and executive levels. Having this experience allowed for a deeper understanding of not just how to grow an ASC, prevent adverse events or keep physicians engaged, but what are some of the trigger points to create a teamwork environment and successfully accomplish all those goals.

Ryan has also worked at executive levels with AmerisourceBergen, Galderma Labs, Capellon Pharmaceuticals and Novo Nordisk. His experience from a wide variety of healthcare ventures has allowed Ryan to see more clearly how we can make a difference from different vantage points to accomplish the ultimate goal, PATIENT SATISFACTION.

**Randy Martin, PharmD, BCCCP, CPPS, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs & Assoc. Professor, UNT System College of Pharmacy; Associate Chief of Pharmacy, UNT Health; Senior Fellow, SaferCare Texas**

Dr. Randy Martin currently serves as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of North Texas System College of Pharmacy (UNTSCP) and Associate Chief of Pharmacy for the UNT Health Clinical Practice Group. He holds faculty appointments in the UNT System College of Pharmacy, UNT School of Public Health, and TCU/UNTHSC Medical School. Dr. Martin's practice experience includes acute care, primary care, and ambulatory surgical centers. In addition, Dr. Martin currently serves on the executive committee and board of directors for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dr. Martin is a native Texan and lives in Fort Worth with his wife Lindsey.



**Gillian Blackwell, BSN, RN, CIC, HAI Epidemiologist, Texas Department of State Health Services, "*VIM-CRPA in West Texas*"**

Gillian Blackwell is a nursing diploma graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Lubbock Christian University. She worked in pediatric ICU at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock for 3 years, then worked at Joe Arrington Cancer Center in Lubbock for 1 year before joining the Texas Department of State Health Services in June 2017. She serves as the Healthcare Associated Infection Epidemiologist for DSHS Region 1. Gillian became Board

Certified in Infection Prevention and Control in December 2017. She responded to 2010 Haiti earthquake and 2017 Hurricane Harvey.



**Adam Probst, PhD, MS, CPPS, Director of Human Factors Clinical Operations, Office of Patient Safety, Baylor Scott & White Health, "*Human Factors Engineering and Patient Safety: A Worksystem Framework for Protection Through Prevention Part 1: Introduction, Methodology & Overview*" and "*Part 2: Application*"**

Dr. Adam Probst is the Director of Human Factors Clinical Operations in the Office of Patient Safety at Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH), the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in Texas, comprised of 48 hospitals, more than 1,000 patient access sites, 7,500 affiliated physicians and 47,000 employees that all operate in a complex clinical worksystem with more than 6.6 million annual patient encounters and \$11 billion in total assets. His work contributes to BSWH's 'March to Zero' by leading the clinical application of human factors approaches and techniques to transform and integrate the delivery of care via clinical quality improvement initiatives. To deliver safe, high reliability systems and processes, he applies human factors and cognitive engineering to the development and redesign of the clinical worksystem, supporting BSWH's efforts to develop and implement evidence-based practices and realize its vision of achieving no preventable deaths, ensuring no preventable injuries, and seeking no preventable risk.

His efforts center on creating, organizing and managing multidisciplinary teams that implement robust, sustainable solutions to improve patient safety, health IT user experience, efficiency, and patient/staff satisfaction throughout the entire continuum of care. By increasing BSWH's capacity for the application of human factors engineering to improve safety and quality, his work has provided professional development opportunities for employees through on-boarding, training, special job assignments and mentoring.

Dr. Probst has numerous publications as well as international and national presentations. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and his Masters (MA) and PhD in Cognitive Engineering from Wichita State University. He holds a Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership and Management from the University of Texas at Dallas and is a Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS).





**Hudson Garrett Jr., PhD, MSN, MPH, MBA, FNP-BC, CDONA, PLNC, IP-BC, VA-BC, NREMT, FACDONA, FAAPM, FNAP, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Louisville School of Medicine, *"Strategies for Mitigating Risks in the Environment of Care: A Look Into the Future"***

Dr. Hudson Garrett is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He also co-founded the nonprofit the Infection Prevention Institute to help shepherd dissemination of best practices of infection prevention and control across the healthcare continuum of care globally. He holds a Graduate Certificate in Infection Prevention and Infection Control and has completed the Johns Hopkins Fellows Program in Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control. He is also a Fellow in the Academy of National Associations of Directors of Nursing Administration, the American Academy of Project Management, and a Senior Fellow of the Management and Strategy Institute. He was recently inducted this year as a Distinguished Fellow and Practitioner in the National Academies of Practices. He holds graduate certificates in healthcare leadership from both Cornell and the University of Notre Dame. He is also an appointed member of the advisory committee for the Design Thinking in Healthcare Program at Rutgers University. Dr. Garrett led the development of a core infection prevention and control and antibiotic stewardship certificate of mastery program in post-acute care settings. He also led the development of the first accredited, global board certification for vascular access and board certifications for antibiotic stewardship and infection control in post-acute care. Dr. Garrett was awarded a Presidential Citation from the Society for Critical Care Medicine for his work in advancing infection prevention and control, was honored as a Who's Who in Infection Control by Infection Control Magazine, and was a featured expert in the recent CDC/Medscape Continuing Education Program on Patient Safety, Environmental Disinfection, and Medical Device Safety.

Dr. Garrett is widely published and presents both nationally and internationally. He received a Doctor of Philosophy with concentration in Healthcare Administration and Policy from Georgia State University, a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Gainesville, Florida, and a Master of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, NY in addition to numerous certifications and awards.



**Robin L. P. Jump, MD, PhD, Long-Term Care Infectious Disease Service Team Leader, Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, Cleveland, Ohio, *"Good Drugs and Bad Bugs: Antimicrobial Stewardship and Resistant Pathogens in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Settings"***

Dr. Jump is an Infectious Diseases physician at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System where she serves as the Associate Director of Informatics and Analytics in the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center. She is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. She has research funding from the VA, CDC and AHRQ and has published extensively in peer-review journals. Her long-term academic interests are to support antimicrobial stewardship in post-acute and long-term care settings in the VA and the community. She recently developed a tele-stewardship program for rural VA settings. Dr. Jump serves on committees with the Society of Hospital

Epidemiology of America SHEA and AMDA—the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine.

Dr. Robin Jump received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology & Biochemistry from Colorado State University and is a graduate of the Medical Scientist Training Program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, earning a M.D. and a Ph.D. in Pathology.



**Rachael Straver, DVM, MPH, HCID/Prion Team Lead  
Epidemiologist, Emerging & Acute Infectious Disease Branch,  
Texas Department of State Health Services, "*Creutzfeldt-Jakob  
Disease (CJD) Infection Prevention*"**

Dr. Rachael Straver graduated from Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences after earning a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and a veterinary medical degree from Texas A&M University. She has practiced both mixed and small animal veterinary medicine. Dr. Straver also earned a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Dr. Straver has worked as a Florida Emerging Infectious Disease Fellow for the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County, Florida and an Arboviral Disease Epidemiologist for the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Environmental Epidemiology. She is currently the High Consequence Infectious Disease/Prion Disease Team Lead Epidemiologist for the Texas Department of State Health Services.



**Sharilyn Mead RN, Nurse IV-NFQR and QMP Development, Quality  
Monitoring Program/Program Development and Innovation,  
Medicaid & Chip Services, Texas Health & Human Services  
Commission, "*Infection Prevention and Control in LTC Facilities:  
Quality Monitoring Program Activities and Current Regulations*"**

Sharilyn Mead has over 30 years of experience as a licensed professional nurse (RN) after receiving an AD in Nursing from Pratt Community College, Pratt, Kansas. She is involved in developing and presenting in-service education programs for licensed and non-licensed staff in LTC facilities while working in the Quality Monitoring Program at Texas Health and Human Services Commission. In addition, she plans and conducts research requiring complex analyses and application of analytic methods for large populations. Her position also requires her to provide participation in grant management, consultation/oversight of evaluation activities for federal grants within and outside the agency, and review protocols, studies and specialized research projects. Ms. Mead has presented in conferences sponsored by the Quality Monitoring Program and HHSC.



**Jennifer Vinyard, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Safety Data Team Lead, Texas Department of State Health Services, *"DSHS Healthcare Safety Status Update"***

Jennifer Vinyard is the Healthcare Associated Infections Data Team Lead for the Texas Department of State Health Services. She conducts and coordinates data validation activities and authors the Texas Annual Healthcare Safety Report summarizing the Healthcare Safety Data reported to the state. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Public Health in Disease Control from the University of Texas and is certified in Infection Control and Prevention. Prior to joining the state, she worked as an Infection Preventionist at various healthcare

facilities around Texas and in Colorado.



**Vickie Gillespie, BSN, RN, CIC, Public Health Specialist, Texas Department of State Health Services, *"DSHS Healthcare Safety Status Update"***

Vickie Gillespie has coordinated the very successful DSHS Healthcare Safety Conference in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 serving as the CE event planner and presenting on Preventable Adverse Events at each conference. She was the Preventable Adverse Event Clinical Specialist from 2014 -2018 and participated in the development of the TxHSN Preventable Adverse Event Reporting program at Texas Department of State Health Services. She has 40 years clinical and managerial

experience in hospital settings in direct care, QI/Patient Safety in both IP, OP and community health settings. Ms. Gillespie has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health in Omaha, Nebraska.



**Devin Henderson, CPS, *"Drop the Ball: Epic Failure Leads to Epic Breakthrough"***

Devin Henderson holds a Bachelor's degree in Family Studies and Human Services from Kansas State University. He is a national speaker and workshop leader on the topics of motivation, goal achievement, teamwork, customer service, and workplace humor.

Devin Henderson is known by many simply as "The Drop Guy." Devin speaks to organizations nationwide about how to DROP mental barriers that eliminate effectiveness and pick UP practices that elevate excellence. But he is no ordinary keynote speaker. Devin incorporates comedy, magic, and soccer skills into his audience-interactive message. He has presented in more than 30 states for a variety of organizations.