

Presenter & Moderator Biographies



Gail Barker, PhD, MBA
Co-Director, Finance
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Gail P. Barker, PhD, MBA, is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Arizona Meland Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health-Phoenix, where she teaches courses in the areas of budget and finance, health systems delivery, clinical leadership and telemedicine and telehealth. Barker has spent most of her career working in finance and administration. She had a significant role in the creation of the Arizona Telemedicine Program. Gail then moved to the newly established UA Health Sciences Campus in Phoenix where she was Interim CFO until the position could be permanently filled. Until recently, she offered a telemedicine and telehealth course for public health graduate students. She is now in the process of developing a new undergraduate telemedicine course scheduled to start in fall. Dr. Barker was the recipient of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health "Excellence in Teaching Award", in 2008 and 2013.



Melanie Esher, MAdm
Distant Education & Event Coordinator
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Melanie Esher, MAdm, the newest member of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, is the Distance Education and Event Coordinator. She received her Master of Administration with an emphasis in both Project Management and Construction Management through Northern Arizona University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Minnesota. She has extensive experience coordinating educational conferences and training events over the course of her career for both private and public organizations.



Carrie Foote
Associate Director of Administration
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Carrie Foote serves as the Associate Director for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and the Program Administrator for the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. Her extensive background in healthcare operations, exemplified by her time as a Chief Operating Officer and a Chief Compliance Officer, gives her a comprehensive understanding of regulatory compliance, the intricacies involved in managing day-to-day healthcare functions, and the importance of seamless patient experiences. She started working with rural communities throughout Southern Arizona in March of 2020. Her primary mandate involved spearheading the transition of a regional non-profit mental health agency from traditional in-person services to telehealth platforms across six geographically dispersed rural areas.

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Mike Holcomb, BS
Interim Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program
Associate Director, Information Technology
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Michael Holcomb, BS in Management Information Systems is the interim director for Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP). He has 26 years of experience working with telemedicine and telehealth technologies and has 21 years of experience serving on the Arizona Telemedicine Program Executive Team. He has served as a technology expert for the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center since 2009 and served as the chair of the Technology Special Interest group of the American Telemedicine Association from 2012-2014. As interim director for the ATP he is responsible for all of ATP's programs, operations, grants, agreements, and facilities. He has co-authored numerous papers about telehealth topics in peer-reviewed journals along with meeting presentation abstracts and posters and multiple book chapters. Following the loss of ATP's founding director, Dr. Ronald S. Weinstein in December of 2021, Michael was selected to serve as site principal investigator on the NIH rural ostomy self-management training telehealth grant that ATP has partnered with the University of Pennsylvania on since 2019. Subsequently, following the retirement of Kris Erps Stewart, ATP's former associate director of administration, who served as ATP's interim director from December 2021 to June 2023, he was appointed as interim director of the ATP by College of Medicine Tucson Dean Michael M I Abecassis, MD, and selected to serve as the principal investigator for the ATP's Southwest Telehealth Resource Center grant from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration Office for Advancement of Telehealth, and to serve as a co-investigator on the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health's Arizona Health Improvement Plan grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services.



Elizabeth Krupinski, PhD, FATA
Director
Southwest Telehealth Resource Center

Dr. Krupinski is a professor at Emory University in the Department of Radiology & Imaging Sciences and is vice-chair of research. She is also Associate Director of Evaluation for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and Director of the federally funded Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, headquartered at the University of Arizona. She is past president of the American Telemedicine Association, president of the Medical Image Perception Society, and past chair of the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine. She serves regularly as a grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and other federal, state, and international funding agencies and has served as a member of a number of Food and Drug Administration review panels. Dr. Krupinski has been doing research and publishing scholarly on telemedicine papers for over 30 years. Dr. Krupinski frequently commutes back and forth "virtually" between Tucson and Atlanta over Zoom.

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Janet Major, BS
Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health
Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center

Janet is the Associate Director for Innovation & Digital Health for the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC). Her role includes the planning, development and installation of teleconferencing and telemedicine technology used for providing telemedicine services in a wide variety of locations. She provides training for all levels of healthcare professionals in the effective use of technology for clinical and educational applications used for both LIVE interactive and store-and-forward applications. She has served as a leader for several statewide and national organizations with an emphasis on those that promote and support recruiting, training, and preparing the healthcare workforce of the future. She is the past Chair for the mHealth, Technology & Distance Learning Special Interest Group of the American Telemedicine Association and continues to serve as a leader in the telemedicine technology community. She has served as President and Chair of the United States Distance Learning Association. Ms. Major has been active throughout her career with the network of telecommunications experts in the southwest and actively participates as an Associate Board Member of ATIC: the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council. She is an enthusiastic advocate for improving broadband access for the tribal communities in Arizona supporting the growth of telehealth in Arizona and our neighboring states.



Tara Sklar, JD, MPH
Associate Director for Telehealth Law & Policy
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Professor Tara Sklar is the Faculty Director of the Health Law & Policy Program and a Distinguished Public Service Scholar at Arizona Law. She also holds appointments as Associate Director of Telehealth Law & Policy at the Arizona Telemedicine Program, College of Medicine-Tucson, and as a Senior Advisor with Innovations in Healthy Aging at the University of Arizona Health Sciences. She currently serves as a subject matter expert on telehealth legal issues with the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center and with the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration in the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth. Sklar's teaching and research examine legal, regulatory, and ethical issues that arise in adapting to a diverse aging population, with a particular focus on digital health equity. She teaches courses on Telehealth Law & Policy and Aging Law & Policy at the University of Arizona.