



ARIZONA TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Arizona Telemedicine Council

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Speaker Bios

Tara Sklar is the Faculty Director of the Health Law & Policy Program at Arizona Law. She also holds appointments as Senior Advisor for Telehealth Law & Policy with the Arizona Telemedicine Program and for Innovations in Healthy Aging with the University of Arizona Health Sciences. Sklar currently serves as a telehealth policy consultant with the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration in the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth. Her research examines legal, regulatory, and ethical issues that arise in adapting to a diverse aging population, with a focus on health technology. She teaches courses on Telehealth Law & Policy and Aging Law & Policy.

Dr. Scott Howell is an associate professor and Director of Public Health Dentistry & Teledentistry at A.T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH), clinical advisor for MouthWatch, and a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity. He completed a dental public health residency at UT Health San Antonio in 2019 and became board certified in dental public health in 2020. He has spoken at state, national, and international levels on teledentistry, particularly as it relates to curriculum around teledentistry, written extensively on the subject, won several awards for his work with teledentistry, and has advocated for changes in teledentistry policy and laws in his home state of Arizona.

Janet Major is the Associate Director for Innovation & Digital Health for the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC). She earned her B.S. Degree in Telecommunications from Northern Arizona University and has worked at the University of Arizona for 35 years. She has been an integral part of the Arizona Telemedicine Program since it began over 25 years ago and serves on the Executive Team. She has served as a leader for several statewide and national organizations 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 always been highly active in the telecommunications network of experts in Arizona as an Associate Board Member of ATIC: the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council and as an active advocate for broadband for the southwest including our neighboring states. She served on the Arizona Broadband Task Force that created our Strategic Broadband Plan for Arizona, participates in the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network as well as the Arizona Covid-19 Digital Access Task Force. Ms. Major has also served on the Board of Directors for the United States Distance Learning Association including the roles of President and Chair while representing the telehealth constituency for over ten years.



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Sara F. Gibson, MD, is Medical Director of Telemedicine for Health Choice Arizona in Flagstaff, Arizona, overseeing the north-central Arizona telemedicine network for mental and physical healthcare integrated systems. As Medical Director and Psychiatrist for Little Colorado Behavioral Health Centers, she has provided comprehensive psychiatric services to rural Apache County solely via telemedicine since 1995. She is passionate about providing both highest quality and timely medical services to underserved persons and places.

Joining Dr. Gibson today is **Jennifer Pierce**, BBA started working in telemedicine in 2012 with NARBA and is currently the telehealth program manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield/Health Choice AZ.

For almost 4 decades **Malavika Muralidharan** has worked in an ever-changing library environment, in state, public, academic and scientific libraries in leadership roles. At the State Library since 2001 she has worked on many state wide projects, like the OneBookAZ, Planning for Results - Strategic Planning for Libraries, State-wide Access to databases; as well as national projects, like WebJunction, a professional development portal for library staff. More recently, Mala has been working on getting the community connected to their health care service provider with telehealth through their public libraries.

Mala's interest lies in work related to bridging the digital divide and in encouraging digital inclusion.

Professional Associations:

- ALA's E-rate Task Force Member – since 2009;
- Member AzLA (Arizona Library Association) – since 2002;
- Associate Board Member – ATIC – since 2002;
- Arizona Digital Access Task Force – since 2018;
- Greater Arizona e-learning Association – Board of Directors since 2013.

Kristine Erps Stewart is the interim director and associate director for administration at Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and administrator director for Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC). She provides administrative oversight for both the ATP and SWTRC. Kris represents the program at regional and national meetings. Kris has served on the advisory board for the National Frontier & Rural Addiction Technology Transfer Center, on the executive committee of the American Telemedicine Association's (ATA) Business & Finance Special Interest Group, past chair for the ATA's Interstate Telehealth Special Interest Group and an elected board member the Arizona Rural Health Association. Kris co-chairs the Marketing and Conference Committee of the National Consortium of TRCs. She has been with the ATP since 2000 and SWTRC since 2009.