



# ARIZONA TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

1501 N. Campbell Ave  
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## Arizona Telemedicine Council

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### Speaker Bios

**Dr. Valentin Rivish** is the VA's National Synchronous Telehealth Education Specialist working for VA Central Office in the Office of Connected Care. Dr. Rivish serves as a national authority in the development and implementation of educational programs/projects of national scope, which are designed to meet specialized educational needs of staff across the nation that deliver mission critical services to Veteran patients. Prior to his current position in the National VA Office, Dr. Rivish held other key positions such as Director of Telehealth for the Phoenix VA Medical Center and Chief Nurse of Geriatrics & Extended Care for the Phoenix Medical Center.

**Susy Salvo-Wendt** is a proven leader in telehealth/telemedicine program development for over 13 years, with extensive knowledge in healthcare operations and reimbursement options for telehealth. She uses her entrepreneurial experience along with sound judgement in financial planning and project implementation. She is known for driving innovative solutions to improve patient care while lowering costs using evidenced based solutions. She is a trusted collaborator and confident communicator able to build relationships across all organizational levels. Ms. Salvo-Wendt has extensive knowledge in grant development and implementation and collaborates on a variety of policy and legislative initiatives. She is currently the Project Director of a RCORP-OUT/SUD implementation grant that will utilize telehealth options. Ms. Salvo-Wendt's has been volunteering for Suicide Prevention activities for over 15 years.

**Chris Flake** is a native to the White Mountains of AZ, and has worked at Summit Healthcare for approximately 7 years in various roles. He has over 4 years of acute care experience working as a Hospitalist PA, and has ongoing clinical experience in the ambulatory setting. He is currently working as the Director of Telehealth and functions as the Provider-IT liaison. He has a passion for Telehealth and would love to see improvements in the White Mountain area which includes the two of the most remote and poorest counties in the state (Navajo/Apache). He is married with 3 kids and loves spending time with his family, sports, and any kind of outdoor activities (especially snow skiing).

**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



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diverse aging population, with a focus on health technology. She teaches courses on Telehealth Law & Policy and Aging Law & Policy.

### **Janet Major**

Ms. 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. Her role includes the planning, development and installation of the teleconferencing and telemedicine equipment used in a wide variety of telemedicine locations as well as training healthcare professionals in the effective use of videoconferencing for clinical and educational applications in both LIVE interactive and store-and-forward applications.

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.

### **Kristine Erps Stewart**

Ms. 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. Ms. Erps represents the program at regional and national meetings and is responsible for creation and content of public relations materials. Kris assists with reporting requirements and coordinating activities for the ATP and the numerous partnering organizations of the SWTRC. She manages and is the editor of both the ATP and SWTRC Blogs. 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 is the communication and member chair of the Arizona Rural Health Association. She has been with the ATP since 2000 and SWTRC since 2009.



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**Michael Holcomb** is the associate director for information technology for the Arizona Telemedicine Program. He has 24 years of experience working with telemedicine and telehealth technologies. He serves as a technology expert for the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center and is a former chair of the American Telemedicine Association Technology Special Interest Group.