

Presenter & Moderator Biographies



Dale Alverson, MD
Neonatologist, Medical Director for Center for Telehealth
University of New Mexico

Dr. Alverson is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Regents' Professor at the University of New Mexico, where he had been Medical Director of the Center for Telehealth involved in the planning, implementation, research, and evaluation of Telemedicine systems for New Mexico, as well as nationally and internationally. He also was the Chief Medical Information Officer at SYNCRONYS, the New Mexico State-wide Health Information Collaborative, assisting in their efforts to address the development and meaningful use of health information exchange, adoption of electronic health records, and integration with telemedicine. He is a Past President of the American Telemedicine Association. He is involved in collaborative international programs to advance Telehealth and e-Health globally.



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

Melanie Esher-Blair, MAdm, joined the Arizona Telemedicine program in 2019 and 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. Recently she started a webinar series specifically for occupational and physical therapists.



Brooke Finley, PhD, DNP
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
Finley Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, PLLC

Brooke A. Finley is a dual board-certified psychiatric mental health and addiction nurse practitioner. She holds four degrees from the University of Arizona College of Nursing: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a psychology minor, a Master of Science in Nursing (psychiatric mental health focus), and two doctorates, a Ph.D. in Nursing (focus in clinical informatics, specifically telehealth, with a minor in cognitive science) and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (psychiatric mental health focus). She owns a solo private practice located in New York State and uses a hybrid of in-person and virtual care to treat patients across the US with licensure in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington state and has been practicing telehealth since 2016. Her practice is grounded in individual and group psychotherapy and she specializes in helping people heal without psychotropic medications. She has completed psychoanalytic fellowships at the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (affiliated with New York University) and the San Diego Psychoanalytic Center (SDPC). She is currently a psychoanalytic psychotherapy candidate at the Contemporary Freudian Society (CFS). As an independent scientist and has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications focusing on virtual care and mind/body health. Lastly, for a fun fact, she lives on an off-grid small farm in the woods in Upstate New York.

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Sara Gibson, MD
Medical Director of Telemedicine
Health Choice Arizona

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.



Tim Hunter, MD
Professor Emeritus
University of Arizona, Department of Medical Imaging

Tim B. Hunter, MD, MSc is former Head of the Department of Radiology at The University of Arizona College of Medicine. He retired in 2014 and now is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medical Imaging (formerly Department of Radiology). Dr. Hunter received his medical degree from Northwestern University in 1968. After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1969 until 1971, he completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Michigan in 1974. He joined the faculty here in 1975. Dr. Hunter's areas of special interest in radiology are musculoskeletal imaging and medical devices.



Christopher M. Hanson, PT, DPT
VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network
Clinical Resource Hub Tele-Physical Therapy Coordinator
VISN 22 Kinesiotherapy and Physical Therapy Community of Practice Lead

Christopher Hanson, PT, DPT serves Veterans in the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network, coordinating tele-physical therapy gap coverage to support VA facilities in Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Dr. Hanson also serves as the Kinesiotherapy and Physical Therapy Community of Practice lead for the Desert Pacific Healthcare Network promoting physical therapy practice models within the VA Facilities. He is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Chris currently serves as the chairperson for the APTA Arizona practice committee, promoting strong practice models and providing educational resources and sessions on PT practice requirements to current Arizona PT licensees, PTA certificate holders, and PT/PTA students. He has also served on the A.T. Still University Physical Therapy Program and Gateway Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program advisory committees.

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Stephen Klotz, MD
Medical Director
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Stephen Klotz, MD, is Professor of Medicine and Community and Family Medicine, University of Arizona. He is Medical Director for the Arizona Telemedicine Program. He is former Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and currently divides his time between HIV care, basic research and clinical telemedicine. His interests in research are disseminated candidiasis, Chagas disease, HIV and frailty. He has conducted an HIV/Infectious Diseases Telemedicine Clinic monthly since 2006 to the Department of Corrections in Arizona and to residents of Tucson and surrounding areas with HIV since 2020.



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.



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

Janet Major 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 the 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 videoconferencing for clinical and educational applications used for 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 during her 10-year tenure on their Board of Directors. Ms. Major has been active throughout her career with the network of telecommunications experts of Arizona and continues to participate as an Associate Board Member of ATIC: the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council. She serves as an enthusiastic advocate for improving broadband access for the tribal communities in Arizona and the southwest, including supporting the growth of telehealth in our neighboring states.

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Mary Schmitz, OTD, OT/L

Chair, Arizona Occupational Therapy Association, Telehealth Special Interest Section
Advisory Board Member, Telehealth Certification Institute

American Occupational Therapy Association Credentialed Leader in Academia

Being in her 36th year of practice, Dr. Schmitz is a seasoned occupational therapist having practiced with all ages across settings ranging from the acute care hospital and outpatient to inpatient rehabilitation, home health, school-based, private practice, and virtual environments. She has also taught future occupational therapy practitioners at the post-secondary graduate level. Championing for emerging niches for occupational therapy practice, Mary is an active member of the Arizona Occupational Therapy Association (ArizOTA) by serving on the conference planning & legislative committees, as well as co-chairing the Home Modification Special Interest Section, and founding, as well as chairing, the Telehealth Special Interest Section. As the chair of this section, she secures speakers for each month's virtual training. Recent appointments include Advisory Board Member for both the Telehealth Certification Institute and the Phoenix Brookline College Occupational Therapy Associate (OTA) Program.

Mary remains active in her community by advancing emergency and disaster management activities as secretary of her local Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.). She has not only presented regionally and nationally to advance the role of Occupational Therapy in all phases of emergency management, but has also had a poster presentation accepted for the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) International Congress and Exhibition in August, 2022.