

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 Mel and 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-Blair, MAdm
Distant Education & Event Coordinator
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Melanie Esher-Blair, 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.



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

Michael Holcomb, BS is the associate director for information technology (IT) for the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and serves as a technology expert for the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. He has 22 years of experience working with telemedicine and telehealth technologies and is responsible for managing all ATP IT including the ATP statewide telemedicine network.

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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
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.

Presenter & Moderator Biographies



Tara Sklar, JD, MPH
Faculty Senior Advisor for Telehealth Law & Policy
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Tara Sklar is the Faculty Director of the Health Law & Policy Program at Arizona Law. She also holds appointments as Senior Advisor in 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.



Kris Stewart
Associate Director of Administration
Arizona Telemedicine Program

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. 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 serves 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.