

# Presenter and Moderator Biographies



**Heather Carter, EdD**  
***Senator***  
**Arizona State Senate, Legislative District 15**  
***(Executive Vice President***  
**Greater Phoenix Leadership, Inc.)**

Dr. Heather Carter is the new Executive Vice President for Greater Phoenix Leadership, Inc., an organization of leading CEOs working together to improve economic standing and overall quality of life at the intersection of the business, government, philanthropic, and education sectors. With over 20 years of experience at the university level, most recently Dr. Carter worked as an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona and served as the Associate Director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health. Prior to that, she worked at Arizona State University in both the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College and the College of Nursing, serving as Assistant Dean for Education and Health Policy. Additionally, she has served in the Arizona Legislature for the past ten years, where she chaired the House of Representatives Health Committee for six years. Currently, she is the State Senator from Legislative District 15 (North Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Cave Creek) and is chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, vice-chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, and sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee. She has received multiple “Legislator of the Year” awards, community recognition, and accolades for her work in education and health policy.



**Pele Peacock Fischer, Esq.**  
***Attorney***  
**Peacock Legal, PLC**

Pele Peacock Fischer is the principal of Peacock Legal, PLC, a government affairs and legal consulting firm. She works extensively in the area of government relations, representing a broad range of public and private clients before legislative and administrative bodies. She is widely recognized as a policy expert in Arizona and a highly successful lobbyist with unwavering ethics. Prior to starting Peacock Legal, Ms. Fischer served as the Vice President of Policy and Political Affairs for the Arizona Medical Association, where she directed strategies in legal, political, and regulatory development and advocacy. Before joining the Arizona Medical Association, she served as a Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Attorney for the Arizona House of Representatives for multiple committees including: Health, Human Services, and Commerce. Ms. Fischer has been intimately involved in telemedicine/ telehealth policy in Arizona. In 2019, she led the advocacy effort for SB 1089, which expand insurance coverage for telehealth services, including asynchronous telemedicine and remote patient monitoring. SB 1089 also provided parity commercial coverage for medical services delivered via telemedicine. Ms. Fischer is very active in the community and currently serves as the President-Elect for the Arizona Public Health Association, is on the Board of Directors for the Cactus-Pine Council of the Girl Scouts, and is very active in her kids’ school. She also was a member of the Take the Lead Healthcare Leadership Program 2018 Cohort, was a Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy Fellow in 2013, and graduated from Scottsdale Leadership in 2011.



**Shreyas Hallur**  
***Research Intern***  
**Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)**

Shreyas Hallur is a second-year Angier B. Duke Scholar at Duke University with a passion for Medicaid policy, especially as it relates to behavioral health. Having led three independent projects to promote opportunities for teens with autism, Mr. Hallur's community engagement serves as the foundation for his policy interests. He has also conducted clinical research with the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and Medicaid policy analysis at AHCCCS and the Duke Margolis Center. By combining public outreach with clinical and policy research, Mr. Hallur hopes to develop health policies that actually address the community's needs.



**Vikeen J. Patel MD, MBA**  
***Clinical Informatics Fellow***  
**University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix**

Vikeen Patel is a clinical informaticist in training working in the Clinical Informatics Fellowship at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He is also pursuing a master's in health informatics at Arizona State University. Previously, Dr. Patel worked for Indian Health Services as a nocturnist, where he developed his love for informatics-related projects. During his fellowship, he completed a study that identified social determinants that predict mammogram no-show patients. His research interests include social determinants of health, implementation science, and big data/data analytics. Dr. Patel is board certified in internal medicine.



**Nancy Rowe, BA**  
***Associate Director, Public Policy and Outreach***  
**Arizona Telemedicine Program**

Nancy Rowe is Associate Director for Public Policy and Outreach for the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC), where she is a resource and frequent presenter on telehealth policy and reimbursement. She oversees the Northern Arizona Telehealth Alliance, which promotes collaboration and information sharing among nearly 40 telemedicine programs, as well as other state and regional telehealth groups. Before joining the ATP, Ms. Rowe was director of telemedicine for Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (now Health Choice Arizona) for more than 12 years, where she managed telehealth technology and telecommuni-

cations, oversaw telehealth grants and contracts, and grew the award-winning telemedicine network from 12 to more than 80 sites that accommodated more than 20,000 provider-patient sessions per year. She is a member of the Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law Advisory Board, a past chair of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) Business and Finance Special Interest Group and a workgroup member for the ATA telemental health guidelines. She earned her BA in English from St. Lawrence University and worked in public relations prior to moving into the telehealth field.



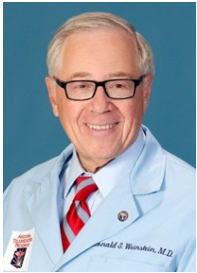
**Sara Salek, MD**  
***Chief Medical Officer***  
**Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**

Sara Salek, MD, has been the Chief Medical Officer for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) since 2014. In her current role, Dr. Salek oversees all clinical operations for AHCCCS, including quality management, medical management, dental and pharmacy services. Dr. Salek's current priority focus areas include optimizing health care access through updates to the AHCCCS telehealth policy, improving services to children and adults with developmental disorders, and improving service delivery to children and families involved with the Department of Child Safety. Previously, Dr. Salek served as the Medical Director for Children's Services at the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services from 2008 to 2012. She returned with her family to Arizona from the Bay Area, where she served as the Addiction Consultation and Treatment Medical Director for the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System from 2012 to 2014. Dr. Salek grew up in Tucson, AZ, and graduated from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. She completed the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Training Program at Boston Children's Hospital through Harvard Medical School. Dr. Salek is board certified in both Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



**James Wang, MD**  
***Clinical Informatics Fellow***  
**University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix**

Dr. James Wang is a second-year Clinical Informatics Fellow at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix. He is board-certified in family medicine and completed his residency training at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center – Permian Basin. His interests in informatics include using data- and technology-driven methods to improve the quality and efficiency of patient care, to improve the overall patient experience, and to advance medical education.



**Ronald S. Weinstein, MD, FCAP, FATA**

***Director***

**Arizona Telemedicine Program**

Ronald S. Weinstein, MD, FCAP, FATA, is the founding director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program. Dr. Weinstein is a Massachusetts General Hospital-trained pathologist who is regarded as a pioneer in telemedicine. He rendered his first telemedicine diagnosis, at the MGH in Boston, in April 1968. Dr. Weinstein has served as president of six professional organizations including the American Telemedicine Association, where he is President Emeritus. He has received the Distinguished Service Award of the Arizona Medical Association, the Distinguished Service Award of the Association of Pathology Chairs, the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association for Pathology Informatics, and the Lifetime Teaching Award of the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Dr. Weinstein has been inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association Hall of Fame for innovations in education over telemedicine networks. He has over 300 professional publications, including frequently cited papers on both telemedicine and telepathology.