

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 is also 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.



Christina Crawford, PT, DPT, PhD
Physical Therapy Telehealth Coordinator & Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in
Geriatric Physical Therapy
Phoenix VA Health Care System

Christina Crawford, PT, DPT, PhD is a Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Geriatric Physical Therapy, specializing in telehealth services and program development to better serve rural Veterans. As a subject matter expert on fall prevention, she has experience educating patients, families, and staff. As a cultured healthcare professional, she has experience coordinating teams, evaluating system needs, and facilitating continuous process improvement opportunities. She has historic leadership experience focusing on efficient community outreach programming, multidisciplinary integration, and cross-organizational bridging.



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.

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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 for over 25 years, including over 23,000 direct patient services over telemedicine, encompassing all ages and diagnoses. 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.



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. He is the Principal Investigator on two grants dealing with HIV, the Ryan White Program HIV/AIDS and the Arizona AIDS Education and Training Center. His interests in research are disseminated candidiasis, Chagas disease, HIV and frailty. He is in charge of Clinico-Pathologic Conferences (a Medical Grand Rounds) for the Department of Medicine. He has conducted an HIV/Infectious Diseases Telemedicine Clinic monthly since 2006 to the Department of Corrections here in Arizona.

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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 25 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 and Digital Health for ATP, the Arizona Telemedicine Program and its subsidiary SWTRC, the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. She earned her B.S. Degree in Telecommunications from Northern Arizona University and has worked at the University of Arizona for over 30 years. She has been employed by the Arizona Telemedicine Program since it began 25 years ago and she is now part of the Executive Team. Her current responsibilities include the planning, development and installation of the teleconferencing and telemedicine equipment used in rural telemedicine sites as well as training healthcare professionals in the effective use of videoconferencing for both clinical and educational applications including LIVE interactive and store-and-forward technologies.

She has served on the boards for several statewide as well as national organizations. She is the past Chair for the mHealth, Technology & Distance Learning Special Interest Group of the American Telemedicine Association and she is an Associate Board Member of ATIC: the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council. She served on the Arizona Broadband Task Force in February 2018, participates in the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network as well as the Arizona Covid-19 Digital Access Task Force. She has served on the board of the United States Distance Learning Association for ten years representing the telehealth constituency, is President Emeritus and immediate past Chair.

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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.



Kimberly Shea, PhD, RN, FWAN, CHPN

Clinical Associate Professor, Assistant Professor of Practice
UArizona College of Nursing, UArizona Department of Biomedical Informatics

Kimberly Shea, PhD, RN, FWAN, CHPN is a Clinical Associate Professor at the UArizona College of Nursing and Assistant Professor of Practice at the UArizona Department of Biomedical Informatics. She has been funded for her program of research in home-based telehealth since 2004. Her clinical experience and certification are in hospice and palliative nursing. Her research studies have examined, 1) relationship building when technology moderates interactions among patient, nurse and caregiver; 2) patient integration of telemonitoring data into lifestyle choices, 3) Usability of iPad technology for symptom management, and currently, 4) Best practices using the Comprehensive Patient Assessment for Telehealth in the Home (CPATH) framework. Dr. Shea has presented locally, nationally and internationally on telehealth, in general and telepalliative care, more specifically. She serves as the Associate Director of Telenursing for the Arizona Telemedicine Program.