Pennsylvania Medical Society
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# PAMED 2026 Annual Meeting – CME Faculty

## HIV Cluster Detection and Response (CDR) in Pennsylvania: Why Physician Participation Matters

**Adetoun Asala, DrPH, MPH** is an Epidemiologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, with expertise in HIV surveillance investigations and data-driven community health strategies. She currently coordinates HIV Cluster Detection and Response (CDR) activities, focusing on translating surveillance data into practical, actionable strategies for healthcare providers, public health practitioners, and communities to inform timely interventions and improve population health outcomes.

Her work emphasizes evidence-based practice, strengthening linkage to care, enhancing provider engagement, and fostering cross-sector collaboration to improve outcomes across diverse populations. Dr. Asala has held progressive leadership roles in public health, including Epidemiologist Team Lead at the Mississippi State Department of Health, where she led epidemiologic investigations, supported statewide health initiatives, and guided data-informed decision-making.

She also brings experience from international health settings, including work with the Private Sector Alliance of Nigeria and Jhpiego, where she contributed to health systems strengthening and program evaluation efforts.

**Maddison Toney, MPH, CHES, CDI** is the Division of Communicable Disease Field Services Director within the Bureau of Communicable Disease at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. With more than eight years of experience in public health practice, Maddison brings expertise in disease prevention, program implementation, epidemiology, and community outreach.

She earned her Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Community Health and Geographic Information Systems, building on her undergraduate studies in public health, health promotion, and women's health.

In her previous role at the PA Department of Health, Maddison served as the administrator for both the HIV Partner Services Program and the HIV Cluster Detection and Response Program, supporting HIV prevention field response efforts across Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Ms. Toney served as a Communicable Disease Specialist for Chester County Health Department, conducting HIV and STD partner services, disease surveillance, and supporting clinical operations. In addition to her work in public health practice, Maddison is an adjunct professor at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches core public health curriculum in health behavior, epidemiology, and public health leadership.

Her work focuses on strengthening rapid public health response systems and advancing collaborative, community-centered approaches to HIV prevention across Pennsylvania.

## The Cannabis Conversation: What's Left Unsaid?

**Gregory Garber, LCSW** is Administrative Director of the Division of Supportive Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (SKCCC) at Thomas Jefferson University, where he oversees all patient-facing programs and services, including Patient Education and Support Programming, Clinical Nutrition Support, and Social Work Services. He also leads initiatives to understand and reduce cancer disparities tied to health literacy, digital literacy, access, cancer screening, and prevention.

Medical cannabis in oncology is an important part of Greg's work. He conducts research on its use among people with cancer as well as issues related to disparities to access. Additionally, he teaches an undergraduate course at Thomas Jefferson University on the science, policy, history, and current issues in medical cannabis. He has lectured and presented on medical cannabis and the psychosocial aspects of cancer care at local, regional, and national conferences.

**Brooke Worster, MD, FACP** completed her internal medicine and chief residency at Temple University and fellowships in both pain management and palliative medicine at MGH and Dana Farber Cancer center in Boston. She is a professor in the Department of Medical Oncology in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Enterprise director of Supportive Oncology. She is happy to be a clinician-researcher – practicing Supportive Oncology and cancer pain management. She has federal and private grant funding to study the use, impact, and perceptions of cannabis in various complex patient populations as well as the quality and cost impacts of Supportive Oncology interventions.

## PA Government Health Panel – Emerging Issues in PA

**Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH**, was appointed to lead the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services by Governor Josh Shapiro on January 17, 2023. As Secretary of Human Services, Secretary Arkoosh has focused on embedding a whole-person, proactive, and preventive approach to service and care delivery, building supports and interventions that help Pennsylvanians achieve greater stability and better health. Under her leadership, PA DHS has expanded Medicaid coverage for evidence-based programs like doula care and street medicine, launched PA Navigate to connect health care providers and social services/non-profit systems to those needing services in their communities, and invested in access to care by working to eliminate the adult emergency waiting list for Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism. Under Secretary Arkoosh, PA DHS also released Healthy Moms, Vibrant Futures, the Shapiro Administration's maternal health strategic action plan and was awarded $193M for the first year of its Rural Health Transformation Plan.

Prior to state service, Secretary Arkoosh served on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners for eight years, serving as Commission Chair from November 2016 through January 2023. Arkoosh is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and, upon obtaining a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2007, Arkoosh became deeply engaged in the national effort to achieve comprehensive health care reform. She led the National Physicians Alliance, a national non-profit organization of physicians, who, putting their patients before profits, joined a broad-based nation-wide coalition for reform. During this time, she developed policy and legislative strategy, and promoted public engagement in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and throughout the country. Dr. Arkoosh maintains comprehensive knowledge of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its impact on individuals and the health care system.

**Debra L. Bogen, MD** is the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Prior to joining the Commonwealth, Dr. Bogen was the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, where she and her staff stayed on top of the pandemic and provided consistent, measured and common-sense information to the public while working closely with many stakeholders in the county.

Prior to that appointment, Dr. Bogen was a member of the Pittsburgh region medical and research community for more than two decades. She held a primary

academic appointment as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, and secondary appointments in psychiatry and clinical and translational science. Dr. Bogen also served as the Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She dedicated her career as a pediatrician to caring for children and families impacted by social inequities. Her clinical research focused on the impact of mental health and substance use on families.

Dr. Bogen earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed both her pediatric residency and general academic pediatrics fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She was one of the founders of the Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank and served as the organization's Volunteer Medical Director until assuming her role at the state.

**Latika Davis-Jones, PhD, MPH, MSW** is the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). She was nominated to the position in January 2023 by Governor Josh Shapiro and unanimously confirmed by the General Assembly in June 2023.

Prior to serving as DDAP's Secretary, she was the Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Highmark Wholecare, formerly Gateway Health Plan. Over the past 25 years, Secretary Davis-Jones' work has focused on the physical and behavioral health needs of vulnerable populations.

She provided leadership and administrative oversight of Highmark Wholecare's behavioral health program and oversaw the program development including the development of operations within new markets/business initiatives and the implementation and evaluation of utilization management, case management, and disease/condition management programs impacting the health of members. She served as administrator for the Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Services from 2011-2020 and was an adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh for ten years starting in 2007. From 1999-2011 she was Director of Satellite Services at Tadiso, Inc., which is one of PA's largest medication-assisted treatment facilities, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of their outpatient drug treatment/prevention program.

Dr. Davis-Jones earned her undergraduate degree from Central State University and her graduate degrees (MSW, MPH, and PhD) from the University of Pittsburgh.

## Donate Life PA: Organ & Tissue Donation and Recovery Process

**Allison Conklin** is a photographer, writer, the founder of Bonus Days Magazine, and a heart recipient who shares her powerful story.

**Jacqueline Giuffrida** is the Manager, Hospital Services for the Gift of Life Donor Program. Ms. Giuffrida has been with Gift of Life Donor Program since 2003 and has worked with a variety of healthcare professionals to educate them on their role in organ and tissue donation. Through her collaboration with hospital leadership and critical care staff, processes have been put into place to improve donation outcomes with a focus on supporting families and increasing the number of organs available for transplant.

**Nicole Nissley, RN, BSN** is the Manager of Transplant Coordinators for the Gift of Life Donor Program.

**James F. Peoples III, MD, MS, FCCP** specializes in neurocritical care and neurology. He holds board certifications in neurology and neurocritical care by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties. Dr. Peoples is a neurointensivist in the Department of Critical Care Medicine, Division of Neurocritical Care with hospital affiliations including UPMC West Shore, UPMC Community Osteopathic and UPMC Harrisburg Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He went on to complete preliminary internships in general surgery and internal medicine as well as completed his neurology residency at Temple University Hospital where he served as chief resident. Following residency, Jim went on to fellowship training in neurocritical care at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and The Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

Dr. Peoples is an active member of the Neurocritical Care Society, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American Academy of Neurology and is a physician fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.

## Safeguarding Healthcare: Evidence-Based Strategies to Prevent and Manage Workplace Violence

**Melinda Dunkerley, MBA, BSN, RN** is the chief quality officer at Independence Health System, where she leads system-wide quality improvement initiatives and promotes a strong culture of safety. With extensive leadership experience, including roles as chief nursing officer and executive director of quality and

performance, she collaborates across healthcare teams to drive data-informed improvements.

**Michael Fiorini, DO, FAAFP** is the chief medical officer at Independence Health System. A Family Medicine physician for 28 years, he has held numerous leadership roles, including Chair of the Department of Medicine and President of the Medical Staff. He played a key role in establishing the Butler Family Medicine Residency Program and continues to advance clinical care and medical education across the system.

## The Emergence of Lifestyle Medicine: Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing, Treating, and Reversing Chronic Disease

**Meagan L. Grega, MD, FACLM**, is the Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Kellyn (www.kellyn.org), a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice. Through the "Healthy Neighborhood Immersion Strategy", Kellyn provides school-based healthy lifestyle education and "Garden as a Classroom" programs; supports access to nutrient-dense produce and delicious plant-powered prepared meals via the Eat Real Food Mobile Market; engages participants in hands-on, plant-based cooking classes in community settings and offers intensive therapeutic lifestyle change interventions for families, employers and community groups. She is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Bucknell University with a B.S. in Biochemistry/Cell Biology and earned her MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

Dr. Grega spent several years as a medical officer in the United States Navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander before resigning from active-duty service. She has been a staff Family Physician at Hunterdon Medical Center, the Director of Women's Health Services at Lafayette College and is currently the Managing Director of Llantrisant Retreat and Wellness Center (www.llantrisanteventvenue.com), the home of Kellyn. She frequently lectures on the topics of Lifestyle Medicine at national and regional conferences, universities, hospital Grand Rounds, medical residency programs and community forums. Mentoring residents, medical, dietician and nursing students is one of her passions. She is honored to serve as faculty for the St. Luke's University Health Network Anderson Campus Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency programs, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine for the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and as faculty advisor for the LKSOM/SLUHN medical student Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group (LMIG). She is a member of the True Health Initiative Council of Directors, the current

conference chair for the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) Annual Meeting, serves as an ACLM representative to the American Medical Association House of Delegates and as a member of several national task force groups dedicated to the expansion of evidence-based lifestyle medicine services. Dr. Grega is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, a Fellow of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, serves on the governing Board of the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine, and is board certified in both Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine.

**Eric O. Mueller, DO** is a triple board-certified physician in Internal Medicine, Lifestyle Medicine, and Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. He currently practices with Lehigh Valley Health Network, part of Jefferson Health, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, bringing over twenty years of clinical experience to his work.

In addition to incorporating Lifestyle Medicine into his internal medicine practice, Dr. Mueller provides Lifestyle Medicine consultations at the LVHN Diabetes and Metabolism Center, with a particular focus on whole food plant based (WFPB) nutrition and other evidence-based lifestyle interventions for the prevention, treatment, and potential reversal of chronic disease.

Dr. Mueller earned his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University and previously practiced at Cleveland Clinic, Abington Memorial Hospital, and UPMC. He also holds a degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State and a certificate in Plant-Based Nutrition from the T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies and eCornell.

## Beyond Easy Answers: AI, Clinical Expertise, and the Future of Physician-Led Care

**Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®), that accredits over 1500 continuing medical education (CME) providers in the US and internationally. Dr. McMahon serves as Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Medical Education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where he teaches medical students and fellows, and leads the diabetes program and cares for patients with endocrine disorders at Howard Brown Health in Chicago.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, Dr. McMahon earned his medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; he also received a doctoral degree in medical education from the National University of Ireland. He earned a Master of Medical Science in Clinical Research from Harvard Medical School. He is board certified in internal medicine—as well as endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism.

Dr. McMahon has served as Associate Dean for Continuing Education and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, as an editor at the *New England Journal of Medicine,* and as the fellowship program director in the division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension at the Brigham & Women's Hospital.

He is a recipient of several major grants, and national awards for excellence in diabetes care innovation, systems change, and medical education.