

Georgia HAI Advisory Committee

Biographical Sketches

Matthew Crist, MD, MPH

Public Health Ad hoc Member

Medical Epidemiologist

Georgia Department of Public Health

Atlanta, GA

Matthew Crist received his bachelors degree in biology from Duke University and his medical degree as well as a masters of public health degree in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina. Dr Crist underwent clinical training at the University of Virginia where he completed an internal medicine residency in 2008 followed by an infectious diseases fellowship at Vanderbilt University which he completed in 2010. He holds board certifications in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Upon completion of fellowship he worked in the Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Use Program at the Tennessee Dept of Health from 2010-2011. Dr. Crist joined the GA Dept of Public Health in October of 2011 as the medical epidemiologist over the healthcare-associated, invasive bacterial, and respiratory infections unit. He is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).

Janine Scott, MPH

Surveillance Officer

Georgia Emerging Infections Program

Atlanta, GA

Ms. Scott is the Healthcare-Associated Infections Surveillance Coordinator with the Georgia Emerging Infections Program (GAEIP), a research collaborative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Department of Public Health, Emory University School of Medicine, and the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Ms. Scott has coordinated the GAEIP Invasive MRSA Surveillance project and multiple studies related to *Staphylococcus aureus* since 2005. Currently, she oversees a team of study coordinators who manage various research projects including population-based surveillance for Candidemia, multidrug resistant gram negative bacilli infections and other special studies related to identifying risk factors for and the

prevention of healthcare-associated infections. She is a 2003 graduate of the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University in Atlanta.

Marcia L. Delk, MD, MBA

Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Quality Officer
WellStar Health System
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Delk is the Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Quality Officer for WellStar Health System, overseeing the safety and quality agenda for the system. In addition to facilitating the Gingrich Center for Health Transformation Safety and Quality Workgroup, she serves as Co-chairman of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) Top Ten initiative physician workgroup and is a member of the GHA Partnership for Health and Accountability Advisory Council and Best Practices Subcommittee. She is a member of the Georgia Medical Care Foundation Patient Safety Steering Committee for the 9th Scope of Work for CMS and is Co-chairman for the VHA CMO Council. She received her undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology from Vanderbilt University; a medical degree and Internal Medicine residency training from the Medical College of Georgia and MBA from the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, a member of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Physician Executives.

Lauren Lorentzson, MPH

Public Health Ad hoc Member
Healthcare-Associated Infections Epidemiologist
Georgia Department of Public Health
Atlanta, GA

Lauren Lorentzson began work as the Healthcare-Associated Infections Epidemiologist for the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) in September of 2011. She also worked temporarily as the interim Emerging Infections Program (EIP) Active Bacterial Core (ABCs) coordinator in 2012. Prior to this, Ms. Lorentzson worked part-time for the EIP ABCs program as a professional healthcare worker at GDPH from 2005-2011. She received her Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Agnes Scott College in 2005, and her Masters of Public Health degree from Georgia State University in 2010.

Denise Flook, BS, RN, MPH, CIC

Director, Workforce Development/Infection Prevention
Georgia Hospital Association (GHA)
Atlanta, GA

Ms. Flook is the Director of Workforce Development/Infection Prevention at the Georgia Hospital Association. She graduated from University of Maryland with a BS degree, Albany Junior College with an A.D.N. degree and the University of Georgia with a M.P.H. degree. She is certified in Infection Control. Ms. Flook's healthcare experiences include various staff nurse positions, Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Infection Control at Emory Northlake Medical Center. Ms. Flook was responsible for the day to day operations of the infection control and prevention program at Emory Northlake. She is an active member of APIC and GIPN. At GHA, Ms. Flook coordinates statewide initiatives related to Healthcare Workforce Development and Infection Prevention for Georgia hospitals.

Jesse T. Jacob, MD

Director of Antimicrobial Assistance Program
Assistant Professor of Medicine- Infectious Diseases
Emory University Hospital Midtown
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Jacob is Assistant Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) at Emory University Hospital Midtown. Dr. Jacob completed his undergraduate education at Johns Hopkins University and received his medical degree from the University of South Florida. He completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, followed by a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Emory University, and subsequently stayed on as faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases as an assistant professor of medicine. He is currently based at Emory University Hospital Midtown, where he serves as Associate Hospital Epidemiologist and Director of the Antibiotic Assistance Program. Dr. Jacob's research focuses on several areas: prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia and central line-associated bloodstream infections; the epidemiology of multidrug resistant organisms, especially MRSA; and approaches to antibiotic optimization. He is an active member of the Infectious Disease Society of America and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. Dr. Jacob has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented his research at national and international conferences.

Robert C. Jerris, PhD, D (ABMM)

Director Clinical Microbiology
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)
Assistant Professor, Clinical
Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Jerris is Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Assistant Clinical Professor at the Emory University School of Medicine. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology. He received his PhD (Experimental Pathology) from Emory University and completed his Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical and Public Health

Laboratory Microbiology at the CDC. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day scientific operations of Clinical Microbiology at CHOA. His expertise is in antimicrobial resistance, rapid diagnosis (conventional and molecular), and clinical and microbiological pathogenesis of bacterial, viral, fungal and mycobacterial infections. In addition to his own published research in peer-reviewed journals and textbook chapters, he has served as editor of Current Microbiology (1996-2007) and guest editor for the Journal Clinical Microbiology (2003-present). Dr. Jerris is a member of American Society for Microbiology, American Society for Clinical Pathology, National Registry of Microbiology, Sigma Xi, and South Eastern Association of Clinical Microbiology. He has served in leadership roles and/or as a board member for American Board of Medical Microbiologists, American Academy of Microbiology and the South Eastern Association for Clinical Microbiology. He is currently a board member of the College of the American Academy of Microbiology; Clinical Microbiology representative to the Georgia HAI Task Force; alternate representative to Clinical Laboratory, Blood Bank, Tissue Bank Advisory Council and a member of the subcommittee for CLIAC Proficiency Testing. Dr. Jerris served on the CDC Laboratory Peer Review Committee (2002), and CLSI Committee on Blood Culture Techniques (2005-2007).

Mary Key, BSN, CIC, BSN, CIC

Infection Preventionist
Tift Regional Medical Center
Tifton, GA

Ms. Key is the Infection Preventionist at Tift Regional Medical Center. She is a graduate of Valdosta State University in Nursing. She has been involved in infection control and prevention since 1991. Before entering infection prevention and control, Ms. Key practiced nursing in Labor and Delivery, Medical/Surgical and Dialysis. She was the Infection Preventionist and Employee Health Nurse for a 160 bed facility, Spalding Regional Medical Center, in Griffin, Georgia before accepting her present position at Tift Regional in 2007. Her current duties include: conducting surveillance, analyzing and reporting data and initiating changes based on findings, implementing patient safety initiatives as related to infection prevention, consulting for construction projects, reporting communicable diseases to Public Health, developing an Antibiotic Stewardship Committee. Ms. Key facilitates the Infection Control Committee and is the infection control liaison to management, medical staff and leadership at her facility. She is an active member of the South Georgia APIC Chapter and a past member of the Greater Atlanta APIC Chapter. Ms. Key is a member of GIPN where she has served as a Board Member and Treasurer (1994 to 2003). She has been Board Certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology since 1994.

Denise Leaptrot, BSMT(ASCP), SM, BSN, RN, CIC, MBA

Infection Control Coordinator

Coliseum Medical/Psych/Rehab Hospitals
Macon, GA

Ms. Leaptrot is the Infection Control Coordinator at Coliseum Medical, Psychiatric, and Rehabilitative Centers in Macon. Ms. Leaptrot is a graduate of the Georgia College and State University and Macon Technical College. She has been involved in infection control and prevention for more than 20 years. Presently, Ms. Leaptrot is responsible for the day to day operations of the Infection Control prevention programs within Coliseum Health Systems. Her current duties include: conducting surveillance, analyzing and reporting data and initiating changes based on findings, implementing patient safety initiatives as related to infection prevention, consulting for construction projects, and reporting communicable diseases to Public Health. She is involved in numerous committees and is the infection control liaison to management, medical staff and leadership at her facility. Additionally, she collaborates with the CDC and Harvard Medical in clinical trials, serving as the local lead clinical investigator. She serves as the local Board of Health chairperson and has strong ties to the Public Health sector. One of her most rewarding activities involves mentoring nursing students in the Masters and Nurse Practitioner programs at her alma mater. She is an active member of the local Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC). She is also a member of the Georgia Infection Control network (GIPN). Ms. Leaptrot has been certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology by the CBIC since 1995.

Steven I. Marlowe, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Hospital Epidemiologist and Private Practice
Emory Adventist Hospital
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Marlowe is the Hospital Epidemiologist and Chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Infection Control Committees at Emory Adventist Hospital. He is a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Marlowe trained in internal medicine at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and Boston City Hospital. He completed his fellowships in preventive medicine and infectious disease at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Marlowe is a board certified infectious disease specialist who has been in practice in Atlanta since 1985. He is on staff at Saint Joseph's, Northside and Emory Adventist Hospitals. He is the hospital epidemiologist and chair of Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Infection Control Committee at Emory Adventist Hospital. He has served as hospital epidemiologist and Chair of Infection Control Committee at West Paces Medical Center in Atlanta and Brookline Hospital in Brookline, MA. Dr. Marlowe chaired the Board of Trustees at West Paces Medical Center, served as Chief of Infectious Diseases at Saint Joseph's Hospital and Chief of Medicine at Emory Adventist Hospital. He has served on the board of MAA, chaired the Adolescent Health Committee of MAG, and is a member of MAA, MAG, IDSA, ACP, ASM and SHEA. Most recently, Dr. Marlowe co-authored

an article on necrotizing fasciitis which described a successful treatment of 20 consecutive patients admitted at Northside Hospital.

John E. McGowan, Jr. MD

Professor Epidemiology
Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University
Atlanta, GA

Dr. McGowan is a Professor of Epidemiology (Rollins School of Public Health), and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Infectious Disease (Emory University of Medicine). Dr. McGowan completed medical school, Internal Medicine residency and fellowship at Harvard Medical School in Boston. Dr. McGowan has practiced medicine in many different roles during his professional career. Since 1992, Dr. McGowan has been a Professor of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. He served as Acting Chairman, Department of Epidemiology for 2008-09. Dr. McGowan's primary research interest is the epidemiology of antibacterial resistance, especially as it applies to the healthcare setting, and as it is affected by antimicrobial use and appropriate diagnostic testing. For several years, his main research effort has been the Project ICARE, a cooperative study with CDC on antimicrobial resistance. He is a fellow of the American Epidemiological Society, American College of Epidemiology and American Academy of Microbiology. He has served on the American Hospital Association Technical Panel on Infections within Hospitals (1989-1995). He served on the Governing Council of the American Society for Microbiology 1985 to 1988 and on the Microbiology Device Review Panel for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He was a founding member and initial President of the Society of Hospital Epidemiology of America (1981). During his professional career, Dr. McGowan has published 325 peer-reviewed journal articles, reviews, books and book chapters. Dr. McGowan's ongoing research is to support and provide clinical research training to junior faculty at Emory so that they may develop into successful clinical investigators.

Victoria Nahum

Co-founder and Executive Director of SAFE CARE CAMPAIGN
Atlanta, GA

In 2006, Ms. Nahum became the face the American healthcare system has come to associate with healthcare-acquired infections, after 3 members of her family became infected in 3 different hospitals in 3 different states in a 10 month timeframe, culminating with the death of her stepson. Within weeks of her stepson's death, she and her husband created Safe Care Campaign to focus attention on infection prevention within the American healthcare environment. The Safe Care Campaign's work has been featured on many national and local television and radio programs. Her expertise is in healthcare and community acquired infections and communicating loss in a

way that successfully creates impetus for change, and motivates caregivers to modify behaviors in the delivery of care. Ms. Nahum carries her private mission of infection prevention throughout the world and shares it with chief executives, physicians and nursing staff. She is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Hand Hygiene Champions. She currently sits on the Joint Commission's Patient and Family Safety Advisory Committee and recently co-produced a patient safety video. The video is used during the hospital admission process and was produced in conjunction with the CDC and APIC.

Cindy Prosnak, BSN, RN, CIC

Quality Advisor for Infection Prevention
Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)
Atlanta, GA

Ms. Prosnak is the Quality Advisor for Infection Prevention at GMCF. She is a graduate of Oxford College of Emory University and a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing. Ms. Prosnak is board-certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology (CIC). She was the Director of Infection Control at McDuffie Regional Medical Center in Thomson, Georgia until she joined the Patient Safety Team at GMCF, the Medicare QIO for Georgia. She is an active member of APIC and GIPN. Ms. Prosnak is a past president of the Augusta APIC Chapter and currently serves on the GIPN Executive Board of Directors. At GMCF, Ms. Prosnak works with Georgia hospitals and nursing homes on quality initiatives involving infection prevention and control as put forth by CMS, such as MRSA and SCIP measures. Through a partnership between GMCF and the Department of Community Health, she is working to design and implement infection prevention and control training for long term care facilities in Georgia. She is a member of the Georgia Immunization Coalition that works to increase immunization rates across Georgia.

Susan M. Ray, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Ray is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases. She also serves as the Hospital Epidemiologist for Grady Health System. Dr. Ray's academic and clinical pursuits are centered on the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases affecting the urban, indigent, minority population served by Grady Health System. Dr. Ray's specific areas of interest include: the epidemiology and treatment of community-acquired MRSA; molecular epidemiology of tuberculosis infection and disease; the management of co-infections with HIV and TB, prevention of healthcare worker exposures to bloodborne pathogens. She is the founder and physician director of the Woodruff

Health Sciences Center for Needlestick Prevention. Dr. Ray is also the Principal Investigator for the Emory/Atlanta site of the CDC-funded Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC) which carries out investigator-initiated clinical trials of treatment for active and latent TB. Dr. Ray has served as a member of the Emory Institutional Review Board since 2003. In 2006, she was appointed Vice-Chair to the IRB.

Lynn A. Reynolds, RN, CIC
Infection Preventionist
Southeast Georgia Health System
Brunswick, GA

Ms. Reynolds is the Infection Preventionist at Southeast Georgia Health System. She is a graduate of Petersburg General Hospital School of Professional Nursing. She has been involved in infection control and prevention since 1990. Ms. Reynolds has practiced as an Infection Preventionist mainly in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2009, Ms. Reynolds was selected as the Infection Preventionist for the Southeast Georgia Health System. Her current duties include: conducting surveillance, analyzing and reporting data and initiating changes based on findings, implementing patient safety initiatives as related to infection prevention, consulting for construction projects, reporting communicable diseases to Public Health, developing an Antibiotic Stewardship Committee. Ms. Reynolds facilitates the Infection Control Committee and is the infection control liaison to management, medical staff and leadership at her facility. She is an active member of the Coastal Region APIC Chapter and a past member of the Virginia APIC. As a member of the Virginia APIC Chapter, she served as an infection preventionist mentor, editor of the “Nosocomial News”, treasurer and chairman of the education committee. Ms. Reynolds has been board-certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology since 1995. She has authored and co-authored peer-reviewed abstracts and a publication concerning the effectiveness of protective devices in preventing needlesticks among healthcare workers. Ms. Reynolds was selected in 2002 to present at the International APIC Meeting.

Craig E. Smith, MD, MS, CTropMed, FACP, FIDSA
Committee Co-chair
Infectious Diseases Consultants of SW Georgia
Visiting Faculty, Dr. Somervell Memorial CSI Medical College, India
Albany, GA

Dr. Smith is one of the founding partners of Infectious Diseases Consultants of SW Georgia in Albany, Georgia. Dr. Smith received his BS in Agriculture and MS in Microbiology from the University of Georgia, Athens. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta. Dr. Smith’s training includes internship (Categorical Internal Medicine), residency (Internal Medicine) and fellowship (Infectious Disease) at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX. Dr. Smith has extensive training and experience with Biological

Preparedness. Just prior to his consulting, he served as the Medical Director, Phoebe Center for Infectious Diseases, Traveler's Health, and Infusion Therapy at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. In 2003, Dr. Smith served as member of the Peer Review Committee on Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Smith is certified by ATLS, American Board of Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travel Medicine, Fundamentals of Critical Care Medicine and Basic Disaster Life Support. Dr. Smith served as the Chairman of the Infection Control (2003-2007) and member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Ethics Committee at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. He presently serves on the following committees: Educating Physicians in their Communities for Adult Vaccination (Advisory Committee and Speaker), Georgia United against Antibiotic-Resistant Disease Coalition (GA ACP representative) and GHA Taskforce for Healthcare Acquired Infections. He is an active member of several professional organizations including Infectious Diseases Society of America, HIV Medical Association, American Academy of HIV Medicine, American Society of Microbiology, Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America, GIPN (Member of the Year, 2003). He was also awarded the 1st Annual John McGowan Award, 2007. Dr. Smith has published articles in peer-reviewed journals on his research and authored subject-related chapters in published textbooks.

James P. Steinberg, MD

Professor of Medicine

Emory University School of Medicine

Atlanta, GA

Dr. Steinberg is a Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and Chief Medical Officer at Emory University Hospital Midtown. He has been the Hospital Epidemiologist at Emory University Hospital Midtown since 1990 and has a longstanding interest in healthcare associated infections. He is a graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York in Biology and the University of Nebraska School of Medicine, Omaha. His postdoctoral training included: Internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Emory University, Chief Medical Resident at Emory Crawford Long Hospital, and Medical Volunteer (Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific) Infectious Diseases Fellow at Northwestern University. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and has been the SHEA liaison to the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America National and Global Public Health Committee as well as a member of the SHEA Public Policy Committee. Dr. Steinberg is the past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of Georgia and has served on the Georgia State MRSA Task Force and Georgia United against Antibiotic Resistant Disease (GUARD). Dr. Steinberg received an Outstanding Teaching Award at Northwestern University Medical School and is a 4- time recipient of the Golden Apple Teaching Award at Emory School of Medicine.

He is listed in “The Best Doctors of America”. His research focuses are 1) Healthcare associated infections and antibiotic resistance, 2) Prevention of bloodstream infections, 3) Staphylococcus aureus infections, 4) Healthcare worker safety. Dr. Steinberg has published articles in peer-reviewed journals on his research and authored subject-related chapters in textbooks.

Nimalie Stone, MD, CDC Liaison to GA HAI Advisory Committee

Liaison to GA HAI Advisory Committee

Medical Epidemiologist for Long-term Care, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, CDC
Clinical Assistant Professor, Emory University Division of Infectious Diseases
Healthcare Epidemiologist, Emory Geriatric and Wesley Woods Center
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Stone is an infectious disease physician who has a research and clinical background in managing infections and antibiotic resistant pathogens in the elderly long-term care population. She completed her Internal Medicine residency and a Clinical Pharmacology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine before moving to Atlanta for an infectious disease fellowship at Emory University. She recently joined the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as their Medical Epidemiologist for Long-term Care. In this role she coordinates and develops infection prevention and surveillance programs for the long-term care setting. She holds a clinical assistant professor appointment in the Emory University Division of Infectious Diseases and also serves as the healthcare epidemiologist for Emory’s geriatric hospital and long-term care facility at Wesley Woods Center. Although not an official advisory committee member, Dr Stone serves as the liaison between DHQP and the GA HAI prevention team. She is a scientific consultant to the Advisory committee and supports many of the State activities for HAI prevention in long-term care facilities.

Renee Watson, BSN, RN, CIC

Manager of Infection Control
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)
Atlanta, GA

Ms. Watson is the Infection Control Manager at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She is a graduate of Darton College and the University of Phoenix in nursing, University of Iowa in Special Education. she completed her certificate in Public Health Management from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She has been involved in epidemiology and public health since 1999. Ms. Watson is currently responsible for the day-to-day operations of the infection prevention and epidemiology program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She is an active member of the local Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) and has served as president on two occasions (2006 and 2008). Ms. Watson is also a member of Georgia Infection Control Network (GIPN) and served as a board member (2000-2003). She has a strong

interest in immunization and served as consultant to the Georgia Public Health educator concerning smallpox (2000-2003). She currently is an expert advisor to the CDC's Safe Immunization Practices Coalition. Ms. Watson was certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology by the CBIC in 2005. She was certified as a High Risk Neonatal Clinician in 1995. She has been published in the "American Journal of Medical Microbiology" (2008), "Neonatal Intensive Care Magazine" (1991), "Georgia Epidemiology Report" (2001), and "Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology" (2010).

Kathryn Arnold, MD

Liaison to GA HAI Advisory Committee

Medical Officer

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Surveillance Branch

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Katie Arnold is a medical epidemiologist in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at the CDC, where she works on surveillance and validation issues for the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), as HAI surveillance undergoes rapid changes in the new environment of public reporting and quality improvement. From 1998 through 2010, Dr. Arnold worked as an infectious diseases epidemiologist at the Georgia Division of Public Health and an investigator with the Georgia Emerging Infections Program. During that time, she oversaw numerous outbreak investigations, was a founder of the GUARD (Georgia United against Antimicrobial-Resistant Disease) Coalition, and helped to launch the Georgia Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Program. Dr. Arnold received her MD degree from Case-Western Reserve University in 1985, and completed her internship and residency at the University Hospitals of Cleveland in combined internal medicine and pediatrics. She has also trained as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the CDC in Bacterial Respiratory Diseases and completed an Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine. Her interests include surveillance of healthcare-associated infections, meningitis, pneumonia, and sepsis caused by invasive bacteria, viral respiratory infections like influenza, and promotion of appropriate antibiotic use.

Mike Brown, RN, BSN, CIC

Infection Control Coordinator

WellStar Paulding Hospital and Nursing Center

Dallas, GA

Mike is the Infection Control Coordinator for WellStar Paulding Hospital and Nursing Center in Dallas, GA and is Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control. He is a graduate of the University of West Georgia and Georgia Highlands College. Mike is a member of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and serves on their Long Term Care Committee.

He is the Long Term Care Liaison for the Board of the Georgia Infection Prevention Network (GIPN). In addition to the Georgia Healthcare Associated Infection Advisory Committee, he is working with GMCF, GDPH, and WellStar on the Community Infection Reduction Collaborative across Acute and Long-term care, and with the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health on the education curriculum for Long Term Care IPs. He co-authored a study on the association between Methamphetamine use and MRSA skin infections published in the journal Emerging Infectious Disease and has presented at professional conferences. Mike frequently provides lectures for local nursing schools on infectious disease and infection control and prevention.

Cyndra C. Bystrom, MSN, RN, CIC

Director of Epidemiology and Employee Health
MCG Health
Augusta, GA

Ms. Bystrom is the Director of Hospital Epidemiology at the MCG Health. She received her Masters Degree as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in adult health from Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah and her BSN in nursing from Ohio State University, Columbus. Ms. Bystrom has been involved in infection control and prevention since 1993. Currently, she is responsible for the MCG Health's Infection Control and Prevention program development, implementation and evaluation. She provides leadership in quality management, regulatory compliance, bioterrorism and outcome measures. She also does consulting for critical access hospitals in her region. Ms. Bystrom facilitates the Infection Control Committee and represents infection control on various committees including Quality Management, Patient Safety, Products Assessment Committee, Nursing Management and Operations and Compliance Joint Commission Preparation teams. She presently is a member of the Medical College IBC. She is past president of the Augusta APIC Chapter and is member of GIPN. She served as GIPN program developer (1998 and 2008) and past Chairman (1999). She presented for CSR/OG on hand hygiene and to the Advisory Board in Washington DC on hand hygiene and outcome monitoring. Ms. Bystrom has also had poster presentation at the national APIC conference.