

Celebrate the
POWER
of PUBLIC HEALTH

GEORGIA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
91ST ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
August 26, 2021

Sponsors

The 91st Annual Meeting and Conference of the Georgia Public Health Association meeting platform is sponsored by the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH), Georgia Southern University. The first school of public health in the state, the JPHCOPH is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The college offers Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees.

Our Undergraduate program is offered on both our Statesboro and Savannah campus locations.

Graduate programs are offered both online and on our Statesboro campus.

The JPHCOPH was established in 2004.



JIANN-PING HSU
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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OF NURSING AND
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EMPOWER the POSSIBLE.

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WELCOME



The past year-and-a-half has been many things – difficult, traumatic, frustrating, and tiring to name a few. There have been many, many times that I’m sure we have all wondered if we would ever see an end to the madness. But these past 18 months have also been something else: Enlightening. The world now knows who we are and what we do. We are public health. We are the ones who take the lead in protecting our communities when faced with something as unparalleled as a global pandemic. I believe that we, as a public health community, have also been enlightened. For years we have developed relationships with our communities and each other. We have taken part in preparedness exercises and drills. We have been getting ready for something we never thought would happen. Then it did. And while it took a minute to get our footing, those relationships and those exercises paid off and we have been plowing full steam ahead, doing everything we can to keep our friends, our families, and our communities safe during this unparalleled crisis.

While I wish that we could all be together in-person to share best practices and lessons learned, we are still not out of the proverbial woods, and it just wouldn’t be prudent to do so. But I am proud of the team that put together this virtual conference so that we can still celebrate the Power of Public Health. So yes, traumatic, frustrating, and tiring it has been, but we are a resilient bunch. I know that we will all continue to fight the good fight and hold our heads high while doing it. Thank you for being part of the 2021 Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference. I look forward to seeing all of you in person next year when we will have even more to celebrate.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawton C. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lawton C. Davis, M.D.

President, Georgia Public Health Association

District Health Director

Coastal Health District

Georgia Department of Public Health

WELCOME



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2021

Georgia Public Health Association
P.O. Box 1549
Griffin, GA 30224

Dear Members and Guests,

It is an honor to welcome you to the 2021 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA). Throughout the past year and a half, public health workers have stepped up to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and proven essential to the safety of their communities.

While your work has been in the public spotlight more recently, your tireless efforts even before the pandemic have set you apart as reliable and trusted leaders across Georgia. The GPHA's work promoting policy that positively impacts Georgians' health, as well as its excellence in health practices, has created a community of professionals that serve the Peach State well.

Congratulations on another year gathering to pursue the valiant goal of keeping Georgians healthy and safe. Thank you for your commitment to serving your communities and promoting the good health of our state. On behalf of the Kemp family and the entire State of Georgia, we wish you the best in your future endeavors, and we hope you have a productive conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Kemp".

Brian P. Kemp

WELCOME



Dear Members:

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Public Health, I am delighted to welcome you to the Georgia Public Health Association's (GPHA) 2021 Annual Meeting and Conference. GPHA's mission to advocate for conditions in which all people and communities can be healthy and to promote the scientific foundation of public health practice and policy is more important now than ever before. With a global pandemic that has required full engagement of public health professionals at all levels, GPHA is poised to support public health by promoting factual information on Covid vaccinations and mitigation efforts to the broader public.

I also want to recognize the tireless efforts of all public health professionals that have spent more than 18 months responding to this global pandemic. The theme of this year's conference is "Celebrate the Power of Public Health", which is important because the power of public health begins with its dedicated professionals. Your selfless work is making a difference in the lives of Georgians every day, and for that I thank you.

Congratulations again on your 91st annual meeting. I wish you all the best for a successful conference this year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen E. Toomey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner and
State Health Officer

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY

Utilizing a virtual platform, the 2021 GPHA Annual Meeting & Conference's goal is to bring together a variety of public health professionals for education that will help them to better serve their individual communities at the conclusion of this meeting. Learners will gain knowledge of current research and practice from around the state of Georgia. Learners will receive information and resources to allow them to improve their practice, which, in many cases, is conducted in rural areas of the state that do not have frequent or reliable access to professional education opportunities.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The 2021 GPHA Annual Meeting & Conference targets all registered nurses, all physicians, all health educators, advanced practice registered nurses and all public health professions.

AGENDA

The 2021 schedule is on pages 9 and 10.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the conference opened on July 1, 2021. It was scheduled to close on August 12, 2021; however, due to overwhelming interest, registration was extended. Same day conference registration is not available.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Presentation titles, speakers and qualifying continuing education topics can be found on page 27.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Contact the following Section Chairs for details on how to apply for continuing education credits.

Nursing

Melissa Green

Nutrition

Cicely Thomas

Environmental Health

Amy Grice

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

SECTION MEETINGS

Section meetings are not available at this conference; however, section meetings should be conducted by no later than Monday, September 27, 2021, so that 2021-2022 section officers can be elected. Following section meetings and no later than September 30, 2021, Section Chairs must submit new officers to GPHA Secretary Cindi Hart. The GPHA Section Officers template is available on the GPHA website (gapha.org).

SILENT AUCTION

We have some fantastic items to bid on this year including getaway packages to Jekyll Island and historic Savannah, an Atlanta Braves basket of swag worth almost \$700 (including 4 lower level home game tickets, \$60 in food/beverage credit, and free parking), a beautifully hand-crafted walking stick, annual passes to Georgia Historic Sites and State Parks, art, sporting goods, a “Marvel-ous” bag of comic book swag, one-night stay in a deluxe queen suite at the Great Wolf Lodge, Wild Adventures family four-pack, and more! The Silent Auction opened on Friday August 13th and will run until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 27th. See details on page 52 on how to create an account on the auction site so that you can bid on items.

CONNECT AND SHARE WITH GPHA DURING THE CONFERENCE!

The GPHA social media team will be updating our Facebook and Twitter accounts during the conference, so follow us for meeting updates, photos and more! Share comments about the conference on GPHA social media sites at:

- [Facebook.com/GeorgiaPublicHealthAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPublicHealthAssociation)
- [Twitter.com/GaPubHealth](https://twitter.com/GaPubHealth)

Use hash tag #gapha on Facebook and #GPHA2021 on Twitter!

FULL MEETING AGENDA

*The conference will open one hour before the opening session begins at 9 a.m. If you are having trouble logging on to Zoom, please use this Zoom test link:

<https://georgiasouthern.zoom.us/test>

If you are still experiencing difficulties, please call 912-478-7904 or email apeden@georgiasouthern.edu.

Conference Opening Session

Welcome** 9 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Keynote Speaker 9:15 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Dr. Judith Monroe, President and CEO, CDC Foundation

Education/breakout sessions 10:05 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Environmental Health

Oreta M. Samples, BS, MPH, DHSc and Kingsley Kalu, M.D., MPH, Fort Valley State University

Epidemiology

Michelle Allen, Georgia Department of Public Health

Nursing

Ms. Jackie Mesenbrink MPH, CHES, Georgia Southern University

Nutrition

Jessica White, MS, RD, NBC-HWC, Georgia State University

Break (please remain logged in) 11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

2020 Award Recipient Recognition 11:15 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

FULL MEETING AGENDA

GPHA Closing Business Meeting

11:40 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Passing the Gavel

Adjourn

1 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(Executive Board members remain logged in)

*** Conference business meeting documents are included in the syllabus*

ABOUT GPHA

The Georgia Public Health Association is a non-profit corporation and is organized for the purpose of promoting the public and personal health of the citizens of Georgia.

GPHA VISION STATEMENT

Healthy Georgians, Living in Healthy Communities

The premier association committed to excellence in public health practices throughout Georgia.

MISSION

- To advocate for conditions in which all people and communities can be healthy.
- To promote the scientific foundation of public health practice and policy.
- To assure a continuous voice broadly representing public health in Georgia.

PRINCIPLES

Public health is what everyone in the community does to improve health.

WE BELIEVE IN:

- Collaboration/partnership
- National public health practice standards
- Community development
- Population-based practice
- Cultural competency
- Prevention/health promotion
- Diversity and inclusivity
- Science-based practice
- Ethical behavior
- Social justice
- Membership development & Systems Thinking
- Involvement
- Workforce development

2019 MEETING MINUTES

Georgia Public Health Association 90th Annual Meeting and Conference Business Session

The business session for the 90th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Georgia Public Health Association was called to order by President Colin Smith on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at the Westin Buckhead, Atlanta, Ga. Board Secretary Cindi Hart and Membership Chair Sally Silbermann confirmed a quorum was present.

Board Secretary Cindi Hart presented the Credentials Report. The total number of persons registered for the beginning session of the 90th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Georgia Public Health Association was 540. The credentials report was adopted.

President Elect Chris Rustin presented the 90th Annual Meeting and Conference Program for adoption. Jessica Pavlick made the motion and Amber Erickson seconded the motion. The program was adopted.

Board Secretary Cindi Hart entered the minutes into the record and moved to adopt the minutes of the 2019 Georgia Public Health Association business session. The minutes of the 2019 business session were accepted as read and will be filed in the Georgia Public Health Association's official records.

Board Treasurer Candace Christian presented and moved for adoption of the Finance Committee Report of the Georgia Public Health Association Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, Financial Report on Page 19 of the 90th Annual Meeting & Conference Program. Total Assets \$174,698.01, Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$174,698.0. Motion seconded by Amber Erickson. The financial report was adopted.

The GPHA Annual Audit ending June 30, 2018, is in the final steps of be completed by an independent auditor, Hill, Wingate, and James. The audit will be placed on the GPHA website for review.

Sally Silbermann the membership chair presented the membership report. We have 540 registered for the conference. 763 general membership, 7 retired members, 66 honoree members, 289 Career Development Members, 1008 Boards of Health and 35 organizational memberships and has a total membership of 2,168.

2019 MEETING MINUTES

The slate of officers received from the Nominating Committee and approved by the Georgia Public Health Association Executive Committee, were presented to the membership by President-Elect Dr. Lawton Davis. Nominees were President-Elect, Chris Rustin; Vice President, Saroyi Morris; Secretary, Cindi Hart; Treasurer, Morris Hutcheson; American Public Health Association Representative, Jimmie Smith. In accordance with the Bylaws the President-Elect Dr. Lawton Davis will ascend to the Office of President and Vice President Chris Rustin will ascend to the Office of President-Elect at the conclusion of the 90th Annual Meeting and Conference. There being no further nominations from the floor, the slate was accepted by acclamation.

Yvette Daniels on behalf of the bylaw committee will move for the acceptance of the revision to Article V Sections Section1 to effectively re-word the bylaws to change primary health care and rural health to primary healthcare and rural health section. This was seconded by Candice Christian. The edit to the bylaw is accepted.

Following remarks to the attendees, current President Colin Smith passed the gavel onto the Georgia Public Health Association 2019-2020 President, Dr. Lawton Davis, who offered remarks and adjourned the meeting.

Minutes prepared by;

Board Secretary, Cindi Hart

May 2019

FINANCIAL REPORT



Georgia Public Health Association Virtual Conference, August 26, 2021

You will find the annual form 990 for fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, as prepared by the accounting firm of Haisten and Johnston, P.C. of Jackson, Georgia located on the GPHA website (gapha.org).

The bi-annual audit for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 will be issued in late 2021 and will be available on the website upon approval by the board.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to GPHA treasurer, Morris Hutcheson at morris.hutcheson@dph.ga.gov

Thank you for your support of public health in Georgia.



Morris Hutcheson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Georgia Public Health Association's current membership consists of:

143 General Members

5 Retirees

22 Honorary Members

33 Career Development Members

13 Boards of Health

5 Organizational members

221 Total Membership

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has prepared a slate of nominees for elected officers. Each member has been confirmed as meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in the Association Bylaws and each has agreed to serve.

Nominated for Secretary: Cindi Hart

Nominated for Treasurer: Morris Hutcheson

Nominated for Vice President: Dr. Stephen Goggans

Nominated for Representatives at Large: Dr. Diane Weems, Carla Coley

Nominated for APHA Representative: Dr. Jimmie Smith

Dr. Chris Rustin currently holds the office of President-Elect and in accordance with the GPHA Bylaws will ascend to the office of President at the conclusion of the conference.

Dr. Saroyi Morris currently holds the office of Vice President and in accordance with the GPHA Bylaws will ascend to the office of President Elect at the conclusion of the conference.

2021 Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of the Georgia Public Health Association

ARTICLE V SECTIONS

Section 1. The Association may consist of the following Sections: Academic, Administration, Behavioral Health, Boards of Health, Career Development, Safety and Health Preparedness, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Health Education and Promotion, Health Information and Information Technology, Laboratory, Maternal and Child Health, Medical-Dental, Nursing, Nutrition, and Primary Health Care and Rural Health Rural Health/Primary Health Care and Communications.

For a complete copy of the current bylaws, visit: <https://www.gapha.org/about-gpha/>

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA)

REPORT

To: Georgia Public Health Association Board of Directors

From: Jimmie H. Smith, Jr., MD, MPH
Affiliate Representative to Governing Council (ARGC)
of the American Public Health Association (APHA)

Subject: 2020-2021 Summary

Date: August 18, 2021

While APHA is the national voice on public health, it could not succeed without the complementary efforts of its Affiliates. Since 1918, APHA's 53 state and regional public health associations have championed the same goals as APHA to promote, protect and advocate for the public's health. As the Georgia affiliate, we are independently established and have their own infrastructure, policies, processes, and procedures. We participate, implement, and advocate on behalf of various public health issues through our annual meeting, program development, continuing education, professional development, and advocating on behalf of good state public health policy and legislation.

The strategic priorities of APHA are built around its vision to create the healthiest nation in one generation. The three overarching priorities are to 1) ensure the right to health and health care, 2) create health equity, and 3) build public health infrastructure and capacity. As *Generation Public Health* is a movement of people, communities and organizations, a set of initial, measurable metrics to give us snapshots of our progress toward creating the healthiest nation have been established. They include:

- **Life Expectancy-** Increase life expectancy; Increase healthy life expectancy at birth.
- **Education-** Increase on-time high school graduation (domestically) and increase high school graduation rate (internationally)
- **Healthy Communities-** Reduce firearm-related deaths, increase social and emotional support, increase proportion of adults with good or better mental health, increase proportion of adults with good or better physical health (domestically); Reduce assault by firearm, increase social vs. health

care spending, increase having someone to rely on in time of need, improve happiness (general satisfaction with life) (internationally)

- **Income Mobility-** Increase number of persons living above federal poverty level
- **Food and Nutrition-** Increase the number of children and adults to a healthy weight (BMI 18-24.99)
- **Environments-** Improve air quality by reducing the number of days Air Quality Index exceeds 100 (weighted) and (internationally) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Reduce CO2 emissions
- **Healthy Behavior and Choices-** Increase non-smoking adults to 88%
- **Health Care-** Increase access to physical, mental, and oral health care to 100 percent (proportion with medical insurance), 49 percent (proportion who use oral health care system)

Georgia remains an active member of the Council of Affiliates, and in 2019, I was selected to represent Region IV within the Council of Affiliates. Region IV includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia. This additional duty includes attending monthly CoA meetings and keeping the ARGCS in Region IV informed of APHA activities. These activities have included promoting trainings in advocacy and leadership, participating in the mid-year meeting of the Governing Council, actively participating on one of the CoA committees, attending and participating in all Governing Council sessions during the APHA Annual Meeting. As these trainings are shared with APHA members electronically, I will not re-list them in this summary, but they can be accessed at www.apha.org.

As your ARGCS, I have actively participated in all aspects of APHA as required and per Georgia Public Health Association Bylaws. I did fully participate in the 2020 Annual Meeting Governing Council sessions utilizing the virtual format. In early 2021, members of the Governing Council voted to attend the 2021 APHA Annual Meeting, in person. I am registered for this conference and do plan to attend in person unless APHA advises the Governing Council to amend the plans.

2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Lawton C. Davis, MD

President-Elect

R. Chris Rustin, DrPH, MS,
REHS

Vice President

Saroyi C. Morris, DrPH,
MHS

Secretary

Cindi R. Hart, RN, MSN

Treasurer

Morris Hutcheson

Ex-officio Parliamentarian

Yvette Daniels, JD

OFFICES

APHA Representative

Jimmie H. Smith, Jr., MD, MPH

NALBOH Representative

Ted Toles

Representative At-Large

Diane Weems, MD

Representative At-Large

Carla Coley, REHS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Colin K. Smith, DrPH, MS, CPH

SECTION OFFICERS

Academic

Chair – Angie Peden
Vice Chair – Yvette Daniels
Secretary – Susie Hammock

Administration

Chair – Valerie Price
Vice Chair – Morris Hutcheson
Secretary – Joanne Strickland

Boards of Health

Chair – Ted Toles
Vice Chair – Peggy Martin
Secretary – Debbie Heard

Career Development

Faculty Chair – TimMarie Williams
Student Chair – Dwight Williams, Jr.
Vice Chair – Vanessa Morman
Secretary – Michaela-E Hazine

Environmental Health

Chair – Amy Grice
Vice Chair – Corey
Millwood
Secretary – Tiffany Thuy-Vi Nguyen

Epidemiology

Chair – Jessica Pavlick
Vice Chair – Rachel Franklin
Secretary – Amber Erickson

Health Education and Promotion

Chair – Scotti Rowser
Vice Chair – Tanesha Slocumb
Secretary – Addison Mickens

Health Information & Information Technology

Chair – Betty McCall
Vice Chair – Nick Burke
Secretary – James York

Laboratory

Chair – Mathews Athiyal
Vice Chair – Kim Kilgour
Secretary – Tamara Simmons

Maternal and Child Health

Chair – Jeannine Galloway
Vice Chair – Paige Jones
Secretary – Mitzi Fears
Treasurer – Kiara Loud

Medical/Dental

Chair – Dwayne Turner
Vice Chair – Adam Barefoot
Secretary – Jorge Bernal

Nursing

Chair – Melissa Green
Vice Chair – Teresa Evans
Secretary – Jennifer Burkholder

Nutrition

Chair – Cicely Thomas
Vice Chair – Courtney Underwood
Secretary – Barbara Stahnke

Rural Health

Chair – Charles Owens
Vice Chair – Asli Aslan
Secretary – Morris
Hutcheson

Safety and Health Preparedness

Chair – Natasha Dixon
Vice Chair – Yesenia Arreguin
Secretary – Vacant

GPHA LEADERSHIP

2020-2021 COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE

Awards
Bylaws
Career Development
Corporate Sponsorship
DPH Liaison
Finance
Historian
jGPHA Editor-in-Chief
Jim Alley Fund
Legislative Educator
Marketing & Publicity
Membership
Memorials
Nominating
Past President's Council
Policy & Advocacy
Public Health Week
Sellers-McCroan Lecture and Award
Strategic Planning

CHAIRPERSON

Ashton Harris, MPH
Yvette Daniels
Tim Marie Williams & Dwight Williams
Ted Toles
Yvette Daniels
Morris Hutcheson
Christy Sims
Raymona Lawrence, DrPH
Mark Ellis
Scott Maxwell
Jennifer King
Sally Silbermann
Patrina Bowles
R. Chris Rustin, DrPH, MS, REHS
Colin K. Smith, DrPH, MS, CPH
Diane Weems, MD & Carla Coley
Jimmie H. Smith, Jr., MD, MPH
R. Chris Rustin, DrPH, MS, REHS
Colin K. Smith, DrPH, MS

ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Conference Planning
Abstracts Review / Workshops
Audio/Visual
Board of Health Training
Continuing Education Accreditation
Conference Photographer
Exhibits
PH Accreditation Training
Posters
Registration
Silent Auction
Volunteer Coordinators
Worksite Wellness

CHAIRPERSON

Saroyi C. Morris, DrPH, MHS
Cindi Hart
Tony Clark
Ted Toles
Regina Abbott, MPA
Courtney Sheeley
Christy Sims
Angie Peden, MPH
Jimmie Smith, Jr., MD, MPH
Patrina Bowles
Patrina Bowles
Tim Marie Williams
Carmen Daniel

A special thanks to the 2021 Annual Meeting Committee for organizing this year's conference!

GPHA PAST PRESIDENTS

1929	J. D. Applewhite	1959	J. F. Hackney, MD	1989	Bobby C. Robbins
1930	H. L. Akridge	1960	C. Dexter Kimsey	1990	Donald K. Speaks
1931	G. T. Crozier	1961	T. O. Vinson, MD	1991	Janice Mooney
1932	Eugene E. Murphey	1962	Carl Fox	1992	Jane C. Carr
1933	V. B. Elmore, MD	1963	Dorothy Barfield	1993	Mark Trail
1934	O. H. Cheek	1964	A. Faegin Parrish	1994	Margaret Bean
1935	M. A. Fort	1965	Hart S. Odom, MD	1995	Virginia Galvin, MD
1936	Hugo Robinson	1966	William Johnson, DDS	1996	Dee Cantrell, MD
1937	Hugo Robinson	1967	Mark R. Harbison	1997	Kathleen Miner, PhD
1938	C. O. Rainey	1968	Thomas F. Gibson	1998	Susan Butler, EdD
1939	W. W. Brown	1969	Dixon R. Olive, Jr.	1999	Jannell Knight, MSA
1940	S. C. Rutland	1970	John E. McCroan, PhD	2000	Ecleamus L. Ricks, MPH
1941	W. H. Weir	1971	J. B. Eller	2001	J. Paul Newell, MD
1942	J. R. Evans	1972	Norman Pursley, MD	2002	Lisa M. Carlson, MPH, CHES
1943	J. E. Lester	1973	David Wolf	2003	Paul J. Wiesner, MD
1944	J. E. Lester	1974	Rufus Davis	2004	Lynne Feldman, MD, MPH
1945	E. J. Sunkes	1975	Myrtle Tomlin	2005	William C. Fields, MBA
1946	E. J. Sunkes	1976	James F. O'Kelley	2006	William C. Fields, MBA
1947	Abe J. Davis	1977	Earl E. Long	2007	J. Frederick Agel
1948	M. E. Winchester	1978	Eugenia (Mickie) Mobley	2008	W. Douglas Skelton, MD
1949	C. A. Henderson	1979	Laura E. Bramblett	2009	Russ Toal, MPH
1950	J. A. Thrash	1980	Thomas W. McKinley	2010	Alpha F. Bryan, MD
1951	C. D. Bowdoin	1981	J. David Smith	2011	Alpha F. Bryan, MD
1952	Bessie F. Swan	1982	E. Joseph Alderman, DDS	2012	Todd Jones
1953	Joel C. Beall	1983	R. E. (Bodie) Adams	2013	Regina Abbott, MPA
1954	C. S. Buchanan		W. Douglas Skelton, MD	2014	Kathryn Martin, PhD, MPH
1955	J. G. Williams	1985	James Mallory	2015	Deborah Riner, CHt
1956	W. D. Lundquist, MD	1986	James W. Alley, MD	2016	Johanna Hinman, MPH, CHES
1957	L. G. Lenert	1987	Bill Mahaffey	2017	Selina A. Smith, PhD, MDiv
1958	Ernest B. Davis	1988	Audrey Hollingsworth	2018	Dianne McWethy, MPA
				2019	Colin K. Smith, DrPH, MS, CPH

GPHA HONORARY MEMBERS

1950	Dr. Guy S. Lunsford	1988	Ruth B. Melber, M.A.	2004	Nova Jane McCombs, MSN
1951	Mildred Selman	1989	Maggie M. Kline, M.A.		Carol C. Smith, RN, BSN
	Charles L. Tinsley	1990	Rex Poole	2005	J. Paul Newell, MD
1954	Dr. Herbert G. Schenck	1991	Bill Mahaffey		Paul J. Wiesner, MD
1955	Janie F. Morris		Eugenia (Mickie) Mobley	2006	Ted Holloway, MD
1961	Louva G. Lenert	1992	Harry L. Carr		Rosemarie B. Newman
1964	Dr. Thomas F. Sellers, Sr	1993	Dr. James C. Crutcher	2007	William C. Fields, MBA
1965	Mayola S. Carter	1994	Dr. Norman B. Pursley		Michael E. Chaney
1966	Annie J. Taylor		Audrey Hollingsworth	2008	J. Ferrell Curlee
1975	Dr. John Venable	1996	Dr. Joseph Wilbur		Lynne D. Feldman, MD, MPH
	Calvin Buchanan		Marie Edmondson	2009	Janelle R. Knight, MSA
1976	Dr. T. O. Vinson	1997	Barbara Shurling		Kathleen E. Toomey, MD
	Dr. Robert J. Walker	1998	E. Joseph Alderman, DDS	2011	Gary Nelson, PhD
1978	A. Faegin Parrish		Dee Cantrell, PNC, PhD	2012	Regina Abbott, MPA
	Laura E. Bramblett	1999	Eclemus L. Ricks, MPH		Robert V. Taylor
	Myrtle F. Tomlin		Margaret J. Park	2013	Christy Sims, RN, APRN, WHNP-BC
	Dr. John E. McCroan, Jr.	2000	Margaret Bean, BSN, MS, MN	2014	Lisa Carlson, MPH, CHES
1984	David Clark	2001	Patricia H. Southwell		C. Todd Jones
1984	Louise Clark	2002	Marie Dobbs Barnes	2015	Governor Nathan Deal
1985	Dr. Wilbur D. Lundquist		Russ Toal, MPH		Olivia Mallichek
1986	Dr. William A. Mason	2003	Pamela K. Thompson	2017	Diane Weems, MD
1987	Dr. Douglas Skelton		Kathy Miner		C. Wade Sellers, MD, MPH
				2020	Ronald J. Boone

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Judith Monroe, president and CEO of the CDC Foundation, has dedicated her career to protecting people and saving lives. She joined the CDC Foundation in February 2016 as president and CEO, following her role as a deputy director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and director of CDC's Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.

In her work at the CDC Foundation, Dr. Monroe advances priority programs that improve the health of people across America and around the world. The CDC Foundation mobilizes philanthropic and private-sector resources to support CDC's critical health protection work, managing hundreds of programs in the United States and in more than 140 countries.

The CDC Foundation is actively supporting CDC and U.S. health departments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and support to low- and middle-income countries. Under Dr. Monroe's leadership, the CDC Foundation has provided support to disproportionately affected populations; procured personal protection equipment for frontline health workers; hired over a 1,000 surge staff for all 50 states, six large cities, tribal organizations and territories; supported data solutions for contact tracing. In addition, the CDC Foundation is supporting communications and clinical research, including a portfolio with a focus on health equity. The CDC Foundation is providing technical assistance and grants to community-based organizations to assure vaccine access and partnering with cross-sectoral leaders to provide expert panel discussions and scenario planning to help safely reopen the U.S. economy.

The CDC Foundation responded to the Zika epidemic as an implementing partner in addition to mobilizing resources; supported the response and recovery from the 2017 hurricane season; and serves as a strategic partner to CDC for global health security.

Prior to the CDC Foundation, Dr. Monroe oversaw key activities and technical assistance at CDC supporting the nation's health departments and the public health system. Throughout the 2014–15 Ebola epidemic she served as senior advisor for the domestic response. During her tenure as the state health commissioner for Indiana she served as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials through the H1N1 pandemic. She envisioned and founded the ASTHO president's challenge in 2008. This leadership platform resulted in initiatives with significant health improvements and focus of ASTHO annual meetings.

Dr. Monroe currently serves on the board of directors for the Center for Global Health Innovation, was appointed by Governor Holcomb to co-chair a public health commission for Indiana, is a member of the Milken Institute's Public Health Advisory Board, the COVID Collaborative, the Advisory Council of the Pandemic Action Network and the APHA Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response. Additionally, she served as a member of the World Health Organization Foundation's Advisory group to establish the WHO Foundation.

Among her many awards, Dr. Monroe was recognized in August 2021 as one of Atlanta's Most Admired CEOs for 2021 by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*; in October 2020 she was awarded the United Way of

Greater Atlanta with the Woman of Excellence Award for her unwavering commitment to serving the community; and in 2019 she received the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce MAC Heroes of Global Health award and the APHA Presidential Citation. CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity also recognized her in 2020 as their Summer Health Equity Champion. And, in 2019, she received the American Public Health Association's Presidential Citation for her work to improve the health and well-being of people around the world, and for her commitment to the future of public health as a mentor to young physicians and public health students.

Dr. Monroe received her doctor of medicine from the University of Maryland and a bachelor of science degree from Eastern Kentucky University. She completed her residency in family medicine at the University of Cincinnati, a rural faculty development fellowship through East Tennessee State University, and a mini-fellowship in obstetrics through the University of Wisconsin. She also participated in the State Health Leadership Initiative at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and received an honorary doctorate from Purdue University in Health and Human Services.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TITLE	PRESENTERS(S)
There is no Me without You: Crosscutting Strategies to Enhance Service Delivery	Michelle Allen, Georgia Department of Public Health <i>Moderator:</i> Jessica Pavlick, DrPH, MPH
Prevalence of Zoonotic Diseases in White-Tail Deer and Potential for Infection of Hunters, Taxidermists and Game Processors	Oreta M. Samples, BS, MPH, DHSc; Kingsley Kalu, M.D., MPH, Fort Valley State University <i>Moderator:</i> Amy Grice, MPH, REHS
The Role of Bystanders in Creating Safe Environments: A Call to Action	Ms. Jackie Mesenbrink MPH, CHES, Georgia Southern University <i>Moderator:</i> Melissa Green, RN
Your Health, Nutrition and COVID-19	Jessica White, MS, RD, NBC-HWC, Georgia State University <i>Moderator:</i> Cecily Thomas, M.Ed, RDN, LD

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS



Michelle L. Allen is the Infectious Diseases Section Director for the Georgia Department of Public Health. In this role, Mrs. Allen provides leadership to ensure that statewide programs and prevention services work in tandem to produce tangible results.

Mrs. Allen's dedication to public health is widely recognized and she most recently served as the Ex-Officio for Board of Directors for the National Coalition of STD Directors. Previously, she sat on the Advisory Board for the STD/HIV Prevention Training Center at John Hopkins

University.

She has received several awards for her dedication to the area of Public Health including being the first recipient of the Brenda Fitzgerald Leadership Award from the Georgia Department of Public Health. She was also honored to receive the 2014 Janet Stancliff Epidemiology Award from the Georgia Public Health Association. She was the proud recipient of the 2015 Red Pump Award for her work in HIV/AIDS, and the 2015 Flame Thrower Award for her work in public health. In 2017 she received the Catalyst for Change from Above the Status Quo. In 2019 she received the Community MVP Award from Nu Phi Zeta Fraternity, Inc.

Mrs. Allen is a force for change in the state of Georgia and continues to forge a formidable presence not only on the state level, but the national level as well. She has been an invited conference speaker at several national conferences including the National STD Conference, the HIV Prevention Leadership Conference, the American Public Health Association Conference, and the National Latino HIV and HCV Conference.

Although her passion for public health is unyielding, she is equally dedicated to her sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and commits herself to community service. Mrs. Allen is a proud alumnus of Georgia Southern University, and currently enrolled in Emory University (Rollins School of Public Health).

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS



Dr. Oreta Samples is a 1994 graduate of Fort Valley State University holding both a BS and AAS in Veterinary Technology, a Master's Degree in the field of Public Health (Concentration Environmental Health) (2005) and a Doctorate in Health Sciences (DHSc) from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL in 2008. As an Associate Professor, she currently serves as Program Coordinator for the MPH Program at Fort Valley State University, her alma mater where she has worked in a variety of roles for the past 26 years including adjunct instructor teaching biology labs and Lead Veterinary Technologist where she taught veterinary clinical pathology, veterinary parasitology,

and microbiology.

As a writer, her publications include several book chapters and articles related to veterinary clinical pathology, parasitology and public health in both scientific and freelance publications as well as serving as Co-Editor for the 9th and 10th edition of McCurnin's Textbook for Veterinary Technicians. She is also published in the genre of public health both locally and at the state level. She served as the Book Review Editor for VSPN.org for 15 years as well as editor of the Georgia Veterinary Technicians and Assistants newsletter (for 4 years). She is a past-founding committee member of the Academy of Veterinary Clinical Pathology Technicians (AVCPT). She serves on the Editorial Board of NAVTA and is a Member of the NAVTA Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Assistants. She is currently anticipating the publication of her first lab manual of clinical pathology for veterinary technicians in 2021 with Teton New Media.

Her research interests revolve predominantly around veterinary public health topics such as parasitology, zoonotic diseases and public health issues which surround veterinary medicine and the One Health Model. In her free time, when not spending time with the family, she pursues freelance writing, reading, speaking to veterinary technician organizations, and painting in watercolor media.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS



Dr. Kingsley Kalu hails originally from Nigeria where he studied medicine and surgery at the University of Jos Teaching Hospital in Plateau, Nigeria where he graduated in 2010. He served a surgical internship/residency at Abubakar University Teaching Hospital before beginning his own medical/surgical practice at Osuntuyi Medical Center in Agege, Lagos, Nigeria. He completed his MPH degree with a concentration in Environmental Health in 2018 at Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA where he was subsequently employed by the Department of Veterinary Science and Public

Health where he continues to assist with Veterinary Anatomy labs and Veterinary Microbiology Veterinary and Medical Terminology as needed. He also is engaged in veterinary medical research of zoonotic diseases in North American wildlife species alongside his mentor Dr. Oreta Samples. A frequent presenter at state and local meetings, he currently resides in Fort Valley, Georgia while studying for his US Medical competency exams.



Jessica White MS, RD, NBC-HWC is currently a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Nutrition at Georgia State University. Jessica was previously a clinical dietitian with Grady Memorial Hospital, serving the acute care for the elderly unit, the acute care stroke unit, and surgical ICU. She was the lead dietitian on the acute care for the elderly team from 2015 to 2018. In addition, she is currently the Critical Care Preceptor for the Coordinated Program students at Grady Memorial Hospital. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in dietetics and a

Master of Science in health science, nutrition concentration, from Georgia State University. She also earned her National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching Certificate in 2020 and is starting a Health Coaching program at Georgia State University.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS



Jacquelyn Mesenbrink completed her MPH at Georgia Southern University and holds a B.S. in Biology from Iowa State University. She is currently enrolled at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University working to achieve her DrPH with a concentration in Leadership.

Jacquelyn has presented at various conferences throughout the country including American Public Health Association, Georgia Public Health Association, and Georgia State University Conference. She has held a multitude of leadership positions including Dean's Advisory Committee, Graduate Student Organization, Georgia Public Health Association Career Development Board, Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, and Georgia Southern University Strategic Planning Board for Teaching and Research. Jacquelyn has been awarded the Graduate Student Leadership and Service Award, APHA Sexual Violence Photovoice Award, Iowa State University Employee of the Year, and Best Graduate Poster Presentation at APHA Conference. In her previous work as a Health Promotion Graduate Assistant, she was responsible for the development, implementation, assessment, and maintenance of health programs for the Armstrong Campus of Georgia Southern University.

She currently works full-time at Georgia Southern University, serves as a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team, and advises the Sexual Assault Student Educators. As a public health leader, Jacquelyn strives to advocate for health equity, to create a culture of wellness, and to actively engage others in changing behaviors through best-practice prevention initiatives.

GPHA AWARDS AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

It takes the extraordinary effort of many to build healthier communities in Georgia and encourage everyone to invest in public health. GPHA would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding service of just a few of those during this year's Annual Meeting and Conference.

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS

Fred Agel Governance Award

The Fred Agel Governance Award is a Boards of Health Section award to recognize outstanding commitment and service in the promotion of public health.

Administration Outstanding Service Award

The Administrative Section Outstanding Service Award was first given in 2013. This award is presented to someone who has demonstrated exceptional public service by enhancing the fiscal and administrative areas in support of providing public health services to the community.

Applied Epidemiologist of the Year Award

The Applied Epidemiologist of the Year is an annual award for outstanding contributions to the field of applied epidemiology. This award recognizes one applied epidemiologist each year for contributions that resulted in translating epidemiologic evidence to clinical, public health, or health policy applications within the state of Georgia.

Stancliff Boone Communicable Disease Specialist Award

The Stancliff Boone Communicable Disease Specialist Award is an annual award for outstanding contributions to the critical work done by communicable disease specialist. This award recognizes one communicable disease specialist for contributions that resulted in positive disease intervention activities within the state of Georgia. This award is named to honor both Janet Stancliff, who worked efficiently and effectively to promote the collection of critical data by epidemiologists statewide for the state STD office, and Ronald Boone, who worked as a communicable disease specialist for the North Central Health District in Macon, GA for 25 years and was an active member of the Epidemiology Section of the Georgia Public Health Association throughout his tenure with public health.

J. Patrick O'Neal Safety & Health Preparedness Award

The J. Patrick O'Neal Georgia Public Health Association Safety and Health Preparedness Section Award was established in 2018 in honor of Dr. J. Patrick O'Neal who served as

Commissioner and Director for Health Protection at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) where he had oversight responsibility for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Trauma, Emergency Preparedness, Epidemiology, Infectious Disease, Immunizations, and Environmental Health. The annual award is to be presented to an individual who has contributed to the work of Emergency Preparedness and Response to recognize outstanding commitment and service in the promotion of public health safety and preparedness.

Nutrition Outstanding Leadership Award

The Nutrition Section of the GPHA proposes a new award to recognize members' achievements, determination, and efforts. The Outstanding Leadership Award seeks to distinguish Nutrition Support Staff who have consistently shown dedication to their work and have supported others with guidance and positive attitude. It is the second award proposed by the Nutrition Section—the first award being The Rosemarie Newman Nutrition Award which pursues to acknowledge those whose contributions resulted in improved outcomes to individuals or families in the community. Unlike the Rosemarie Newman Award, The Outstanding Leadership Award focuses on one individual whose contributions have helped promote growth within their program by continuously demonstrating leadership skills. The award also aims to bring attention to individuals whose work often goes without recognition yet enhances the program's achievement. Nutrition Supportive Staff are vital for organizations' success; therefore, it is crucial to acknowledge their diligence and commitment.

Rosemarie B. Newman Nutrition Extra Mile Award

The Rosemarie B. Newman Nutrition Extra Mile Award was established to recognize outstanding achievements in the area of nutrition.

Georgia Dental Award of Merit

Initiated in 1989, the Georgia Dental Public Health Award is presented to an individual or organization by the Georgia Department of Public Health Oral Health Section and the Georgia Public Health Association Medical-Dental Section for outstanding services and contributions to the Georgia Dental Public Health Program nationally, regionally, statewide, and/or locally.

Larry W. Miller Health Information Specialist Award

The Health Information Specialist of the Year Award began in 1998 and is presented to a member of the Information Technology Section. The Health Information Specialist of the Year Award was established to recognize individuals for their professional contributions to managing, analyzing, producing, and communicating health information.

Kathy Miner Health Education & Promotion Award

The Kathy Miner Award was established to recognize outstanding achievements in the area of health education and promotion.

Lillian D. Wald Public Health Nursing Award

The Lillian D. Wald Public Health Nursing Leadership Award honors the memory of Lillian Wald, the founder of American Community Nursing. She was known as an advocate for the poor and a human rights activist who founded the Henry Street Settlement in New York City in 1893, which changed the model for public health care delivery in New York. She advocated for nurses in public schools and coined the term “public health nurse” to describe nurses whose work is integrated into the public community. The purpose of this award is to recognize demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness in developing efforts to improve the health of the public through advocacy by way of political, legislative, professional or interdisciplinary collaboration.

Maggie Kline Nursing Award

The Maggie Kline Nursing Award was established in 1989 to honor Maggie Kline who, for several years, coordinated the continuing education program for public health nurses in Georgia. Maggie was committed to ensuring that nurses were provided ongoing education and training to utilize best practices in their delivery of services to clients and to develop the associated skills necessary to do so. This award is specifically designed to recognize a new comer to public health nursing who demonstrates: excellence in the execution of public health programs or services, creative or innovative approaches to practices that results in improved utilization of public health programs and services, and exemplary nursing practice that employs the use of individual and population-based care.

Barfield Nursing Award

The Barfield Nursing Section Award was initiated by the Nursing Section of the Georgia Public Health Association in 1983 to honor Dorothy Barfield. Ms. Barfield was a lifelong learner who rose up the ranks in the nursing profession, eventually serving as chief nurse at the state level. The purpose of this award is to recognize written works, presentations or projects, including research, that promote public health by contributing to public health issues, programs, evidence and philosophies.

Ruth B. Freeman Award for Population Health Practice

The Ruth B. Freeman award was established to honor Ruth B. Freeman, who provided standards for the nursing profession, standardized nursing practice, and advocated for the further education and educational equality of nurses by insisting that nurses have the same status and curriculum as physicians and other professionals in public health degree programs. In doing so, Ruth B. Freeman contributed to the legitimization of nurses as equitable members of the healthcare team. This award is specifically designed to recognize a public health nurse who engages the use of evidence-based practices to develop and deliver public health interventions to high-risk groups and individuals through data mining, community health assessment, and engagement and mobilization of coalitions and partnerships. This nurse demonstrates the use analytical models to determine and present outcomes of interventions and uses outcomes to advocate for population groups within the community, recommend public health policy, and/or enforce health statutes and regulation.

GPHA AWARD RECIPIENTS

FRED AGEL GOVERNANCE AWARD

Carol S. Holtz, RN, PhD



Dr. Carol Holtz, professor emeritus of nursing at Kennesaw State University retired in August, 2018 after 38 years of working as a nursing faculty member. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati, her Master's Degree in Nursing from Georgia State University, and her PhD in Nursing also from Georgia State University. At KSU she taught nursing in all three programs, which included Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degree programs. In addition, she taught nursing at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Prior to teaching, Dr. Holtz worked as a staff nurse at Cincinnati General Hospital (now called University Hospital), in Cincinnati, Ohio, Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., Memorial Medical Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, and St John's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Since leaving KSU, Dr. Holtz continued to keep her position as Chair of the Cobb County Board of Health, as well as Chair of the Cobb County Community Services Board (serving mental health, drug abuse and children and adults with

developmental delays). She is also one of six community members who serve on Cobb County's Congregation Etz Chaim Synagogue Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Holtz was selected as one of 15 LIVESAFE Resources Women of Achievement Nominees for Cobb County women for 2019.

Her husband of 53 years, Dr. Noel Holtz, a neurologist, and their 13 grandchildren, all reside in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Holtz just completed the 4th edition of her textbook, *Global Healthcare*, published by Jones and Bartlett publishers of Boston, MA. Dr. Holtz has a passion for traveling. While teaching at KSU, she developed and taught a study abroad program in Oaxaca, Mexico for 22 consecutive years, and continues to travel there, now taking her husband and grandchildren, as well as going with other faculty members. She is a very active member of the International Transcultural Nursing Society, having been an associate editor of their *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, and working in a smaller specially selected "scholar's group". She also actively participates in Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society. Her future plans include continued international travel with family and also with KSU retired faculty, and to continue as chair of the Cobb County Board of Health and the Cobb Community Services Board.

ADMINISTRATION OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Randy McCall



Dr. Randy McCall started his public health career in 1989 in Environmental Health at the Camden County Health Department. In 1999, he became Program Manager for the Coastal Health District and then in 2009, he took on the role of Administrator for the Chatham County Health Department. As Administrator, Dr. McCall oversees all programs (Clinical, Environmental Health, and Vital Records) and the day-to-day operations of two health department locations and more than 100 employees.

Many progressive and innovative things have taken place in Chatham County under his leadership. He oversaw the demolition of the old health department on Eisenhower Drive which had been in existence since the 1940s and subsequent construction of a new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Health Department. Not long after construction of the new health department on one side of town, Dr. McCall supervised the complete renovation of the second Chatham County Health Department location in downtown Savannah which took over a year. He did all this in a fiscally responsible manner, ensuring that all work was completed on time and on budget.

With those two major projects out of the way, Dr. McCall sought out a new challenge and in early 2019, began oversight of the construction of a new health department dental clinic to serve un- and under-insured children in Chatham County. The dental clinic is up and running and filling a huge gap by focusing on a previously underserved population.

As a leader, Dr. McCall continues to astonish his employees with his vast amount of public health experience, knowledge, and wisdom. He is a visionary and as part of succession planning continuously encourages his leadership team to seek opportunities for growth in leadership and public health knowledge and awareness.

The Chatham County Health Department continues to be a progressive, innovative, and successful organization under the leadership of Dr. McCall. He is an outstanding representative not only for the health department but also for public health overall.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Lisa Crossman

APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ebony Thomas, MPH



Ebony Thomas, MPH, has worked as the Vaccine-Preventable Disease Epidemiologist for the Georgia Department of Public Health for the past ten years, where she conducts routine surveillance for measles, mumps, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, and varicella. Recently, Ebony was promoted to Vaccine-Preventable Disease Team Lead, where she oversees the day-to-day surveillance activities of the VPD Section, as well as Georgia's population-based immunization studies.

Before joining the Department of Public Health, Ebony was an American Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Fellow employed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While at CDC, Ebony provided consultation and training to state Immunization Programs regarding their immunization school assessments.

STANCLIFF BOONE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SPECIALIST AWARD

Katrina Howard, MPH



Katrina Howard, MPH, started as a Communicable Disease Specialist for the Coastal Health District in 2011. She quickly distinguished herself and was promoted to Lead CDS not long after joining the district. With a thirst for knowledge about all things public health, Katrina completed her Master of Public Health degree to enhance her knowledge and leadership abilities.

Katrina works tirelessly to ensure that STD and HIV services are available throughout six counties which include two large hospital systems, Winn Army Hospital (healthcare provider for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield), King's Bay Naval Submarine Base, two Community Health Centers, and a host of correctional facilities.

She has developed and maintained positive relationships throughout her coverage area, particularly with hospitals and agencies that provide services to the homeless population. Katrina works with many community partners and is well known as an STD/HIV expert.

As an HIV testing trainer, Katrina works with new staff to make sure they are trained and proficient with rapid testing technologies. When we have a newly diagnosed client, she works directly with a Linkage Coordinator to get the client into care. Katrina also works with the Prevention Team to plan HIV testing events around HIV Awareness Days and serves as the main resource for county public health nurses regarding HIV/STD services.

As the lead CDS, Katrina oversees Quality Improvement activities and deliverables for the STD Program. She is the champion for correctly filling out field and interview records and proper closure of cases and assists the CDS supervisor with case reviews and other trainings.

Katrina is passionate and driven to improve the lives of people in her community and is a perfect example of public health at its best.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Cyrus Shirley

J. PATRICK O'NEAL SAFETY & HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AWARD

Laurice Bentley



Laurice Bentley is the Emergency Preparedness Director for the North Central Health District, 5-2 (Macon) coordinating the local and regional Emergency Support Function 8 (Public Health and Medical) needs for 13 counties. In her district position, she oversees planning, training and exercise, volunteer, and crisis communication efforts to enhance healthcare response to public health emergencies and any emergency with a population health component.

Past experience includes the G8 Summit along the Georgia Coast, National Disaster Medical Service deployment to Dobbins AFB during Hurricane Katrina, novel synthetic opioid incidents, along with numerous tornadoes and hurricane evacuations and sheltering. She has worked in Public Health Emergency Preparedness for 17 years, has served as the leader of the state Decontamination/Radiation subgroup, and as a member of the teaching team for ICS 300 and 400 around the state of Georgia.

She has been an active member of the large events planning team for public health in Georgia, supporting the Fulton County Board of Health for the College Football Championship, Super Bowl LIII and, currently, NCAA Final Four events. Laurice leads the Incident Management workgroup for Georgia's Hurricane Response Hub and is enrolled in the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Ms. Bentley believes in working closely with partner agencies to ensure a seamless response and working widely across all public health programs to remove the historical silos that too often hamper day-to-day work and deter coordinated preparedness and response efforts.

ROSEMARIE B. NEWMAN NUTRITION EXTRA MILE AWARD

Nancy Jeffery, MPH, RDN, LD



Nancy Jeffery, MPH, RDN, LD, is the Nutrition Service Director of the North Central Health District. She is a graduate of Fort Valley State University.

Nancy has been married to her high school sweetheart for 26 years and is originally from Climax, Georgia. A small southern city located in Decatur County, Georgia and is the highest point between Savannah, Georgia and the Chattahoochee River. Living on a farm encouraged her to study nutrition. Her education and experience in food and nutrition allowed her to work in the private sector and public health.

Nancy is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition. She is interested in breastfeeding duration rates among women enrolled in WIC and the retail experience of WIC participants. She is passionate about public health and making a difference in the health of the citizens in Georgia.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Carol Stewart

Julianne Gaston

NUTRITION OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Julianne Gaston, IBCLC



Julianne Gaston is a consummate nutrition professional with expertise in system processes and pediatric nutrition. Julianne has been a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for 40 years with the last 30 years providing nutrition services to the citizens of Georgia in many capacities. Julianne worked with the Grady Hospital System in Georgia in her early Georgia Career. Her focus was on the HIV program and assured WIC benefits for these children with special needs. Julianne provided case management services for the children related to nutrition support along with full nutrition assessment, counseling, and education. Her work enabled children to survive a life-threatening disease for longer periods than might occur without her intervention.

In 2011, Julianne came to work with the Georgia WIC program at the state level. She brought her detailed eye to improve policies, practices, and procedures within Georgia WIC. Through her work the Georgia WIC Risk Criteria have been consistently implemented per WIC regulations across our 4 front end computer systems and 1 data management system. She has been able to regularly assure the data sent to our funder related to specific risks like obesity and prematurity is reported accurately. She has identified ways to modify monitoring systems for Georgia WIC procedures and practices at the front lines so that Georgia WIC is consistently improving the nutrition care provided to applicants and participants. She provides training in updated nutrition procedures especially related to nutrition data entry in ways that take a complex subject and make it understandable and relatable. She is currently assigned to the Georgia WIC Management Information System and eWIC (electronic benefits) project while providing support to the monitoring team. She is a repository of knowledge at the intersections of operational and nutritional implementation of the WIC program in Georgia.

Julianne has always been willing to step up and provide support when the Nutrition Program needed support in areas beyond her usual job duties. At times she provided leadership for the Georgia Department of Public Health Dietetic Internship program when the Director unexpectedly left the program. She has stepped in to provide leadership for the Georgia WIC Online Nutrition Education program when staff assigned to the work have left. She has worked as one of two staff nutritionists at the State Level prior to restructuring increased the staffing level to better meet the needs. She has guided many state level nutritionists to successful work within Georgia DPH. Many of these nutritionists are still working for Georgia DPH providing excellence in service to the Georgia WIC program.

Julianne is a wife, mother and grandmother who lives in Smyrna Georgia. She is dedicated to her family, her church, and her work with Georgia WIC.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Debra Patton

GEORGIA DENTAL AWARD OF MERIT

Pam Cushenan, RDH, MS, FSCDH

Community Outreach is a recognized passion of Pam Cushenan. She has participated in outreach efforts since becoming a dental hygienist in 1987 in the United States and abroad. As a dental hygiene educator, she is dedicated to facilitating collaborative community-based efforts that improve the welfare of underserved communities in Georgia.

In the last two years alone, she has continued to dedicate her time to initiate proposals, create tailored programs for multiple underserved population sites, and engage dental hygiene students to enhance their cultural competency.

In April 2018, Georgia State University's (GSU) Assistant Director of Development Bill Covington reached out to Gas South's Community Affairs Program Manager Carley Stephens to discuss collaborative opportunities in the community. Gas South partners with Norton Park Elementary School, a Title I school in Smyrna, GA. Bill reached out to the GSU Perimeter's Dental Hygiene Department for assistance to positively impact the children's welfare and Pam Cushenan created a proposal to meet this request that focused on oral health education and preventive services.

Pam has developed relationships with multiple underserved community organizations for student interaction. These include Adult Day of Dunwoody (older adult care setting), Covenant House (shelter for 17-21-year-olds), Nicholas House (family shelter), Survivors of Head and Neck Cancer at Emory, a domestic violence shelter, disabled American veterans, and a refugee center. Pam guides students through assessments, planning, implementation, and evaluation of oral health education and screening programs with low-cost or free dental referrals provided to attendees. The students gain great insight from these experiences and share their outreach reflections with other student team members.

Pam is also the Community Service Chair for the Dental Hygiene Department. As such, she connects the students with community service requests from across Georgia and oversees the student preparation, implementation, and reflection of each experience.

In the last two years, Georgia State University Perimeter College community outreach events have served 4477 children, teens, adults, and older adults in Georgia. Pam also volunteers in other outreach events, such as the 2019 Moultrie Migrant Family and Farm Worker collaborative event where hundreds of children received education and preventive dental services and farm workers received education, screenings, and referrals, as needed.

Finally, Pam is a strong advocate for change. She teaches her students how to be a change agent on all levels, including the legislative level. Students become well-versed in the legislative process, discover their district leaders, and meet with their legislators at the Capitol. She also served in the Georgia Dental Hygienist's Association as the Advocacy Chair and helped to pass a recent bill that increases access to oral care in Georgia.

Pam remains focused on developing and maintaining a health and wellbeing presence in all settings to include dental hygiene students, grads, licensed professionals, community settings, and collaborative parties. Her goal is to increase the number of skilled providers working as health teams in the community to maximize the wellbeing of vulnerable populations.

LARRY W. MILLER HEALTH INFORMATION SPECIALIST AWARD

John Koyish



John Koyish graduated in 2004 with an associate degree in Computer Networking and has received multiple industry recognized IT certifications in Cisco, Microsoft, and VMware technologies. John is constantly working towards deepening his knowledge of the ever-evolving field of information technology and staying informed of the latest IT news to help proactively manage and protect the IT infrastructure to best serve the needs of DPH.

Joining the DPH team in 2016, John has configured, and deployed multiple new applications, hardware solutions, and policies to make the network more secure, and more efficient. John has been a highly dependable member of the team, going above and beyond to help during sheltering for Hurricane Matthew, Irma, and Dorian and throughout DPH's COVID-19 response.

When not at the office, John can be found at home spending time with his wife and two children and honing his BBQ skills in the backyard.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Jerry Luna

KATHY MINER HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION AWARD

Diane Devore, Ed.S



Diane Devore has been a health educator for the Coastal Health District since 2013. She has her Education Specialist degree (EdS) which has helped her perform her duties as a health educator.

Diane pours herself into her work daily, finding innovative ways to overcome barriers to implement HIV education, testing, and prevention strategies. Diane is well known in the community as she participates in a variety of events and works with agencies to facilitate HIV education and testing for those at risk. She collaborates extensively with partner agencies to implement rapid HIV testing in their facilities and has negotiated condom distribution activities in many facilities, as well.

Diane also oversees the Prevention Linkage Coordinator, Male Health Outreach Specialist, and two Health Educators for outreach testing and routine clinic-based testing. She follows up on linkage activities and ensures consumers get into care. Diane has been an advocate for improving the district's social media HIV education presence and as a result, the district has had successful education and testing campaigns on the popular dating apps Grindr and Jack'd as well as Facebook. She was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the district's PrEP clinic, continues to support PrEP activities as needed, and is an integral part of the clinic's success.

Diane is committed to eliminating the stigma associated with HIV and has made it her life's work to educate the public about the importance of HIV testing and treatment.

Other Distinguished Nominees include:

Danielle Acuff

Paige Lightsey, RN

LILLIAN D. WALD PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AWARD

Wendy LeVan, RN, BSN



Wendy LeVan received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Coe College in 1976 and has been with District 4 for over 25 years, serving in many capacities such as the Family Planning Coordinator, Women's Health Coordinator, and has been in her current role as the Director of Nursing and Clinical Services since 2005.

Wendy has had a well-rounded career in Nursing and Public Health, with experience in nearly every public health program and initiative championed by the agency. District 4 recently received Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation, and Wendy was an integral part of that process by leading one of the PHAB Domains. She has a wealth of experience in policy-

making, professional development, and has served as a key advisor and collaborator on a number of projects both at the Health District level and at the State level. Wendy has always been a mentor and top advisor for issues related to nursing leadership and emergency preparedness. During every disaster, Wendy serves as District 4's Operations Section Chief. She has led multiple statewide committees and has helped the state office develop nursing protocols and practice guidelines every year for over a decade. Wendy also serves as the District Nurse Planner, which has enabled her to offer Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) contact hours for trainings and professional development activities in District 4. She also worked with Mercer University to provide contact hours for a 12-week public health leadership program.

Wendy has always been a strong advocate for public health as well as for the nursing workforce. She successfully lobbied for the creation of a new Assistant Director of Nursing position to better meet the needs of front-line nurses and clinical staff in her District. She also advocated for, and successfully received, approval to move forward with hiring an experienced RN to serve as the District Clinical Trainer and IT Coordinator. This position provides much needed consistency in initial nurse orientation and training for District 4 nurses and ensures IT support for front-line nursing staff. Wendy has always understood the value of utilizing advanced practice registered nurses in public health and continues to advocate for the use of family nurse practitioners in local clinics to meet the needs of underserved populations with diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic health issues.

Over the years Wendy has championed numerous innovative approaches to how public health services are provided in District 4 and throughout the state. In her first role as Family Planning Coordinator, Wendy started a brand-new Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. In 2017, she co-authored an article in the Journal of Clinical Oncology about factors associated with breast cancer genetic knowledge among patients and staff across the 12-county public health clinics in her District. That same year, Wendy led the effort to create a District-wide clinical call center- the second of its kind in Georgia Public Health. She has said that over the years, she has learned the importance of ***always appreciating the past, focusing on the present, and having a vision for the future***. She has held true to these values by developing a comprehensive succession plan to ensure that District 4 public health operations continue to move forward even after she retires, safeguarding the vision for the future. She has said that she feels honored to serve her community as a Georgia Public Health Nurse and her community are certainly privileged to have been impacted by such a nurse and leader.

Other distinguished nominees include:

Allison Wright-Mitchell, RN, BSN

Lauren Cedor, RN

Tammy Cox Burdeaux, RN, CRNI, CCP

MAGGIE KLINE NURSING AWARD

Krystal Ponton, BSN, RN



Krystal Ponton, BSN, RN, started her career in public health in 2017 when she joined the Chatham County Health Department. She had a diverse career prior to joining public health, including serving as active-duty personnel in the United States Army for 10 years. Krystal currently works in the general clinic performing Women's Health and STD services but also works in the TB clinic and immigration providing care to those populations.

As a new public health professional, Krystal already has the awareness of the importance of providing public health services and is determined to do her part to provide increased access to care to all residents. She is invested in improving health outcomes for communities, diminishing health disparities, and decreasing knowledge gaps related to chronic disease management.

Krystal been a passionate advocate for public health nursing and plans to eventually become a Family Nurse Practitioner so she can provide even more services for our public health clients. She takes the lead in training new nurses and working with nursing students in both clinics and took the initiative to develop a training form to help new nurses track their progress and determine areas in which they may need more work. Krystal sets a wonderful example for other nurses to follow and has been a great asset to the Chatham County Health Department.

Other distinguished nominees include:

Ashely Deverell, RN, BSN

Shalonna Stewart, FNP

BARFIELD NURSING SECTION AWARD

Cynthia Carter, MSN/Ed, BSN, RN



Cynthia Carter graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1990 with her BSN and went on to obtain her MSN/Ed. in 2015. Cynthia currently serves as the Bartow County Health Department County Nurse Manager where she oversees the clinical programs provided in the health department. She also serves as the Family Planning Coordinator.

In addition to her work with the Bartow County Health Department, Cynthia acts as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Georgia Highlands College where she teaches Health Assessment, Concepts in Professional Nursing, Community Health Nursing, and Nursing Informatics, among other subjects. Cynthia is

passionate about mentoring nursing students and is very involved in her community. She is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Healthcare Leadership and Management, which she will use in another one of her passions – impacting chronic disease in population health.

RUTH B. FREEMAN NURSING AWARD FOR POPULATION HEALTH PRACTICE

Rebecca Kershner, RN, BSN



Rebecca Kershner graduated in 2009 with her Associate's Degree in Nursing and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 2019. She is currently pursuing a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner degree as one of the 2019 Georgia College and DPH HRSA Grant recipients.

Rebecca began her career in public health in 2010 as the lead PCM and prenatal nurse at the Richmond County Health Department. Wanting to expand her knowledge of all programs in public health, she transitioned to the Sexually Transmitted Infection clinic where she went on to become the STD Coordinator and clinic supervisor. During her tenure as STD Coordinator, she saw clients come into the clinic who did not have symptoms but liked to be tested regularly. At the time, there was no precedent or protocol that supported not performing exams every time a client was tested. This sparked her desire to find a way to provide

this needed service but also allow the nurses to see more clients who were symptomatic. After much research, she wrote the Fast Track Policies and Procedures which allow trained CDS staff to conduct a brief interview to determine eligibility for the service and to test clients for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomonas without the client needing to see a nurse. After several drafts and many collaborative meetings, the policies and procedures were approved by DPH for use. Rebecca then went on to supervise the South Augusta branch of the Richmond County Health Department and shortly thereafter, she became the Nurse Manager of both sites. During her time as the Nurse Manager, she successfully made changes to the way nurses were trained and to clinic flow. She was and continues to be part of the team that started the Centering Prenatal Program at the Richmond County Health Department. In December of 2019, Rebecca became the Women's Health, BCCP, and STD Coordinator for the East Central Health District (6).

Other distinguished nominees include:
Cynthia Carter, MSN/Ed, BSN, RN

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Ronald J. Boone

The Georgia Public Health Association recognizes outstanding service to public health through individual honorary membership. Congratulations to 2020 Honorary Member, Ronald J. Boone.



Ronald J. Boone is a 1982 graduate of Ga. College in Milledgeville, with dual degrees in both Political Science and Public Administration. After five years working with the Ga. Dept. of Family and Children Services, he began a new career as a Community Epidemiologist with what was then called the Ga. Dept. of Human Resources, Division of Public Health. It is now known as the Department of Public Health. As a Community Epidemiologist, his duties included disease investigation, partner sourcing, locating and notification, phlebotomy, treatment compliance, risk reduction counseling and disease education.

In 1998, he became the Communicable Disease Team Leader, which included his regular duties, as well as the responsibility of supervising the team of Communicable Disease Specialists assigned to the Macon District. In 2002, he was promoted to Infectious Disease Program Manager. In 2017, during a reorganization of our district, his title was changed to Communicable Disease Specialist Supervisor, a title he held until his retirement in 2019.

As program manager, his job includes management of the STD, HIV/Aids and TB programs as well as overseeing the District Ryan White Clinic, was a member of the North Central Health District Management Team and an active member of the local Ryan White Consortia. He has served as Section Chair and Treasurer of the Epidemiology Section of GPHA and was on the Georgia Prevention and Care Council.

Altogether, Mr. Boone has 26 years of public health experience, dealing with the management, control and prevention of STD, HIV/Aids, TB and other notifiable diseases in the suburban and rural setting.

We Remember You

Public Health has known many unspoken heroes throughout the years. Many of those “silent warriors” for public health have been faithful and dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of their communities. Sadly, some of them are no longer with us.

We honor deceased employees of the Georgia Department of Public Health as well members of the Georgia Public Health Association along with partners of GPHA in the academic community.

You will always be remembered as a faithful supporter of both public health and the Georgia Public Health Association. We salute your tireless dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

**Please join us in a moment of silence as we remember
our Public Health brothers and sisters.**

Don't miss your chance to win some fabulous items at the GPHA



Anyone can view the auction, but you must create an account on the auction site to bid on items.

To create an account, go to:

<https://www.32auctions.com/gpha>

Items Include:

- Gift Cards (Build-A-Bear Workshop, Amazon, Delta, Restaurant)
- Gift Bags & Baskets including:
 - Augusta Masters** swag
 - Atlanta Braves** basket full of merchandise plus 4 lower level home game tickets, \$60 food/beverage credit, & free parking
 - District-donated baskets packed with fabulous food, retail goods, and other items
- Ornate hand-carved walking stick
- Fantastic getaways to Savannah, Jekyll Island, and Great Wolf Lodge
- Passes to Wild Adventures and Georgia historic sites and state parks, a “Marvel-ous” bag of comic book goodies, pawsome basket of dog goodies, art, and sporting goods.
- Georgia Historic Site & State Park passes

The auction will run until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 27th. Items will be shipped to the winning bidder.

Online payments will be accepted using the Stripe payment processing platform.

Winning bidders are expected to pay for items within 24 hours of auction closing.

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Do some GPHA CONNECTING during our Conference!

1. Turn your Zoom camera ON during the conference to "meet" fellow GPHA members
2. Use the Chat feature to ask questions & provide your thoughts & input
3. Use Chat to network, send messages & set up face-to-face meetings
4. Keep friends updated on noteworthy moments on your social media sites
5. Share comments about the conference on GPHA social media sites at:

➤ Facebook.com/GeorgiaPublicHealthAssociation
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Use hash tag #gapha on Facebook and #GPHA2021 on Twitter!

Thank you for your support of GPHA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

AT

JEKYLL ISLAND MAY 6-8, 2022!

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