

APIC NE Fall Conference

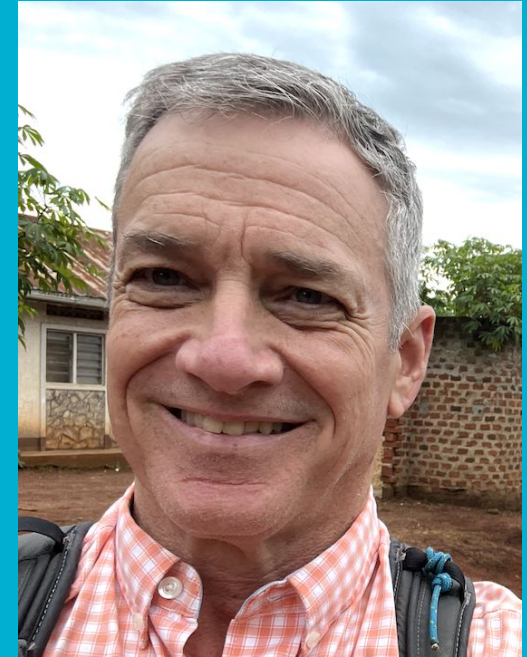
October 18th, 2024

Protect, Prepare, and Prevent
Meet the Speakers

Robert Fuller MD, FACEP

1st speaker

Rob Fuller received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He attended medical school at Loyola school of medicine and completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center. Rob spent a year after residency volunteering and building an emergency medicine service line at St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, St Lucia. He joined the University of Connecticut Department of Surgery in the division of emergency medicine, which later became the department of emergency medicine. For the last 25 years, Rob has been involved in disaster response and global Emergency Medicine. He has been a frequent team member/lead for the International Medical Corps. He has created an international disaster medicine fellowship at the University of Connecticut school of medicine where he is currently the chair of Emergency Medicine.



Sarah Schenck

2nd speaker

Sarah Schenck is a writer, director, and producer who is deeply passionate about using filmmaking to advance public health goals for diverse audiences. Her latest feature documentary is *The Invisible Extinction*, which premiered at CPH:DOX to standing room audiences and opened theatrically in NYC and LA, about the critical role microbes play in human health and showcasing the work of renowned scientists Gloria Dominguez-Bello and Martin Blaser. Sarah authored an op-ed for the New York Times about the Microbiota Vault, spearheaded by Dr. Dominguez-Bello.

Sarah also makes shorts for nonprofit organizations including the Park Slope Food Coop, Planned Parenthood, Amnesty International, the NYC public schools, and the Supportive Housing Network, where she served as Chief Digital Officer.

For nine years, Sarah ran a meditation class for individuals with mental health challenges at St. Francis Friends of the Poor and she remains an avid advocate for greater mental health options and access.

While working as the NYC Comptroller's Senior Policy Advisor for Education, where she received a Commendation for Excellence in Public Service, she taught herself filmmaking. Sarah produced *Virgin*, starring Elisabeth Moss and Robin Wright for which she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature Film Under \$500,000. Her feature comedy *Slippery Slope* won prizes at film festivals worldwide. For the PBS weekly news program "Need to Know," Sarah was director, producer, and correspondent for *Saving Carla*, an acclaimed episode that focused on childhood obesity in the Bronx.



**John Harahas, RN, NHDP- BC CHEC,
CFRN, CEN, PHRN
3rd speaker**

Mr. Harahas has been involved in fire and EMS since 2001. Mr. Harahas graduated from the nursing program at Thomas Jefferson University in 2009. Currently, Mr. Harahas is a System Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Geisinger Health in Pennsylvania.

The health system consists of nine hospitals, five of which are trauma centers, and one that contains a Special Pathogens Treatment Facility. As part of his role as an Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Harahas functions as a core member for the Highly Infectious Disease Unit.

Mr. Harahas continues to fly as a Flight Nurse for Geisinger Life Flight and works as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Geisinger's tertiary care center.

Mr. Harahas is also a Nurse Specialist with the United States Department of Health and Human Services PA-3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). He has also co-authored a book chapter and other publications about mass casualty and disaster preparedness/response.



Patricia McAuley, MSN, RN, CIC

4th speaker

Patricia McAuley is a Registered Nurse who has clinical experience in Medical/Surgical and Emergency Room nursing. She has more than 25 years of experience in Infection Prevention and Control and is a certified Infection Preventionist.

Her current role is Consultant Public Health Nurse in the Center for Acute Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Rhode Island Department of Health. In this role she responds to and investigates reportable diseases and outbreaks.

She is also the Healthcare-associated Infections Coordinator for Rhode Island. In addition to investigating cases and outbreaks Ms. McAuley provides infection prevention guidance, education, and support to all areas across the healthcare spectrum.



Rebecca Battjes, MPH, CIC, FAPIC 5th speaker

Rebecca Battjes (pronounced “batches”) MPH, CIC, FAPIC is an Infection Prevention Senior Clinical Advisor for Diversey–A Solenis Company.

In this role, Rebecca serves as an infection prevention and control resource and industry liaison to support the improvement of environmental hygiene solutions and the adoption of evidence-based practices.

Prior to joining Diversey in May 2022, Rebecca was the infection prevention & control program manager of a small community hospital and short stay skilled nursing facility. From 2013 to 2021, she was an Infection Preventionist at a large academic medical & level 1 trauma center in the heart of Detroit. Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English & Spanish literature from Wayne State University in Detroit and a Master of Public Health degree from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. Rebecca achieved board certification in infection control (CIC®) in 2019 and became a fellow on APIC in 2022.

