

2023 Spring Conference – Speaker Bios

Sarah Crockett, MD FAWN

Sarah Crockett is a practicing Emergency Physician and founder of the Wilderness and Austere Medicine Fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is also an assistant Dean of Career advising at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Her passion for nature, health and wellness and the importance of Wilderness AS Medicine lead her to found the Alliance for Climate and Health at Dartmouth. The WHO has stated that Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. As a health care provider who cares for individual patients but also for her community locally, regionally and globally, Sarah has dedicated a significant portion of her professional career to raising awareness about the health consequences of climate change. She hopes to empower other health care specialists of all backgrounds to use their expertise to advocate for patients and communities by taking a leadership role in the current climate crisis.

Harry Dow, ICRA Coordinator

Harry is a 42 yr. member of the UBC. Harry has worked in numerous roles during his career including as the Executive Director of the NE Carpenters Benefit Funds, as a Director & Board Chair at Radius Bank in Boston, as the Regional Manager of Carpenters Local 339 covering the North Shore and Metro West areas and is currently the ICRA program Coordinator for New England and New York.

Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD

Dr. Talbot is an infectious diseases- and tropical medicine- trained internist, who has had extensive experience in international and domestic infectious disease control through outbreak investigation, clinical projects, research, and consultation. She trained at Duke University and with the Epidemic Intelligence Service during which she was stationed in Botswana with the CDC, and then at the World Health Organization in Geneva before coming to Dartmouth where she is a Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases and International Health at the Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth. Since 2003, Dr. Talbot has been New Hampshire's Deputy State Epidemiologist, where she is engaged in leadership for COVID-19 pandemic response, including policy/guideline development, clinician education, and outbreak response, and vaccine and treatment allocation.

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Sonja Rivera Saenz, MPH, CIC

Sonja has 10 years of experience specifically in Infection Control in the ambulatory care setting. She is the Infection Control Director at Atrius Health, a network of 30 outpatient sites in the Greater Boston area. She has experience collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams and has a strong focus on high-level disinfection, instrument sterilization, transmission-based precautions, and support for the organizational COVID-19 response. She was the recipient of the Atrius Health Trustees Award of Distinction in 2020 and an Ovation award in 2022 for the Infection Control team. Sonja hosts the Boston-area Infection Control practitioner meeting and is a member of the Tufts MPH Program's External Advisory Committee.

John Whelan, BSN, RN

John Whelan is a Clinical Educator for Healthmark Industries. John's healthcare career spans more than 40 years, predominantly in the fields of Emergency Services and Endoscopy. This has included staff roles, as well as those of educator and manager. At the beginning of 2019, he ended a 31-year career at the University of Michigan Health System. It was his 20 years spent in Endoscopy that helped provide a foundation for a system role – overseeing High Level Disinfection (HLD) processes for the UM Health System. In that inaugural role, he was instrumental in the planning and launch for the Centralized Endoscope Reprocessing Department on the main medical campus. John is an active member of the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA). Additionally, he serves as a member for the AAMI Standards Workgroup 84 - Endoscope Reprocessing, and Standards Workgroup 61 – Chemical Sterilants. Additionally, he has memberships in APIC, ASGE, and AORN. He has contributed endoscope processing and HLD content for several professional society and trade publications; and is coauthor for a June 2019 chapter on endoscope reprocessing in Otolaryngology Clinics of North America. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Michigan State University.

Marlene Fishman Wolpert, MPH, CIC, FAPIC

Marlene is the Long-Term Care Infection Preventionist at Lifespan Health System in Rhode Island, and she is an Independent Infection Prevention and Control Consultant with extensive experience in Behavioral, Rehabilitation, Ambulatory, Acute Care, Long-Term Care and University settings. She has a Master in Public Health, certified in infection control from CBIC, and is a Fellow of APIC. She is also an APIC Consultant and APIC Faculty Member, has numerous publications, chairs APIC's Practice Resource Editorial Panel and serves on multiple Rhode Island teams.