AOMA 98th Annual Convention
Speaker Biographies for
Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Elizabeth Krupinski, PhD is Professor and Vice-Chair of Research at Emory University in the Department of Radiology. She received her BA from Cornell, MA from Montclair State and PhD from Temple, all in Experimental Psychology. Her interests are in medical image perception, observer performance, decision making, and human factors. She is Associate Director of Evaluation for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and Co-Director of the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. She is Past President of ATA, Past Chair of Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine, and President of the Medical Image Perception Society. She is Co-Editor of the Journal of Telemedicine & Telecare.

Joseph Zachariah, DO is a board-certified physician in internal medicine and infectious disease. He is also the founder and director of travelhealthadvisor.com, an interactive website educating healthcare providers and international travelers on medical issues including pre-travel vaccines, antibiotics, and health tips. Dr. Zachariah received his medical degree from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed residencies in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He is in private practice in Phoenix and is Chair of the Infection Prevention Committee at Banner Baywood & Heart Hospitals.

Sue Wolf, PhD is a Master’s-prepared school psychologist and doctorly-prepared educational psychologist. Her post-doctoral research was in the area of participatory adult education with rural and tribal communities. She has over 30 years’ experience as an entrepreneur and executive director of a private consulting firm, conducting research in public health and education. She offers, credentialed professional development with an emphasis on health promotion for children/youth and adults, particularly those with disabilities. She is the mother of an adult son with TBI and is a severe brain injury survivor herself.

Christopher Spiekerman, DO was born in Tacoma, Washington and was raised in Arizona. He attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and completed his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences, where he served as the Health Clinic Coordinator. He would later make his way to Jacksonville, Florida for his residency. While at the University of Florida at Jacksonville he was awarded Pediatric ER Resident of the Year. Dr. Spiekerman enjoys devoting his time to teaching medical students working as a Pediatric Preceptor for Midwestern University - AZCOM, and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at A.T. Still University - Kirksville. He also serves as a Chairman of Pediatrics for West Valley Hospital. Since 2001 Dr. Spiekerman has been a part of Desert Valley Pediatrics where he continues to share his love and passion for helping children and their families.
Karen J. Nichols, DO, MA, MACOI, CS-F served as Dean of the Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine from 2002 until 2018. She served as the 2010-11 President of the American Osteopathic Association and was the first woman to do so. She was also the first woman president of the American Osteopathic College of Internists and the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Nichols is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), being one of the first two DOs to be elected to the ACGME Board. She is Immediate Past President of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago Board of Governors. Dr. Nichols holds a master's degree in Management with a specialty in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University and speaks nationally on physician leadership skills as well as ethical dilemmas at end of life.

Alena Petty, DO is a board certified psychiatrist at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix. She attended medical school at Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed psychiatry residency at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center (now Banner University Medical Center Phoenix - BUMCP). Dr. Petty worked in community mental health, treating patients determined to have Serious Mental Illness, for 2 years before returning to the psychiatry residency program at BUMCP as faculty. Her current clinical work includes both inpatient and outpatient psychiatry, as well as serving as the Collaborative Care Psychiatric Consultant in the Family Medicine and Internal Medicine clinics at BUMCP.

Ann M. Blades, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM is a Senior Risk Management Consultant for the Mutual Insurance Company of Arizona (MICA). She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI and holds a master's degree in Business with emphasis in Health Care Management. Ann has served as a past officer and board member for the Arizona Society of Healthcare Risk Managers (AzSHRM) as well as for the Arizona Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC). Ann's clinical practice experience includes medical-surgical and Post Anesthesia Care. Ann has over 25 years of experience in Healthcare Risk Management including 11 years of clinical risk management with a health system in AZ where she served on numerous committees and was involved in insurance and claims management. She has and over 15 years of large physician group risk management experience in AZ as the Chief Risk Officer and provided the development of the risk management department including claims, insurance, and education. Ann is the Past President and CEO of a Captive Insurance Company in AZ. Ann is a current member of the American Society of Healthcare Risk Managers (ASHRM) and (AzSHRM).
**Richard Dobrusin, DO, MS (Ost), FACOFP** is an associate clinical professor at Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Board certified in family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine, Dr. Dobrusin received his Doctor of Osteopathy from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and his Master of Science of Osteopathy from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, with specific focus in Thoracic Outlet Syndromes. He is the President-Elect of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association.