

FACULTY

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, Alaska Chapter 18th Annual Alaska Asthma & Allergy Conference

September 6-7, 2024

(as of April 19, 2024)

PRESENTING FACULTY



Antoine Azar, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. He is also Clinical Director of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at Johns Hopkins. His areas of clinical expertise include allergy and immunology, asthma, immunotherapy, sinusitis and drug reactions. At Johns Hopkins, he founded the multidisciplinary Center for Adult Primary Immunodeficiency. He is involved in a variety of research areas, including the association of immunodeficiency with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); secondary hypogammaglobulinemia including autoimmune diseases and vasculitis; and novel treatments for the WHIM syndrome. Dr. Azar earned his medical degree from the American University of Beirut (AUB) Medical Center in Lebanon. He completed internal medicine residency programs at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, and at ABU. He completed an allergy and clinical immunology fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He is fluent in English, Arabic and French.



Theresa A. Bingemann, MD, is an Associate Professor in the University of Rochester Medical Center's departments of Pediatric Allergy & Immunology and Allergy/Immunology in Rochester, New York. She is also Program Director for the university's Allergy and Immunology fellowship training program. She currently practices clinical allergy & immunology for pediatric and adult patients. Her clinical interests include food allergy, environmental allergies, asthma, atopic dermatitis, medication allergy, urticaria (hives) and angioedema. She earned her medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark in 2000. She completed combined residencies in internal medicine and pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, and an allergy/immunology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



Jocelyn Cooper, MD, is a board-certified internist in Seattle, Washington. A Fellow-in-Training, she is enrolled in the University of Washington (UW) Allergy & Immunology Fellowship program. She earned her medical degree from George Washington University (GW) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, DC. She completed her internal medicine residency at UW's School of Medicine in Seattle. She originally hails from Johnson City, Tennessee.



Jeffrey G. Demain, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, FAAP, is Co-founder and Medical Director of Lux Infusion in Anchorage. He is also a Clinical Professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and an Affiliate Professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He founded the Alaska Society of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, and co-founded AAFA Alaska, for which he is a past president. He serves on the American College of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) Board of Regents and on the American Board of Allergy Immunology (ABAII) Board of Directors. He

has served on the AAAAI Board of Directors and many committees, is editor of AAAAI's "Ask the Expert" and remains active in advocacy in both organizations. Dr. Demain began his medical career as a U.S. Air Force (USAF) medic before becoming a Physician Assistant. He completed medical school at Texas Tech University, his pediatric residency at Wright State University, and an Allergy Immunology fellowship at Wilford Hall Medical Center. Retired from the USAF in 1999, he founded the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska (AAIC), where Dr. Demain served as medical director for over 20 years. A nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Demain has over 50 peer-reviewed publications, four textbook chapters and continues to research and publish in insect allergy and impacts of climate change on respiratory health. He was recently honored with the AAAAI-RSL 2020 Leadership Award and the 2021 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Special Achievement Award.



Bryan Farthing, DHSc, MS, PA-C, a certified Physician Assistant (PA-C) and Clinical Services Director at the Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Center of Alaska. He and fellow PA-C David Kingston oversee the center's biologic program. Dr. Farthing graduated from the University of Washington's Alaska MEDEX Physician Assistant Program and is now a program faculty member. Prior to becoming a PA, he was a respiratory therapist at Providence Medical Center for three years. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a cardiopulmonary technician, taking care of wounded military members overseas as part of a Critical Care Air Transportation team. He is currently an officer in the Alaska Air National Guard. Dr. Farthing completed his master's degree in healthcare administration from Stony Brook University in 2015. In 2019, he completed his doctorate degree in health science with a focus in global health, specifically looking at disparities in pediatric asthmatics. He is immediate past president of the AAFA Alaska Chapter. Dr. Farthing enjoys Alaska's outdoors and spending time with his wife and two sons.



Jon R. Grace, MD, is an Intensivist with the Alaska Hospitalist Group, providing critical care expertise at local hospitals. He is also a Pulmonologist in private practice with an emphasis on pleural disease and lung nodule management. He earned his medical degree from the University of California in San Diego. He completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in Pennsylvania. At UPMC, Dr. Grace grew his interest in critical care and found a love for pulmonary medicine and chest imaging research. He pursued fellowships in internal medicine, and in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine at the University of Michigan. He has published several reviews and a book chapter on asthma phenotypes and severe asthma management. Before graduating, he helped form a collaboration with a deep learning engineering group and authored a grant application that was awarded funding by Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK) to investigate potential uses for deep learning algorithms on CT scans in patients with severe asthma on biologic medications. After transitioning to Alaska in 2020, Dr. Grace has worked primarily in an intensive care unit capacity.



Kristina James, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, is a board-certified allergist / immunologist at Peninsula Allergy & Asthma, and is associated with Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna, Alaska. She earned her medical degree from the Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota. She completed an internal medicine residency and was Chief Resident of Internal Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. She completed her allergy / immunology fellowship at Vanderbilt's Center for Asthma & Environmental Sciences

Research in Nashville. She also was awarded a Fulbright graduate fellowship and studied at the University at Bayreuth in Germany. Her primary research interests include the impact of microbiome alterations on asthma development, the relationship between infections and asthma, and asthma prevention strategies. She enjoys exploring the outdoors with her husband and daughter.



Kathleen May, MD, FACAAI, FAAAAI, is a Professor of Pediatrics, and Division Chief of Allergy-Immunology and Pediatric Rheumatology at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University. She is also director for MCG's allergy/immunology fellowship program. Dr. May is nationally recognized in her specialty as the prior recipient of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI) Distinguished Fellow, Distinguished Service, and Woman in Allergy awards. She currently serves as vice chair of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI). Dr. May is a past president of the ACAAI, and past chair of the ABAI. She earned her medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio. Dr. May completed her residency at East Carolina University School of Medicine in Greenville, North Carolina. She completed an allergy/immunology fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Jewish Research Center at the University of Colorado in Denver.



Laura M. Moore, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, FAAP, is an Allergist / Immunologist and Owner at the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Clinic of Alaska. She earned her medical degree at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, before completing her internship and pediatric residency at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. After working for 4 years as a general pediatrician, Dr. Moore completed her Allergy and Immunology fellowship training at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, from 2004-2006. She subsequently practiced as an allergist in the Air Force for four years, then transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 2010 when her husband, Sean, retired from active duty. Dr. Moore has practiced as a civilian allergist since that time, but was initially at the Billings Clinic in Montana for 5 years before joining her friends and co-workers at the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska in 2015. She retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2016, and has enjoyed her extra time off, which is shared between her clinical practice and taking care of her four active children. Dr. Moore's special interests include Allergic Contact Dermatitis, Atopic Dermatitis, Asthma, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Food Allergies, Pediatric Allergies, Chronic Sinusitis, and Vaccine and Drug Allergies.



Maeve E. O'Connor, MD, FACAAI, FAAAAI, FACP, founded Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Relief of Charlotte, North Carolina, where she offers a progressive approach to treating allergy, asthma and immunology patients. Fluent in Spanish, Dr. O'Connor volunteers through local nonprofits that organize medical programs benefitting the underserved. Dr. O'Connor has published research articles on desensitization immunotherapy, asthma and food allergy. She is currently involved in clinical research in asthma, allergic rhinitis, immune deficiency and novel treatment for atopic diseases. She frequently lectures on all subjects involving allergy/immunology. Dr. O'Connor earned her medical degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. She completed her internship and residency at the University of Texas and affiliated hospitals. Dr. O'Connor completed her allergy/immunology fellowship at the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. She completed a fellowship in integrative medicine from the University of Arizona School of Medicine in Tucson. Dr. O'Connor currently sits on the

board of regents for the American College of Asthma Allergy and Immunology (ACAAI). Originally from South Carolina, Dr. O'Connor enjoys traveling with her husband, cooking, decorating, throwing dinner parties with close friends and volunteering in the Charlotte community. They have one son.



Princess U. Ogbogu, MD, is Chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital (UH Rainbow), and Professor of Pediatrics at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (Case Western), in Cleveland, Ohio. Previously, she was at Ohio State University, where she served as Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology, and Associate Professor of Medicine. Dr. Ogbogu serves as chair of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAII); is a member of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Review Committee for Allergy and Immunology; and holds leadership positions in several national committees with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) and the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI). Dr. Ogbogu earned her medical degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOMED). She completed an internal medicine residency at Case Western and an allergy/immunology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland.



Jered J. Weinstock, MD, was named Medical Director for Providence Medical Group pediatric specialties in January 2024, following nearly three years as a pediatric pulmonologist at Providence. His research interests include prematurity and the respiratory epithelium and his clinical interests include asthma, cystic fibrosis, ventilator management, neuromuscular disorders and bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Dr. Weinstock earned a bachelor degree in biochemistry from the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania; and his medical degree from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine on Saint Maarten Island (The Netherlands). He completed a pediatrics residency at the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, in Neptune Township, New Jersey, where he was the 2018 recipient of the "Nurse's Choice Physician of the Year" award. He subsequently completed a pediatric pulmonology medicine fellowship at Children's National Hospital in Washington D.C. In his leisure time, Dr. Weinstock is an avid traveler and enjoys hiking, biking and running.



Benjamin Westley, MD, FAAP, FACP, is an internist in private practice in Anchorage and affiliated with the major hospitals in Anchorage. He is board-certified in internal medicine, pediatrics and adult infectious diseases. His interests include adult and pediatric human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB), pediatric osteomyelitis, and anti-viral therapy for Hepatitis B and C. Dr. Westley earned his medical degree from the University of Washington in 2005. He completed a combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency at the University of California - San Diego. He completed his fellowship in Infectious Disease at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. During training, he worked as a pediatric HIV clinical mentor in South Africa, as a HIV researcher and UNICEF consultant in Cambodia, and as a medical volunteer in East Timor. Dr. Westley can be found with his wife Kalyan and daughters Jasmine and Jessica, fishing and sailing in Prince William Sound, telemark skiing, and traveling to Southeast Asia to visit extended family in Cambodia.

ADDITIONAL MODERATORS



April Arseneau, MD, FAAAAI, is an Allergist and Founder of the Valley Allergy & Asthma Clinic, LLC, in Palmer, Alaska, and is affiliated with Mat-Su Regional Medical Center. Prior to founding the clinic in 2014, Dr. Arseneau was chief of allergy at the Medical Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and an allergy consultant to the U.S. Pacific Air Force. She is board-certified in allergy / immunology and internal medicine. A native of Chugiak, Alaska, Dr. Arseneau earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington – Seattle, and her medical degree from Albany Medical College, New York. She completed an internal medicine residency at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center in Ohio, and an allergy/immunology fellowship at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. Before honorably separating from the U.S. Air Force in 2014, she reached the rank of major.



Jodyne Butto, MD, is a Pediatrician and Owner of Aurora Pediatrics, which she founded in Anchorage in 2021. She has served in private pediatric practice since 1995. Dr. Butto is also a Clinical Professor at the University of Washington (U-WA) School of Medicine, Adjunct Associate Professor in the University of Alaska WWAMI Biomedical Program, and co-coordinator of the Alaska WWAMI site for Pediatrics.

Previously, she was pediatric department chair at Providence Children's Hospital. She is active in the American Academy of Pediatrics and is an AAP Alaska Chapter past president and co-coordinator of the chapter's Pediatric Research in the Office Setting. She was secretary-treasurer of the Alaska State Medical Association, has been an Alaska Metabolic Screening Advisory Committee member, Anchorage School District mentor, and Asthma Camp medical director. Her research includes febrile infants, the Life Around Newborn Discharge (LAND) Study and the Safety Check. Dr. Butto earned her medical degree from U-WA School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center and Children's Hospital in California.



Stephen N. Marks, MD, FAAAAI, is a board-certified Allergist / Immunologist specializing in pediatrics at the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska. He joined the center in September 2019, after serving 27 years as a physician in the U.S. Army. He began his medical career as a general pediatrician at the U.S. Army hospital in Heidelberg, Germany. He has since served in various allergy / immunology positions over nearly two decades. Special interests include pediatric allergies and asthma, chronic cough, difficult to control asthma, food allergy, eosinophilic esophagitis, anaphylaxis, insect sting allergy, urticaria, angioedema and atopic dermatitis. Dr. Marks earned his medical degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in East Lansing. He completed his pediatrics internship and residency at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) in Honolulu, Hawaii; and completed a fellowship in allergy / immunology from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He enjoys singing and playing the guitar in his spare time.



Eric Meier, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, FACP, is board-certified in allergy / immunology and internal medicine, and is a Partner at the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska. Before joining the center in 2007, he was an active-duty officer in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and spent 10 years as a military physician. His last assignment was as chief of allergy at the 3rd Medical Group,

Elmendorf AFB, and as allergy consultant to the Pacific Air Forces. Dr. Meier attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. After completing his internal medicine residency at Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center, Biloxi, Mississippi, he was an internist at the USAF Academy for three years. He completed an allergy / immunology fellowship at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, before coming to Alaska in 2005. Dr. Meier is a marathon runner, skier and mountaineer.



Peter Montesano, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician at Medical Park Family Care in Anchorage. His specialties include primary care, preventive medicine and chronic disease management. He established residency in Alaska over 30 years ago, having fallen in love with the state during his college summer spent on commercial fishing boats around Alaska. After several years in the environmental engineering field, he studied medicine in rural Canada. Upon returning to Alaska, he first worked in many remote communities. As a rural trained physician, he developed a wide range of skills caring for the young and elderly and acute to chronic care. He has an interest in metabolic disorders and particularly disease prevention. He contributes this experience as the newest member of the organizing committee for the 2023 Asthma & Allergy Conference - *Wheezin' Sneezin' and Itchin' in Alaska*. Dr. Montesano earned his medical degree and completed his residency at Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's NL, Canada.



Kacie Tempel, PA-C, is a certified Physician Assistant at the Allergy, Asthma and immunology Center of Alaska, where she managers the center's procedures department, which includes food, vaccine and medication challenges, as well as oral immunotherapy, drug and venom testing. Born and raised in Bozeman, Montana, Kacie completed her bachelor's degree at Montana State University. She earned a Masters in Medical Science, Physician Assistant Studies from Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a certified nursing assistant (CAN), and was a firefighter/EMT. She moved to Alaska in 2013 and worked for nine years as a neurosurgical PA prior to joining the AAIC team in September 2023. Kacie resides in Alaska with her husband and enjoys skiing, snowmachining and camping.