

Bios

Infection Control Part 2: The Infection Preventionist as an Environmentalist

Emily Berns, MPH, RN

Emily Berns is an Infection Preventionist with the Communicable Disease Branch within the North Carolina Division of Public Health, assisting with the COVID-19 response and Group A Strep surveillance. She received her MPH from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and her BSN from the University of Miami. She worked as an acute care nurse before entering the field of public health.

Taylor Breeyear, MPH, BSN, RN, CIC

Taylor is the Infection Prevention Nurse Consultant with the North Carolina Division of Public Health Communicable Disease Branch. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Appalachian State University and worked as a critical care nurse before obtaining a Master of Public Health degree from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Taylor worked as an Infection Preventionist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and obtained her certification in Infection Control in 2021.

Brooke Brewer, BSN, RN, MS, CIC

Brooke Brewer is a Program Manager in the Infection Prevention Department at UNC Health. She is responsible for high-consequence pathogen preparedness and response, as well as the Program Manager for UNC's new Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center program. She has been an RN with UNC Health for over 16 years.

Catherine Bryan, MPH, a-IPC

Catherine Bryan, MPH, a-IPC; Catie is currently a Healthcare-associated epidemiologist at the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Communicable Diseases Branch. She received a Bachelor of Science in Health Science at Marshall University, then a Master of Public Health at the University of Louisville. During her time as a student, Catie worked at UofL's Division of Infectious Diseases as a student assistant. After graduation, Catie worked at a county health department in WV as a COVID-19 Epidemiologist. Before her current role, Catie was a CDC/CSTE Fellow at the Texas Department of State Health Services, Health Care Safety Investigations Unit and obtained her Associate - Infection Prevention and Control Certification in 2023.

Evelyn Cook, RN, CIC

Evelyn Cook is the Associate Director of SPICE where she is a primary author and lecturer for SPICE courses and resources, and conducts extensive training and consultation in infection prevention and control across the healthcare spectrum. Formerly a Nurse Clinician and Nurse Liaison with the Duke Infection Control Outreach Network (DICON) at Duke University Medical Center, Evelyn has served as a consultant in many NC facilities. Evelyn has served as a SPICE consultant and participates in training, education, and consultation to hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other medical facilities to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections. She has assisted long-term care facilities in writing and developing infection prevention risk assessments, infection prevention plans and policies specific to the long-term care setting. Ms. Cook, who is also a Registered Nurse and has National Board Certification in Infection Control, is active in several professional organizations including North Carolina Association for Professionals in Infection Control (President 2005-06), National Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. In 2021, she received the "Hall of Fame" Award from the North Carolina Association of Professionals in Infection Control.

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Chris Falato, Pharm. D.

Dr. Chris Falato serves as the Assistant Director of Pharmacy for Pediatrics at UNC Children's Hospital. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University, where he developed a strong commitment to advancing care for pediatric patients. Dr. Falato furthered his expertise through residency training at Texas Children's Hospital, focusing on the specialized needs of this unique patient group. Following several years as a clinical pharmacist, Dr. Falato transitioned into an administrative role at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital. In 2014, he joined UNC Children's Hospital as the Clinical Manager for the Pediatric Pharmacy. In this capacity, he has brought a wealth of experience in quality and safety initiatives to the institution. Dr. Falato has played a pivotal role in designing and constructing new pharmacy facilities tailored to enhance medication distribution for pediatric patients. His work integrates Lean and Quality principles to optimize both layout and workflow, ensuring the highest standards of efficiency and safety in pharmaceutical care.

Anne Friedland, MD

Dr. Friedland has worked at The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine as an assistant professor of Medicine in infectious disease in the immunocompromised host group since August 2022. Dr. Friedland's clinical focus is non-tuberculosis mycobacterial infections, and her research focus is clinical trials, with a focus on trials involving immunocompromised hosts. From Toronto, Dr. Friedland earned her undergraduate from Brown University and Medical School at Tufts. Dr. Friedland's residency in internal medicine was completed at the University of Maryland. She worked as a hospitalist for 2 years in Maryland after her residency. Dr. Friedland's fellowship in Infectious Disease was at Duke University, where she also completed Duke Clinical Research Institute Fellowship during this time and classes for a clinical research training certificate.

Sarah Rhea, DVM, MPH, PhD

Dr. Sarah Rhea earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University and worked in clinical veterinary practice in Indianapolis, Indiana before obtaining her MPH and PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following her graduate training, Dr. Rhea served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and subsequently completed a Preventive Medicine Fellowship with CDC before joining RTI International in 2016. As a Senior Research Epidemiologist at RTI, Dr. Rhea led a multidisciplinary team developing agent-based models to study healthcare-associated infections and the spread and impact of SARS-CoV-2 in North Carolina. She also provided expertise in disease surveillance in support of CDC's global health security partnership engagement projects. Dr. Rhea joined NC State University in 2021 as an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology. Through her research and collaborations, Dr. Rhea seeks to address real-world challenges in public health and clinical practice using a One Health approach with a focus on emerging pathogens, healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial resistance.

William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH

Dr. Bill Rutala is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina's School of Medicine, and serves as the Director and co-founder of the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology at the UNC School of Medicine. In 2017, after 38 years, Dr. Rutala retired from his position as Director of Hospital Epidemiology, Occupational Health and Safety Program at the University of North Carolina Hospitals. He has more than 600 publications (peer-review articles, books, book chapters, brief reports) in the fields of disinfection and sterilization to include several guidelines (e.g., CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities), and the epidemiology and prevention of healthcare-associated infections. Dr. Rutala earned his Bachelor of Science degree in science from Rutgers University, his master's degree in microbiology from the University of Tennessee, and both his master's in public health and doctorate in microbiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. He is certified in Infection control and a retired Colonel in the USAR.

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Angela Warren, RN, BSN, MS, CIC

Angela Warren has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Maine, as well as her master's degree in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology from the University of Providence. Most of her nursing career has been spent working in the Emergency Department with the last 10 years working as an Infection Preventionist. She is a member of several professional organizations such as The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and North Carolina Association for Professionals in Infection Control (NC APIC). She is currently serving as an NC APIC Zone Coordinator. A Registered Nurse with National Board Certification in Infection Control, Angela works with SPICE as an Infection Prevention Consultant where she works to develop educational tools, presents educational sessions, and consults with different types of facilities regarding their Infection Control Programs.

David J. Weber, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FSHEA, FRCM (London)

David J. Weber has been on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1985, where he is currently a Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and a Professor of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health. Dr. Weber serves as the Medical Director for NC SPICE. Dr. Weber serves as the Associate Chief Medical Officer for UNC Hospitals and the Department of Hospital Epidemiology (Infection Prevention). He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Critical Care Medicine, and Preventive Medicine. He serves as an Associate Editor of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. His research interests include healthcare-associated infections, new and emerging pathogens (norovirus, SARS-CoV, CA-MRSA, Pfiesteria), infections in childcare centers, and antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

Zachary Willis, MD, MPH

Dr. Zach Willis is the Director of the Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at UNC Health and is an Associate Professor of Pediatric Infectious Disease at UNC School of Medicine. Dr. Willis completed a pediatric residency and fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases before joining the faculty of the UNC Department of Pediatrics in 2016. In his antimicrobial stewardship role, Dr. Willis closely follows the epidemiology of highly drug-resistant organisms and current evidence-based strategies for optimal treatment. He has recently served as a faculty member in the North Carolina Clinical Partners in Antimicrobial Stewardship program, providing antimicrobial stewardship education to healthcare providers across the state.

David Wohl, MD

Dr. Wohl is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina (UNC). He is co-Principal Investigator of the Global UNC Infectious Diseases Clinical Trials Unit and Site Leader of its Chapel Hill research site. Dr. Wohl is a clinical scientist with a focus on emergent infectious diseases. He has spent over 20 years leading research into the prevention and treatment of HIV and served two terms as a member of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel. Since 2014, he has been working continuously in Liberia, West Africa, conducting research with Ebola survivors to learn about chronic complications and sexual transmission of this infection and establishing the UNC Project Liberia research platform at two locations in the country. He and his team have extended this work to examine Lassa fever, a viral hemorrhagic fever endemic in West Africa. In 2020, he helped lead the UNC clinical and research response to COVID-19. He is medical director of a large drive through testing site as well as two COVID-19 vaccination clinics. He serves as Vice Chair of ACTIV-2, an international AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)/Operation Warp Speed trial of SARS-CoV-2 therapeutics. He has an active clinical practice at UNC.