

NC Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference – May 2025

Bios

Marty Cooney, DrPH, MPH, ME, BSN, RN, CIC

Dr. Cooney is the SPICE Associate Director. His previous position was the Director of Infection Control at UNC Rex Healthcare for 14 years. Prior to his work at UNC Rex, Dr. Cooney was the Director of Infection Control and Employee Health at HMA/Novant Healthcare. His clinical nursing experience prior to infection control included roles as an interventional radiology nurse, ER and OR nurse, medical-surgical nurse, and bed control.

Dr. Cooney received his Doctor of Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill in 2023. He completed his Master of Public Health at the University of New England in 2018, and Master of Entrepreneurship in 2011. Dr. Cooney also received a Bachelor of Science Nursing in 2007 and is also a CIC. He has delivered several presentations at professional conferences and published in infection prevention journals.

Catherine Bryan, MPH, a-IPC

Catie is currently the Antimicrobial Stewardship Lead and Healthcare-associated epidemiologist at the North Carolina Division of Public Health. 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 West Virginia county health department 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 obtained her Associate- Infection Prevention and Control Certification in 2023.

Megan Davies, MD

Megan Davies received her MD from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and completed a residency in Family Practice at East Carolina University. Her epidemiology training was in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). Megan serves as the Medical Director of the Surveillance for Healthcare-Associated and Resistant Pathogens Patient Safety (SHARPPS) Program in the Communicable Disease Branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health. In this role, she oversees the State's programs for healthcare-associated infections surveillance and response, outbreaks in healthcare settings, and antimicrobial resistance and stewardship.

Elizabeth (Libby) Dodds-Ashley, PharmD, MHS, FCCP, FIDP, BCIDP

Elizabeth S. Dodds Ashley, PharmD, MHS, is a Professor of Medicine and Operations Director for the Duke Antimicrobial Stewardship Outreach Network (DASON) based at Duke University. She has been an active antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist for more than 25 years. Her work and research in stewardship span a variety of patient care settings, including large academic medical centers, community hospitals, and long-term care facilities. She has served as a member of the Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group at the Centers for Disease Control and an expert panel member of the Transatlantic Taskforce for Antimicrobial Resistance, among other appointments. She is a current liaison member and first pharmacist on the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) representing SIDP. She is actively involved in several professional societies engaged in stewardship, including SHEA and SIDP, for which she recently served as President.

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Vera Luther, MD

Dr. Vera Luther is a Professor of Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and has been passionate about training the next generation of healthcare professionals in antimicrobial stewardship since joining the faculty in 2007. She serves as the medical director for the Wake Forest Center for Antimicrobial Utilization, Stewardship, and Epidemiology (which is known by its acronym, CAUSE) and directs the infectious diseases fellowship program at Wake Forest. She enjoys collaborating with other stewardship educators to develop, evaluate, and publish formal curricula for training health professions learners in antimicrobial stewardship, such as the CDC and AAMC “Get Smart About Antibiotics” curriculum as well as the “Core” and “Advanced” IDSA Antimicrobial Stewardship curricula. She recently completed her master’s degree in healthcare informatics with a goal of leveraging emerging technologies to advance medicine, medical education, and the practice of antimicrobial stewardship.

Mike Smith, MD

Dr Smith is a Professor of Pediatrics and the Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University. He completed his training in pediatric infectious diseases at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. From 2007 to 2017, he was on faculty at the University of Louisville, where he created and led the antimicrobial stewardship programs at Kosair Children’s Hospital. He was recruited to Duke in 2017 to develop a pediatric antimicrobial stewardship program.

Dr. Smith’s research focuses on pediatric outpatient antimicrobial utilization. He is a founding member of the Sharing Antimicrobial Reports for Pediatric Stewardship OutPatient (SHARPS-OP) Collaborative, which is working to develop metrics and national benchmarks for pediatric outpatient prescribing across the United States.

Rebecca Theophanous, MD, MHSc

Rebecca Theophanous, MD, MHSc, is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Duke University Hospital and the Emergency Ultrasound Director at the Durham VA Healthcare System. She is actively involved with clinical ultrasound education. Her research work on point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) and antibiotic stewardship includes published manuscripts and speaker presentations at national conferences. She has worked on quality improvement projects at Duke University Hospital involving Blood Culture and UTI diagnosis and treatment. Research projects include antibiotic stewardship, 3DUS technology as an innovative bedside tool, implementation of a POCUS training curriculum at the Durham VA, simulation training for ultrasound-guided nerve-blocks, assessing ultrasound competency in physicians, and teleultrasound use to improve patient care. She is also a reviewer for multiple medical journals. Her academic interests include medical education and simulation, focusing on ultrasound, antibiotic stewardship, and critical care.

Zachary (Zach) 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 Diseases at the 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.

Julie Williamson, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Julie E. Williamson is the pharmacy manager of the Antimicrobial Support Network at Atrium Health (now part of Advocate Health) in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Williamson received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy and completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at Greenville Hospital System (now Prisma Health) in Greenville, South Carolina, followed by a PGY-2 Residency in Infectious Diseases at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. She has been a practicing Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship pharmacist for 17 years and has practiced in North Carolina and New York City. She is a Board-certified Infectious Diseases pharmacist and a Diplomate of The Pharmacy Leadership Academy. Her research interests include antimicrobial stewardship across the continuum of care, novel metrics in antimicrobial stewardship, and development of the future Infectious Diseases pharmacist workforce.

Rebekah Wren, PharmD, BCIDP

Dr. Rebekah Howell Wrenn, PharmD, BCIDP is a Board-Certified Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist and the manager of Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Programs at Duke University Hospital. She is the Director of the Pharmacy Graduate Year 2 Residency Program in Infectious Diseases and is an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Duke School of Medicine. Dr. Wrenn serves as the co-chair of the Duke Antimicrobial Stewardship and Evaluation Team (ASET), a part of the Duke Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention.

Dr. Wrenn earned her PharmD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 Infectious Diseases residency training at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston Salem, NC. She is an active committee member in the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), Vizient Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, and the Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists (SIDP). Her research interests include allergy de-labeling including penicillin skin testing, outpatient antimicrobial stewardship, urinary tract infections, and duration of antimicrobial therapy.