SPEAKER BIOS

Joe Kippley, JD, MHA
Public Health Director, City of Sioux Falls

Joe Kippley is the Public Health Director for Sioux Falls, overseeing health services, community health initiatives, and partnerships to enhance public well-being. Passionate about public health, he is committed to building a thriving community in Sioux Falls. Joe manages programs such as Falls Community Health, health inspections, and emergency medical services quality assurance. Before his appointment in 2024, Joe led operations across various healthcare fields, including primary care, oncology, genetics, and cardiology, at healthcare systems nationwide. Joe holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and economics from the University of Notre Dame, a Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota, and a Master of Health Administration from the University of Iowa.

Outside of work, Joe enjoys keeping up with his two daughters' activities, golfing, exploring the outdoors, and tries to attend a Notre Dame football game each year.

Emily Messerli, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Chief Programmatic Officer, Association of Immunization Managers

As the chief programmatic officer, Emily Messerli, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, leads a dynamic team to implement the activities associated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreements. She directs federal grant activities and provides direction and oversight to AIM programmatic activities. With her team, she works to improve collaborations between state and local jurisdictions and federal partners to increase immunization rates and decrease vaccine-preventable diseases. She also oversees the communications team responsible for the organization's website, social media, and member communications.

Dr. Messerli is a certified family nurse practitioner and former Kentucky Immunization Branch program manager. Dr. Messerli received her undergraduate degree from Emory University and her doctoral degree in nursing (DNP) from the University of Kentucky. She has served on the board of directors for the Kentucky Public Health Association and on a workgroup for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Richard H. Hughes IV, JD, MPH
Partner, Epstein Becker Green

Richard Hughes IV, JD, MPH, is a nationally recognized thought leader in vaccines and prevention, working and teaching at the intersection of public health and health care law and policy. Mr. Hughes is a partner at Epstein, Becker & Green, where he leads a multidisciplinary team of attorneys and advisors. He was formerly vice president of public policy at Moderna, guiding the company's policy strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously, he was managing director at Avalere Health, where he founded and led the firm's vaccines group and held roles with Merck and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, as well as a gubernatorial appointee to the Arkansas State Board of Health. Mr. Hughes received his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School and his Master of Public Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He is barred in the District of Columbia and before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Melissa Monbouquette, MPA
Executive Director, BUILD Health Challenge

Melissa Monbouquette, MPA, is the executive director of The BUILD Health Challenge® (BUILD). BUILD invests in multi-sector, community-centered partnerships that transform systems and elevate community voices to advance health equity. Melissa leads the program's strategy, learning, and innovation practices.

Prior to her work with BUILD, she served as a program officer with the de Beaumont Foundation, where she managed a portfolio of projects focused on cross-sector collaboration, social determinants of health, and workforce development in the public health sector. Melissa is a GIH Terrance Keenan Institute Fellow, a board member for Communities Joined in Action, and a former steering committee member for Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy. She has a master's degree from The George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration and a bachelor's degree from Tufts University. She lives in Washington, DC.

Lon Kightlinger, PhD, MSPH

Lon Kightlinger was the state epidemiologist for the South Dakota Department of Health for nearly 20 years. After he retired, he served as a health volunteer in Madagascar with the Peace Corps. Hailing from the prairies of northcentral South Dakota, Lon served as a medic in the US Army in Germany during the Cold War and then worked in medical and public health service in Madagascar from 1978 to 1998. During these years, he confronted first-hand nearly every disease on the reportable disease list and many that aren't. His education includes an undergraduate education at Augustana in Sioux Falls, a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) from Tulane University, and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He now lives in Aberdeen.

SPEAKER BIOS

Josh Clayton, PhD, MPH
State Epidemiologist, South Dakota Department of Health

Josh Clayton is the state epidemiologist at the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH). He joined SD-DOH in November 2017 and focuses on informatics for data analytics and visualization, data governance, and infectious disease epidemiology, surveillance, and response. Dr. Clayton worked previously as the deputy state epidemiologist and director of the Epi Resource Center with the Indiana State Department of Health. He received his MPH and PhD in epidemiology at the University of Michigan and completed a fellowship with the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service, assigned to the Tennessee Department of Health.

Kylie Hall, MPH
Operations Director, North Dakota State University Center for Immunization Research and Education

Kylie Hall is the operations director of the North Dakota State University Department of Public Health Center for Immunization Research and Education (CIRE). Her work has encompassed many vaccine topics, including immunization policy and practice, communication strategies to address vaccine hesitancy at the medical encounter, immunization improvement strategies, immunization data evaluation, immunization disparities, and improving vaccine confidence. She earned a Bachelor of Science in microbiology and completed a master's degree in public health from North Dakota State University, where she specialized in the management of infectious diseases. She enjoys spending time with her husband and three children in her free time. Kylie is happy to report that they are all fully vaccinated.

Brett Oakland
Immunization Registry Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Health

Brett Oakland has worked for the SD Department of Health for over 20 years. He has been the SD Immunization Information System (SDIIS) coordinator since September 2020. The SDIIS platform, STC|ONE, provided by STChealth, LLC, went live in South Dakota on May 1, 2023, joining 13 other state and territorial jurisdictions in the STChealth consortium. Previously, Brett worked as a disease intervention specialist for 15 years, investigating vaccine-preventable disease cases in South Dakota and conducting immunization site visits at clinics and other facilities enrolled in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

Erica Schipper, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialist and Chief Medical Officer for Sioux Falls, Sanford Health

Dr. Erica Schipper is a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is also the chief medical officer for Sioux Falls and is highly experienced in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Dr. Schipper is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and an active member of multiple medical societies. With a background in both clinical care and academic contributions, she has co-authored several textbook chapters on laparoscopic and robotic gynecology. Her patient-centered approach focuses on personalized care, ensuring that each individual's concerns are heard and addressed. She enjoys music, running, hiking, and reading when not practicing medicine.

Jennifer Hsu, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist, Avera Medical Group

Dr. Jennifer Hsu is an infectious disease specialist at Avera Medical Group in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She earned her medical degree from the University of Missouri School of Medicine and completed her residency and fellowship in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Hsu is board-certified in both internal medicine and infectious disease and is passionate about antibiotic stewardship and the proper use of medications to preserve resources for future treatments. Her clinical expertise includes managing conditions such as fevers of unknown origin, respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, and a wide range of bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. Dr. Hsu also provides telemedicine services across South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. Outside work, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and reading.

Andrea Polkinghorn, BSN, RN
Lead Immunization Strategist, Sanford Health

Andrea Polkinghorn, BSN, RN, is the lead immunization strategist for Sanford Health, where she oversees immunization strategy, education, and quality improvement across more than 200 clinics. She also serves as board president of Immunize South Dakota and vice chair of the Sioux Falls Board of Health. Andrea is a passionate advocate for vaccines, driven by her personal journey from vaccine hesitancy to immunization leadership. She lives in Sioux Falls with her husband, three daughters, and their dog, Diesel.