

# APHL

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2018-2019

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#### President

**JOANNE BARTKUS, PhD, D(ABMM), MS**

director, Public Health Laboratory at the Minnesota Department of Health

Joanne Bartkus is currently the director of the Public Health Laboratory at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH-PHL). Her duties include supervisor of a management team responsible for oversight of environmental testing, infectious disease surveillance and outbreak investigation, newborn screening, and laboratory operations.

Joanne received her BS and MS degrees in biology from Northern Illinois University and PhD in microbiology from Cornell University. She conducted post-doctoral work in the Department of Biochemistry at Cornell University and was a National Research

Council Fellow at United States Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases. She is board certified in medical microbiology by the American Board of Medical Microbiology and is certified as a high complexity laboratory director by the American Board of Bioanalysis. Joanne currently serves as board liaison to the APHL Newborn Screening and Genetics in Public Health Committee and has previously served on the Infectious Disease Committee and the Planning Committee for the APHL Annual Meeting.



#### President-Elect

**GRACE KUBIN, PhD**

director, Texas State Public Health Laboratories

Grace Kubin is the director of the Public Health Laboratories in the State of Texas. She has held various positions in the laboratory, including performing testing in support of foodborne outbreak investigations, managing biological and chemical threat testing, and serving in the State's Emergency Medical Operations Center. Under Grace's leadership, the Texas PHL has built a Continuous Quality Improvement team focusing on using Lean and Sigma principles to drive quality improvement.

Grace received her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

Grace has been a board liaison to the APHL Public Health Preparedness and Response and the Workforce Development Committees. She has served on the Business Operational Workgroup, the APHL-CDC Workgroup on Joint Data Collection, the Communications and Marketing Advisory Group, and the Network of Laboratory Leadership and Alumni. Grace was the 2009 recipient of the APHL Emerging Leader Award for her work in developing relationships with various groups involved with biological and chemical threat emergency response.



## Secretary-Treasurer

### Bill Whitmar, MS

laboratory director, Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

Bill Whitmar has been the director of the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory for more than seven years. He first joined MSPHL in 1989. His career in public service spans 40 years, the majority of which have been devoted to public health and public health laboratories. Bill has also been a facilitator for the Joint Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Workshop series, an Instructor with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy, a US Department

Of Commerce Delegate to the International Organization of Legal Metrology in Paris, France, and Advisor to the Department of Transportation Safety Administration. In addition to serving on the APHL Finance Committee, Bill has also been a member of the Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee, the Nominations Committee, Public Health Laboratory Accreditations Committee, a Public Health Emerging Leader, and First Cohort Member.



## Member-at-Large

### RICHARD STEECE, PhD, D(ABMM)

laboratory director, Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services

Dr. Richard Steece currently serves as the Director of the Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services in Nashville, TN, a consolidated laboratory serving Public Health and Environmental agencies in the state. The Division of Laboratory Services also has a regional Public Health Laboratory in Knoxville, TN under Dr. Steece. He has more than 40 years of experience in public health laboratories in Minnesota (Asst. Director), New Mexico and South Dakota (Laboratory Director). In addition, he had worked for the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) for nine years as a Science Advisor and as a Consultant to the Centers for Disease Control National Infertility Prevention Project for seven years. He has also worked internationally and provided support for the Centers for

CDC, APHL, Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute, and the US Department of the Interior projects in Asia the South Pacific, US territories, and Europe. He is a board certified Diplomate of the American Academy of Microbiology (ASM) and hold a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor's and Master's degrees from South Dakota State University. He has authored numerous publications and presented technical and public health lectures and seminars at locations across the United States. He is currently board liaison to the Infectious Disease Committee and, has chaired the Sexually Transmitted Disease Subcommittee and served on the Global Health Committee.



## Member-at-Large

### Denise Marie Toney, PhD, HCLD(ABB)

director, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

Denise Toney currently serves as laboratory director of the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, the state laboratory for the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing analytical testing services to public health, environmental, agricultural, and consumer protection agencies statewide. Denise joined DCLS in 1997 and has devoted more than 20 years to building capability and capacity within Virginia's consolidated laboratory services.

Denise has extensive experience with public health laboratory operations, fiscal and policy development, personnel management, and workforce training and development. She holds an adjunct faculty appointment at

Virginia Commonwealth University and served as a member of FERN's Course Advisory and Methods Review Committees, CDC's DPDx Blue Panel Review, the Governor's Task Force on Ebola, pandemic influenza and Zika virus response and most recently CDC's PulseNet Steering Committee, Virginia's Emergency Response Council, Virginia's Biotechnology Advisory Board and APHL's Food safety Committee. Denise holds a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Chemistry from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. in Microbiology/Immunology from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University.



## Member-at-Large

### Scott Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB)

laboratory director, North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

Dr. Scott Zimmerman currently serves as Director of North Carolina State Laboratory (NCSLPH) in Raleigh, NC. NCSLPH provides laboratory diagnostic support to a variety of public health programs in the NC Department of Human Services (DHHS), including Newborn Screening, Communicable Disease Control, Women's and Children's Health, and Environmental Health for the state of North Carolina.

Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Zimmerman served as the Director of the Regional Public Health Laboratories in Buffalo, NY for 19 years and as Responsible Official for the Western Finger Lakes Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Emerging infections and Biodefense Laboratory.

Dr. Zimmerman obtained both his doctoral and master's degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Health. He currently maintains faculty appointments as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University Of North Carolina School Of Public Health and the University of Buffalo's School of Medicine and School of Public Health and Health Professions.

He has authored numerous publications and presented public health lectures and seminars at locations across the United States.

Dr. Zimmerman is a board liaison to APHL's Environmental Laboratory Science and Laboratory Systems and Standards Committees.





## Public Health Associate Institutional Member Representative

### MARIA LUCIA ISHIDA, PhD

food laboratory director, NY Department of Agriculture and Markets

Maria Lucia's interest in Food Safety started back in 2007 when she joined the 'MPSJEB Bureau of Laboratories. Within seven years in the agency she transitioned from bench analyst and section supervisor before becoming bureau chief. As a leader, Maria is an APHL Network of Laboratory Leadership Alumni, Certified Public Manager and recipient of the 2012 APHL Emerging Leader Award. In consequence to her engagement in Food Safety topics, she is an active

participant of workgroups and committees providing the Agriculture laboratory viewpoint to national and state public health agencies. In the summer of 2015, Maria joined the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets as Director of Food Laboratory. Maria is currently part of the following APHL committees and working groups: Food Safety, Global Health, and Network of Laboratory Leadership Alumni (NOLLA).



## Public Health Institutional Local Member State Representative

### MARK WADE

laboratory services director, San Antonio Metro Health District Laboratory

Mark Wade has served as the Laboratory Services Director at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) since 2008, following an extensive 20-year military career conducting clinical and environmental laboratory operations in such far-flung locations as Japan and Guam to Alabama and San Antonio. Mark is a medical technologist by trade with an extensive dual work history in environmental chemistry and industrial hygiene laboratory operations while assigned to the Air Force Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory. He went on to conduct and direct biodefense/counter-proliferation research operations with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

Prior to accepting his current position, Mark was tasked to help design the science buildings that would house the new AFRL mission and continue to serve as a biocontainment consultant. Once at SAMHD, he and his team made extensive improvements to laboratory operations and brought the laboratory back from its downward trajectory. Under his leadership, the laboratory is now making significant contributions to the Public Health mission in San Antonio and the surrounding 29-county region in South Central Texas. Mark and his team have ably responded to two hurricanes, the H1N1 pandemic outbreak and large scale TB contact investigations.



## Public Health Institutional Local Member Representative

### TAMARA “TAMMY” THEISEN, MT(ASCP)

division director, Saginaw County Public Health Laboratory

Tammy Theisen’s career in public health spans more than 30 years. She currently serves as Division Director of the Saginaw County Department of Public Health Laboratory (SCDPHL), serving a population of almost 1.4 million residents from both rural and urban communities. Tammy earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Technology with a minor in Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. She interned at Flint Osteopathic Hospital in Flint, Michigan and then became ASCP registered. In addition to her high complexity lab responsibilities, she is also

Laboratory Director for the SCDPH clinics and serves as technical consultant for several other Michigan counties, helping them meet and comply with CLIA requirements. She is an active member on Saginaw County’s outbreak investigation team, a co-facilitator for the Health Department’s strategic plan, and mentors quality improvement projects for the Health Department. Tammy has been actively involved in APHL since 2003, serving on numerous committees, including Environmental Science and Knowledge Management and has been a strong advocate for the Local Laboratory Community.



## Past President

### EWA KING, PhD

laboratory director, Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Ewa King is the director of the Rhode Island State Health Laboratories in Providence, Rhode Island. She oversees state laboratory programs supporting public health, environmental and public safety agencies in Rhode Island. Ewa holds a PhD in chemistry and an MS degree in food chemistry and technology from the Technical University of Lodz, Poland. She was a recipient of research scholarships in biochemistry and enzymology at Brown University in Providence and the National Center for Scientific Research in France. After working

at a commercial environmental testing laboratory, Ewa began her career at the Rhode Island State Health Laboratories in 2000, holding positions of QA officer, chief of the Environmental Sciences Section, and finally, laboratory director. Ewa’s recent scientific interests focus on relationships between human exposure to environmental contaminants and individual and public health. These interests are reflected in her long-standing membership and co-chairing of the Biomonitoring subcommittee as well as a membership in the APHL Environmental Health Committee.



Ex-Officio

## SCOTT J. BECKER, MS

executive director, Association of Public Health Laboratories

Scott Becker has served as the executive director for the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) since 1997. As the association's chief staff officer, Scott is responsible for programmatic and fiscal operations, liaison with APHL members and partners, and policy development. Under his leadership, APHL has doubled its staff, tripled its programs and more than quadrupled its budget. In 1999, he was recognized as one of the nation's top association executives under 40.

Prior to joining APHL, Scott served as deputy executive director for the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). During a sabbatical from ASPH, he directed a WHO project to integrate HIV/AIDS into health profession curricula. He holds BS and MS degrees in business and non-profit management, respectively, from the University of Maryland.

*The executive director also serves as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.*

