

## 2016 California Immunization Coalition Summit – Plenary Speakers Biographies



### **Kathleen Harriman, PhD, MPH, RN**

*Chief, Vaccine Preventable Disease Epidemiology Section, California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch*

Kathleen Harriman has served as Chief of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Epidemiology Section at the California Department of Public Health since 2007. Prior to that, she worked for 15 years as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health, including supervising the statewide infection control program.

Kathleen has also worked as a pediatric emergency room nurse and as an infection preventionist at a children's hospital. Kathy is currently a voting member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Kathy received her MPH from the University of Sydney in Australia and her PhD from the University of Minnesota.



### **Mark H. Sawyer, MD, MPH**

*Division of Infectious Diseases  
Rady Children's Specialists of San Diego - A Medical Foundation  
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, University of California, San Diego*

Dr. Sawyer is a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and a Pediatric Infectious Disease specialist at the UCSD School of Medicine and Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. He is the medical director of the UCSD San Diego Immunization Partnership, a contract with the San Diego County Agency for Health and Human Services to improve immunization delivery in San Diego. Dr. Sawyer is active in several groups involved in developing vaccine policy and is the current chair of the California Immunization Committee, an advisory committee to the California State Immunization Branch, a member of the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and past-president of the California Immunization Coalition.

Dr. Sawyer is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and President of AAP Chapter 3, District IX. He belongs to numerous professional societies including the Society of Pediatric Research, the Infectious Disease Society of America and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

### **Kerry Shearer**



Kerry Shearer has a wide-ranging background as a broadcaster, public information officer, video producer and social media specialist. As Communication & Media Officer for Sacramento County Public Health from 2007-2010, Kerry implemented social media strategies such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to communicate during public health emergencies and the H1N1 flu pandemic. Innovative approaches included using Skype for live TV interviews, creating near-real-time videos to publicize H1N1 clinics, conducting live webcasts via UStream, monitoring media activity through Twitter, and creating a compact web TV studio to help his agency reach out. Kerry has served as a social multimedia panelist at numerous local, state and national conferences, including annual events held by the Centers for Disease Control and National Public Health Information Coalition.

Today, Kerry provides communications, social media and crisis response training, as well as web video production, to public health agencies and associations, as well as a wide range of local, state and national public and private-sector clients. He thrives on assisting his communications colleagues across the country in getting started with, or enhancing, their social media and web video initiatives; helping them select the most effective tools and understand best practices; and assisting them in educating their management about the importance of adopting these tools as part of an overall communications program. One of Kerry's newest areas of focus is in live streaming video, which has exploded online with the advent of Twitter's Periscope app and Facebook Live, and offers unprecedented opportunities to create high-impact, engaging content.

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### Carolyn Bridges, MD, MPH

*Associate Director of Adult Immunizations, Immunization Services Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases*

Dr. Carolyn Buxton Bridges is the Associate Director of Adult and Influenza Immunizations in the Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control. A board-certified internal medicine physician, Dr. Bridges attended medical school at the University of Washington and completed her internal medicine residency at University of Colorado. She practiced general internal medicine before joining the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in 1996 working primarily on influenza. She transitioned to her current position in 2011 as the Associate Director of Adult and Influenza Immunizations.

Her career in public health has included research and policy on influenza prevention and control, vaccine effectiveness, and transmission, vaccination coverage, and improving coverage for recommended adult vaccines. She has over 100 publications, including authoring or coauthoring the ACIP influenza vaccine recommendations for seven years and ACIP adult immunization schedule for 4 years.

### Sarah Royce, MD, MPH

*Chief, California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch*

Sarah Royce, MD, MPH is chief of the Immunization Branch, California Department of Public Health. From 1992 to 2008, she served as CDPH Tuberculosis Control Branch chief. For the next 5 years, she worked for UCSF, the World Health Organization, and other global health groups in 19 countries on TB and HIV issues. For the last 19 months she was chief of the Medical Policy Section of DHCS where she oversaw quality improvement activities for 8 million MediCal Managed Care enrollees.

Educated at Harvard-Radcliffe College and UCSF School of Medicine, she is board certified in Preventive Medicine/Occupational Health and Internal Medicine. Her MPH is in epidemiology from the School of Public Health, UC Berkeley. She also serves on the UCSF volunteer faculty as Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



### Karen Ernst, MA

*Executive Director, Voices for Vaccine*

Karen is the mother of three boys and a military wife. She sometimes teaches English and enjoys advocating for and working with children. She is the Executive Director of **Voices for Vaccines** and one of the founders of the Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition.

Voices for Vaccines (VFV) is a parent-driven organization supported by scientists, doctors, and public health officials that provides parents clear, science-based information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease, as well as an opportunity to join the national discussion about the importance of on-time vaccination. Karen leads the charge in helping parents advocate for healthier, disease-free communities.



**@Voices4Vaccines**

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### **Dorit Rubinstein Reiss, PhD**

*Professor of Law, UC Hastings College of the Law*

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss' undergraduate degree in Law and Political Science (1999, Magna cum Laude) is from the Faculty of Law in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where she served as Editor in Chief of the Law Review. Following graduation from law school, Professor Reiss clerked for a year and a half in the Israeli Ministry of Justice's Department of Public Law, working on a variety of constitutional and administrative law issues. She received her Ph.D. from the Jurisprudence and Social Policy program in UC Berkeley, writing her dissertation on accountability in the liberalized telecommunications and electricity sectors in England, France and Sweden.

**@doritmi**

Professor Reiss' research examined accountability of agencies at the state, national and international level, with agencies studied including the CPUC, the FAA, and other agencies in the United States and Europe. Increasingly, however, her research and activities are focused on legal issues related to vaccines, including exemption laws and tort liability related to nonvaccination. Dorit is also on the Board of Directors for Voices for Vaccine.



### **Hannah Henry, MFA**

*Graphic Designer and Co-Founder, Vaccinate California*

Hannah is a designer and educator living in Napa, California. She created the I ❤️ Immunity graphic that became the face of California's most recent pro vaccine movement and co-founded Vaccinate California which aided the passage of a stricter vaccine law for schools. She continues to advocate for immunization awareness through educational materials, designing graphics for the Vaccine Page and other public health advocacy organizations.



### **Renee DiResta, BS**

*Vice President of Business Development at Haven*

Renee DiResta has over a decade of experience as a technologist, with a particular expertise at the intersection of finance and technology. Currently Renee is part of the founding team at Haven, a logistics marketplace startup in San Francisco. She's also active on political issue campaigns, especially tech-meets policy areas.

She applied her professional expertise in statistical analysis to the Vaccinate California effort, utilizing demographic and network analysis, as well as organizational growth marketing techniques to help facilitate the passage of SB 277. Her analyses were published in Slate and Wired.

**@noupside**

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### **Leah Russin, JD**

*Senior Policy Advisor –Water Now, Co-Founder Vaccinate California*

Leah is a lawyer and a busy mom to a toddler and a teenager. Her background includes environmental policy and litigation as well as teaching high school math and science. Leah’s involvement with Vaccinate California helped to give a voice to the parents who want to re-build our community Immunity.

Leah and other members of Vaccinate California have continued their work to support the implementation of SB277 and identify opportunities to maintain collaborative partnerships developed during the 2015 I ❤️ Immunity Campaign.



@VaccinateCal