



## Epi Ready Team Training - Cadre of Trainers

### Environmental Instructors-

**Bill Adler, MPH, RS-** Bill has been with the Minnesota Department of Health for 31 years and in that time has been a field sanitarian, trainer and local program evaluator. His BS is in Environmental and Public Health from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and he also has an MPH. Bill was a senior contributing editor of Safe Foods in Different Languages from 1989 through 1994, where he developed food safety manuals in Vietnamese and simplified Mandarin Chinese. Between 2002-2003, Bill taught English in China and would like to get back there to work in food safety and training when he retires.

**Vickie Church, REHS, MPA-** Vickie is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with a passion for public health and promotion of environmental health programs. She is a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist with the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Food and Housing Division. She has over 25 years of experience with food safety, epidemiology, emergency response, environmental assessments, and other environmental health programs. Vickie also served as an Environmental Health Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Medical Services Corps.

**Allen Gelfius-** Allen Gelfius is a trainer for the FDA State Training Team in the Division of Human Resource Development. He develops training courses and educational materials, primarily for state and local regulators, on food safety issues ranging from HACCP principles and the National Voluntary Program Standards to the Food Code and other regulatory and industry initiatives designed to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. He also coordinates the delivery of these training courses in various states across the country and participates in the instruction and presentation of the course materials. Prior to joining FDA, Allen completed his B.S. degree in Public Health at Indiana University and then worked for 12 years in the Hawaii State Department of Health's Food and Drug Branch as a field inspector (for the first 4 years) and then as the Data & Training Manager. His work included management of inspection data; the promulgation of laws and regulations to regulate foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices sold in Hawaii; and the development and implementation of training programs and educational materials on various public health issues. Allen was awarded the 1995 National Achievement Award from the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) for his efforts in providing training and education to regulators, industry representatives, and the general public on food safety and other public health issues. His training efforts have covered issues such as seafood HACCP principles; food microbiology; nutrition labeling; leaching lead in ceramics; and safe foodhandling practices, for which he

led the Hawaii Food Safety Advisory Council in the development of a training video and education program targeted at newly-hired foodhandlers in retail food and food service operations. Allen has been an active member and served on various boards and committees of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, the Conference for Food Protection, and the Institute of Food Technologists.

**Ken Pearson, Ed. D. CFSP-** Ken works for the Knox County Health Department in Knoxville, TN as an Environmental Specialist Trainer. He has been working in the field for 12 years doing regular health inspections as well as teaching numerous food safety classes for a wide variety of populations. Ken really enjoys teaching to special populations such as the mentally challenged, visually impaired, elderly caregivers, wheelchair disabled, church volunteers and especially children. He regularly teaches food safety classes for the University of Tennessee and numerous other corporations. Ken has been known to brew moonshine, grow mushrooms and chase leprechauns for fun when not participating in time travel experiments.

**Michele Samarya-Timm, MA, CHES, REHS**

Health Educator

Franklin Township Health Department

**John Tilden**

**Epidemiology Instructors-**

**C.P. Kanwat, MD, MPH**

Foodborne Epidemiologist

Division of Food Protection

S.C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control

**Bela Matyas, MD, MPH-** Bela is currently the Medical Director of the Epidemiology Program in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He previously served for four years as the Medical Director of Disease Control and State Epidemiologist for the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDH), after serving for three years as the Chief of Environmental Health Risk Assessment for the RIDH. Dr. Matyas received his medical degree from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and completed a residency in Occupational Medicine/Preventive Medicine at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he also received a Master of Science Degree in Epidemiology and a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree.

**Whitney Mauer, DVM, PhD**

**Mark Schmidt, MPH**

Active Bacterial Core Surveillance Epidemiologist  
Public Health Division, Oregon Dept. of Human Services

**Dana Thomas, MD, MPH**- Dana serves as a Commander in the US Public Health Service, billeted to the US Coast Guard. Stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in Southwest Washington DC, CDR Thomas has been the Chief of Occupational Medicine since July 2005. Her number one priority is keeping the Coast Guard mission ready. Prior to her current position, she served 11 years as a commissioned officer in the US Army. Dr. Thomas completed her residency with the US Navy in Aerospace Medicine. She is boarded in Aerospace, Occupational and Disaster Medicine. She has a strong interest in prevention, wellness and preparedness - from the individual to the community. Commander Thomas is a graduate of the George Washington University School of Medicine and Public Health, where she earned her Medical Degree and Master's in Public Health in 1998.

**Laboratory Instructors-**

**Elizabeth Bugden, MS**

Paster Training, Inc.

**David Carpenter, PhD, MBA**- David is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL. His current teaching responsibilities focus on infectious diseases education of medical students and graduate students, with special emphasis on diseases of public health significance. From 1986 to Jan, 2000 he was Laboratory Director for the Illinois Dept of Public Health. Prior to that he worked for BAXTER Healthcare, where he conducted microbiological evaluations on medical products. At the US Army Natick R&D Labs, he conducted research on processes to mitigate the microbial spoilage of food rations used during military maneuvers. Dr. Carpenter's education is a BS in Biology from the Univ. of Vermont, a PhD in Microbiology from the Univ. of New Hampshire, and an MBA from Lake Forest College Graduate School.

**Sharon Hill**

Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist  
Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program  
West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources

**Michelle Markley, MS**- CDR Michelle Markley is the Biosafety Officer for FDA Center for Food Safety and Nutrition. In her position, she manages the biosafety and biosecurity program and coordinates the commissioning and certification of biocontainment laboratories. Prior to working for the FDA, CDR Markley was the Safety Training and Outreach Program Manager in the Division of Occupational

Health and Safety at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) located in Bethesda, Maryland. CDR Markley is also an Officer of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. CDR Markley has over twenty four years of experience in areas of safety and occupational health, training, clinical research and laboratory safety. She has made contributions to several publications in the field of safety training, including the World Health Organization Biosafety Train the Trainers Manual, as well as several online training courses. She has given presentations at National Environmental Health Association, American Biological Safety Association, and has served as a President for the Virginia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, and is a member of the Commissioned Officers Association, the American Biological Association and the Chesapeake Biological Association. CDR Markley holds a Master's Degree in Safety and Environmental Management from West Virginia University and a B.S. in Medical Technology from Radford University. She is also a graduate of the University Of Virginia School Of Medical Technology and is a certified Medical Technologist.

**Sue Shiflett**- For the last five years Sue has been employed as the Laboratory Training Coordinator with the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). She is responsible for training laboratorians in the State of Michigan Regional Laboratories that serve in the capacity of reference labs in the National Response Network. Sue is also the state training coordinator for the National Laboratory Training Network bringing many training events to public health and private sector laboratories in Michigan. Now in working in public health preparedness, she serves as the back-up Emergency Management Coordinator for the department responsible for public health issues at the State Emergency Operations Center. She is responsible for reviewing, editing and updating all the hazard response plans for the department. Sue's experience includes 23 years as a microbiologist in the microbiology section of the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) at MDCH. While in microbiology, she was responsible for the Lyme disease culture, parasitology and foodborne illness testing having the opportunity to publish and present frequently on these topics. She helped initiate the BOL quarterly newsletter, the *LabLink*, on which she continue as editor thirteen years later.

### **Additional Instructors-**

**Donald Sharp, MD, DTM&H**- Don is currently the Associate Director, Food Safety Office, at the CDC. He has been with the Office since 2002 and has been involved in numerous activities related to assessing and building food safety surveillance and outbreak response capacity at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Dr. Sharp received his BS and MD degrees from Tulane University and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Mahidol University in Bangkok. Dr. Sharp served as a Navy Undersea Medical Officer, practiced in family medicine and occupational health clinics, and worked with refugees in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He joined the CDC in 1992 as an

Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and completed the CDC Preventive Medicine Residency in 1995.

**Additional Supporters-**

Beth Johnson  
Katie Crysop  
Stacey Kinney  
Helen Rogers  
Susan Cole  
Tammy Gordon  
John Marcello  
Richard Michelback  
Larry Pong  
Mark Bergtholdt  
Stuart Capper  
Sharon Green  
Seema Jain  
Jeff Kornacki  
Manoj Menon  
Ann Schmitz  
Nicholas Gaffga  
Jeanette Stehr-Green  
Joyce Theard  
Mike Thomas  
Wences Arvelo  
Stephanie Delong  
Gwen Ewald  
Richard Skibicki