** 30th Annual Maine Geriatrics Conference**

**June 11-12, 2020 (Thurs & Fri)**

**Harborside Hotel, Bar Harbor Maine**

**“Where Policy Meets Practice”**

**Speaker Bios (Lead Presenters)**

*Alphabetical Order*

**Robert Abel, M.S.N., RN**

Robert Abel is the Chief Nursing Officer for MaineHealth Care At Home, a member of the MaineHealth system. He has responsibility for operations, management and leadership of clinical programs across agency sites and locations. Bob represents the agency in several system wide initiatives to develop and implement longitudinal service delivery models across various sites of care. These include Palliative Care, Heart Failure, Telehealth and Pediatrics. Bob formerly worked at Merrimack Valley Hospice and Hallmark Health Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice in Massachusetts where he also had oversight of interdisciplinary clinical programs that utilized decentralized, team based, disease driven care models. Bob received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The University of Massachusetts in Boston and his Masters of Science in Nursing from Western Governor’s University. He holds certifications from the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses, National Academy of Certified Case Managers, The Commission for Case Manager Certification and Assisted Living Federation of America.

**Debra Bare-Rogers, M.S.**

Debra Bare-Rogers works to promote access to telecommunication for people who have difficulty using the telephone. At Disability Rights Maine, she performs outreach for the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Program. Previously, she worked for the Telecommunications Equipment Program (TEP) and other Relay outreach programs. She has served as a Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) board member and volunteered as the American Sign Language (ASL) scheduler for local recovery groups. In June 2017, Debra was certified as a “Hearing Loss Peer Mentor” through Gallaudet University. As a woman with adult onset hearing loss, she shares her personal journey to work with individuals with hearing loss throughout Maine.

**Grace Ellrodt, B.A.**

A recent graduate of Bates College in Lewiston, Grace focuses on the health and wellbeing of older adults through a specific lens: storytelling. Reared on books, podcasts, and dinner table tales, she is vested in the therapeutic and generative power of speaking for and about oneself. For her senior thesis, Grace spent a year seeking out older adults’ narratives in the cities and rural surroundings of Temuco, Chile, and Lewiston Maine. She sought reflections on a specific theme: loneliness. With her pool of 40 interviews with older adults aging in place, and their community-based organizations networks, Grace set out to convey stories of coping with loneliness and dissected the commonalities and divergences influenced by cultures, identities, and environments. Her offering to attendees is an audio-visual submersion into older adult loneliness, integration, and the experiences in between. Now seeking to enter the gerontology sphere, this work dramatically informs Grace’s relationship to the way we talk about and bring about aging with community, self-determination, and purposefulness. Grace’s goal is to create a roadmap on aging for the current generation and to age with as much strength, joy, and solitude as we well please.

**Maria Dubois Genné, M.Ed.**

People come alive when they dance. No one knows this better than 68-year-old Maria Genné; who, at the age of 48, founded and continues to direct Kairos Alive! This nonprofit unites the arts and health research to empower older adults to fully and physically engage, no matter their abilities. In the 20 years since, Kairos Alive! has collaborated with 60+ community partners—including the American Indian Center, Struthers Parkinson’s Center and the VA Medical Center—to serve 12,000+ elders. Committed to inclusiveness, Maria strives to make her programs both multigenerational and multicultural. She also helped found the Dance Education Initiative at the Perpich Center for Arts Education and ArtSage Minnesota, and she is a founding board member of the National Center for Creative Aging. She’s won awards from the American Public Health Association and the American Society on Aging and was featured in the PBS documentary, “Arts and the Mind.”

**Thomas Kamber, Ph.D. ~ Plenary Speaker**

Dr. Tom Kamber is an award-winning social entrepreneur, educator and activist who has created new initiatives in aging, technology, affordable housing and the arts. As founder and executive director of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS), Dr. Kamber has helped over 30,000 seniors get online and created the country’s first technology-themed community center for older adults. Tom has taught social entrepreneurship and philanthropy at Columbia University and has published widely in academic journals on topics including public policy, business strategy, and technology. He speaks regularly at local, national, and international conferences, including the Consumer Electronics Show, the Institute of Medicine, the American Society on Aging, and the Federal Communications Commission. His work has been featured widely in the media, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, and The Today Show, and he has won awards from local, state, and national organizations.

**Len Kaye, D.S.W./Ph.D. (Co-Presenter w/ Susan Wehry, M.D.)**

Dr. Lenard W. Kaye is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Maine School of Social Work and Director of the UMaine Center on Aging. He is the Project Director for the Grandfamilies Certificate Program. Under his leadership, the Center on Aging has spearheaded efforts to support grandfamily caregiving in Maine and beyond through the Family Connections to Resources Project (Families and Children Together/Children’s Bureau), Maine Relatives as Parents Program (Brookdale Foundation) and the Maine Rural Relatives as Parents Outreach Project (Brookdale Foundation). Dr. Kaye has been the principal investigator and director of research/evaluation for numerous assessments of innovative community services for older adults including projects funded by the AARP Andrus Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service, National Institute on Aging, Maine Health Access Foundation, Pew Foundation, Families USA Foundation, U.S. Administration on Aging, John Hartford Foundation, Philadelphia Corporation on Aging, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office on Aging, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maine Office of Substance Abuse, Weinberg Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, Maine Community Foundation, Jane’s Trust, Brookdale Foundation, and the Maine Department of Public Safety.

**Mark Lachs, M.D., M.P. H. ~ Keynote Presenter**

Dr. Mark Lachs is the Irene and Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor of Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College, Co-Chief of Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Director of Geriatrics for The New York Presbyterian Health Care System, and, Chief Medical Officer for the New York City Elder Abuse Center. His major research area of interest is the disenfranchised older adult. He has published widely in the areas of elder abuse and neglect, adult protective services, the measurement of functional status, ethics and the financing of health care. He has lectured nationally and internationally on these topics. His many honors and awards include an American College of Physicians Teaching and Research Scholarship, a National Institute on Aging Academic Leadership Award, and a Paul Beeson Physician Faculty Scholarship (the country’s preeminent career development award in aging). He is also the recipient of funding from the National Institute of Health to study the impact of crime on the physical and emotional health of older adults. Recently, he was asked to serve as an advisor for the World Health Organization on Elder Abuse. He has also served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the White House on matters related to aging and elder abuse. He was also appointed the President of the Board of Directors of the American Federation for Aging Research and is the Chief Medical Director of the New York City Elder Abuse Center. Dr. Lachs’ greatest passion is practicing and teaching geriatrics medicine in the outpatient, hospital, long-term care, and house call setting. He maintains a practice at the NewYork-Presbyterian Irving Sherwood Wright Center on Aging, a community-based ambulatory care practice for older adults, which he founded with Dr. Ronald Adelman in 1998. It is a unique social experiment intended to provide seamless medical and supportive services for older people.

**Jeanne Lambrew, M.P.H., Ph.D. ~ Plenary Speaker**

Dr. Jeanne Lambrew grew up in Cape Elizabeth. She.earned a master's and a doctoral degree in Health Policy at the School of Public Health at the [University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina-Chapel_Hill). She was sworn in as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services on February 5, 2019. As Commissioner, she leads the largest agency in state government, which provides health care and social services to approximately a third of the state's population, including children, families, the elderly, and those with disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders. The Department also promotes public health through management of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, operates two state psychiatric hospitals, and provides oversight to health care providers through its licensing division. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Dr. Lambrew was a senior fellow at The Century Foundation and adjunct professor at the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She previously worked in President Obama's administration. She was the director of the Office of Health Reform at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she worked on passage of the landmark Affordable Care Act (ACA). From 2011 to January 2017, she served as President Obama's deputy assistant for health policy, guiding the implementation of the ACA as well as initiatives to improve the quality and value of Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and public health. Dr. Lambrew also served in the Clinton Administration, in the Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (1993–1995), the White House National Economic Council (1997–1999), and the White House Office of Management and Budget (2000–2001).

**Susan M. Longley, M.A., J.D.**

Judge Susan W. Longley began her professional career as a high school history teacher. A native of Lewiston, Maine, she chose the Waldo County area after law school for its beauty, its cycling and hiking trails and a job teaching law at Unity College. In addition to teaching and judging, she also has served as Waldo County's State Senator and is a Maine Guide. When not working or trying to help folks realize the advantages of organizing their legal documents, she loves being outside, enjoying the great Maine outdoors.

**Amy Madden, M.D.**

Dr. Amy Madden is a family physician and geriatrician originally from Scarborough, Maine. She completed residency in 2008 at Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency after attending Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Following several years in primary care practice, Dr. Madden completed fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine in 2017. She is board-certified in Family Medicine and holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in Geriatric Medicine. She has been practicing medicine at Belgrade Regional Health Center since 2008. She currently serves as Clinical Medical Director at HealthReach Community Health Centers. In addition to her clinical and leadership roles, Dr. Madden is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Community and Family Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and Adjunct Professor of Community and Family Medicine at the Tufts School of Medicine. She is active in the state medical society serving as President of the Maine Medical Association, 2019-2020; Board of Directors for the Kennebec Region Health Alliance [the regional physician-hospital organization], and chairperson of the Victims Compensation Board through the state Attorney General’s Office.

**Jess Maurer, J.D.**

As the Executive Director of the Maine Council on Aging, Jess Maurer leads and manages a broad, multidisciplinary network of nearly 100 organizations, businesses and community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged and secure lives as we age in our homes and in community settings. In this role, she advances statewide public policy initiatives, provides leadership within Maine’s aging network, and supports Maine’s Legislative Caucus on Aging. Her areas of focus include housing, transportation, workforce, “aging in place,” and care across all settings. She leads the Maine Healthy Aging Initiative and the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging, a regional learning collaborative aimed at increasing the collective impact of community-driven aging initiatives. She annually organizes statewide and regional events that advance aging policy, including the Maine Wisdom Summit. She co-authored *Building a Collaborative Community Response to Aging in Place* and *Maine’s Blueprint for Action on Healthy Aging.* A licensed Maine attorney, Jess worked for 17 years in the Maine Office of the Attorney General.

**Brigit McCallum, Th.D. (Co-Presenter with Clara Porter)**

Dr. Brigit McCallum is a lifelong teacher of learners ranging from Pre-K to PhD, and a coach who has assisted others to meet challenges and overcome obstacles in settings from the field to the gym, and from the pool to the trails. Over her lifetime, Dr. McCallum studies and research have progressed to encompass the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions of life; whatever the setting or the reason for people coming together. She has brought deeply held values of justice, inclusion and empowerment to the work. And now, at 78, as a conference GEM (Geriatrics Education Mentor) she brings all these experiences to her work with Prevention-Action-Change, seeking to share skills of assertive communication and personal safety, especially with those most likely to be targeted for violence. Brigit holds a particular passion for providing these tools to empower older adult women to live their lives to the fullest!

**Lisbeth Nielsen, Ph.D. ~ Plenary Speaker**

Dr. Lisbeth Nielsen is Chief of the *National Institute on Aging*’s (NIA) Individual Behavioral Processes Branch, which supports behavioral, psychological and integrative bio-behavioral research on the mechanistic pathways linking social and behavioral factors to health in mid-life and older age. This Branch examines aging processes across the full life course, including early life influences on later life outcomes, as well as research on behavioral and social processes in midlife that play a causal role in shaping trajectories of aging. Dr. Nielsen coordinates NIA research initiatives on midlife reversibility of risk associated with early life adversity, conscientiousness and healthy aging, socioemotional influences on decision-making, subjective well-being, and stress measurement. She serves on the Implementation Team for the trans-NIH Science of Behavior Change (SOBC) Common Fund Program, which promotes a mechanisms-focused approach to behavior change intervention design. She has a Baccalaureate degree in Philosophy from Rhodes College, a Master’s degree in Psychology from the University of Copenhagen, and a Doctoral degree in Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Science from the University of Arizona. She held an NIA-funded Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Psychology of Aging at Stanford University. Her scientific interests and research lie at the intersection of affective science and aging research.

**Elizabeth Peavey, B.A.**

Elizabeth Peavey is a frequent keynote and guest lecturer at conferences, schools, and associations across the state, and beyond — most recently in Dingle, Ireland and Orlando, FL. Her one-woman show, *My Mother’s Clothes Are Not My Mother*, has played to sold-out houses since 2011 and received the Maine Literary Award for Best Drama. Elizabeth presented this play with an additional talkback session at the 27th Annual Maine Geriatrics Conference and received a standing ovation for her performance. She served as lecturer of public speaking at the University of Southern Maine for over 20 years and now provides communications training to companies and organizations in fields ranging from finance, law, and health, to the arts, education, and advocacy. She’s the author of three books and countless print columns and features.

**Daniel M. Pierce, D.O.**

Dr. Dan Pierce is a Board Certified Family Practitioner, who for the past 12 years has practiced exclusively Post Acute/Long Term Care Geriatrics. He is the Medical Director of MatureCare, a Geriatrics practice in the Division of Geriatrics within the Department of Primary Care at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he also serves as an Associate Clinical Professor.

**Clara Porter, M.S.W.**

Clara Porter has over 25 years of experience in the field of violence prevention. She is the founder of Prevention. Action. Change. (PAC): Building Skills to End Violence, located in Portland, Maine. PAC works to counter harassment, assault, and abuse through safety strategies, verbal and physical skills, increased confidence and awareness, and promotion of healing and growth. Ms. Porter holds a Masters of Social Work, is certified in Empowerment Self Defense with both the National Women’s Martial Arts Federation and Center for Antiviolence Education, as well as in Advanced Trauma First Aide. She has extensive experience working with organizations and people of all ages with a focus on work with survivors of sexual violence. In recent years Ms. Porter has been engaged in translating ESD approaches to the work environment, engaging organizations in identifying the barriers that exist to a safe and fulfilling workplace and crafting health-promoting solutions.

**Tia Powell, M.D. ~ Keynote Presenter**

Dr. Tia Powell holds the Trachtenberg chair in Bioethics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she is Professor of Epidemiology and Psychiatry and directs the Montefiore Einstein Center for Bioethics. Her bioethics scholarship focuses on dementia, LGBT issues, end of life care, and health policy. She currently chairs a committee for the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to recommend the next decade of social science research to support those with dementia and their caregivers. She has served on additional advisory groups for NAM, as well as for Center for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, Health and Human Services, NY City and NY State health departments. She previously founded the bioethics consultation service at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, and served as Executive Director of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, New York State’s bioethics commission. She is a Fellow of the Hastings Center, the American Psychiatric Association and the New York Academy of Medicine. She is a frequent public speaker at medical schools, professional society meetings, universities, and in the media. She was graduated *magna cum* laude from Harvard-Radcliffe College, and AOA from Yale Medical School. She is a Next Avenue 2019 Influencer in Aging, and was named as a Crain’s 2019 Notable Woman in Healthcare. Her book, *Dementia Reimagined: Building a Life of Joy and Dignity from Beginning to End,* was published by Penguin Random House in April, 2019.

**Sydney P. Springer, Pharm.D.**

Dr. Springer is a board-certified geriatrics pharmacist and an Assistant Professor at the University of New England College of Pharmacy. She currently practices at the Mid Coast Medical Group Family Practice office in Brunswick, Maine. Dr. Springer is working with the Academy for Gerontology/Geriatrics in Higher Education (AGHE) with two colleagues to publish a chapter outlining minimum geriatrics competencies for Colleges of Pharmacy to be published in the AGHE Standards and Guidelines Curriculum Handbook this year.

**Susan Wehry, M.D.**

Dr. Susan Wehry is a nationally recognized keynote speaker and workshop facilitator on depression, dementia, and healthy aging. Her presentations combine over 30 years’ experience with wisdom, compassion, and common sense, to engage attendees, help build skills, and use proven techniques. In 2009, she authored Oasis, an interdisciplinary person-centered curriculum that has helped transform dementia care, support mental health recovery, and reduce inappropriate antipsychotic use. She has actively partnered with CMS in the national initiative to improve dementia care. During her tenure as Commissioner, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living expanded home and community-based services (including the award-winning SASH program), and Vermont rose to number one in national AHRQ senior health rankings. Dr. Wehry was honored to represent Vermont at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Since 2017, Dr. Wehry is Chief of the Division of Geriatrics at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Heidi R. Wierman, M.D.**

Dr. Heidi Wierman has been a practicing Geriatrician at Maine Medical Center since 2002 when she was part of the team to start the Hospital Elder Life Program to prevent acute confusion in hospitalized older adults. She went to medical school at Oregon Health Sciences University, completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Maine Medical Center and Geriatrics Fellowship at the University of Rochester. She is currently the Division Director for Geriatrics at Maine Medical and Medical Director for Healthy Aging at MaineHealth. She has led inpatient programs such as the Hospital Elder Life Program and Acute Care for Elders where she used her passion to prevent complications of hospitalization for older adults. Currently, she is clinically active at the Geriatrics Center at Maine Medical Center where she works with individuals and their care partners as part of an inter-professional team to navigate the challenges of memory loss and other aging issues.