

SPONSORED (NON-CME) PRODUCT THEATRE PRESENTERS

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, Alaska Chapter
19th Annual Alaska Asthma & Allergy Conference

September 6-7, 2024

The following presenters are featured during sponsor-hosted non-credit activities or programs.

Updated August 17, 2024



Jeffrey G. Demain, MD, FAAAAI, FAAAAI, FAAP, is Co-founder and Medical Director of Lux Infusion in Anchorage. He is also a Clinical Professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and an Affiliate Professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He founded the Alaska Society of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, and co-founded AAFA Alaska, for which he is a past president. He serves on the American College of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) Board of Regents and on the American Board of Allergy Immunology (ABAI) Board of Directors. He has served on the AAAAI Board of Directors and many committees, is editor of AAAAI's "Ask the Expert" and remains active in advocacy in both organizations. Dr. Demain began his medical career as a U.S. Air Force (USAF) medic before becoming a Physician Assistant. He completed medical school at Texas Tech University, his pediatric residency at Wright State University, and an Allergy Immunology fellowship at Wilford Hall Medical Center. Retired from the USAF in 1999, he founded the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska (AAIC), where Dr. Demain served as medical director for over 20 years. A nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Demain has over 50 peer-reviewed publications, four textbook chapters and continues to research and publish in insect allergy and impacts of climate change on respiratory health. He was recently honored with the AAAAI-RSL 2020 Leadership Award and the 2021 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Special Achievement Award.



Bob Geng, MD, is an Associate Voluntary Clinical Professor at the University of California (UC), San Diego, as well as Managing Partner for the Allergy Asthma Medical Group Research Center in San Diego. He also serves as Allergy Director of the Multidisciplinary Atopic Dermatitis Program as well as the Co-Director of the Severe Asthma Program at Rady Children's Hospital/UCSD sponsored by the Allergy Asthma Foundation of America. Dr. Geng leads a clinical research team that conducts many sponsored clinical trials as well as investigator-initiated studies in allergic respiratory disease and on primary immunodeficiency disorders in adults and children. Lastly, he serves as the research mentor for numerous allergy/immunology fellows, fellows in other affiliated specialties, international scholars, residents, medical students, and Undergraduate students. Dr. Geng is current President of the San Diego Allergy/Immunology Society, serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *IG-Living Magazine* (Primary Immunodeficiency patient-focused publication), and is a speaker for the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Dr. Geng completed a master's degree in International Relations from Georgetown University in Washington DC, before earning his medical degree at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. After completing his residency training at Washington University, he completed

fellowships in allergy/immunology, and in clinical pharmacology, at UC Los Angeles. He is board-certified in internal medicine, allergy and immunology and clinical pharmacology.



Maeve E. O'Connor, MD, FAAAAI, FACP, founded Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Relief of Charlotte, North Carolina, where she offers a progressive approach to treating allergy, asthma and immunology patients. Fluent in Spanish, Dr. O'Connor volunteers through local nonprofits that organize medical programs benefitting the underserved. Dr. O'Connor has published research articles on desensitization immunotherapy, asthma and food allergy. She is currently involved in clinical research in asthma, allergic rhinitis, immune deficiency and novel treatment for atopic diseases. She frequently lectures on all subjects involving allergy/immunology. Dr. O'Connor earned her medical degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. She completed her internship and residency at the University of Texas and affiliated hospitals. Dr. O'Connor completed her allergy/immunology fellowship at the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. She completed a fellowship in integrative medicine from the University of Arizona School of Medicine in Tucson. Dr. O'Connor currently sits on the board of regents for the American College of Asthma Allergy and Immunology (ACAAI). Originally from South Carolina, Dr. O'Connor enjoys traveling with her husband, cooking, decorating, throwing dinner parties with close friends and volunteering in the Charlotte community. They have one son.



Reynold A. Panettieri, Jr., MD, is the inaugural Director of the Institute for Translational Medicine and Science (TM&S), Vice Chancellor for TM&S, and a Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He previously served as director of the Airways Biology Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His interests include the cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate airway smooth muscle cell growth and the immunobiology of airway smooth muscle. Dr. Panettieri's lab also focuses on cytosolic signaling pathways that mediate gene expression and alter myocyte growth. In addition to his research and clinical interests, Dr. Panettieri served as chairperson of the National Institute of Health (NIH) Lung Cellular, Molecular, and Immunobiology Study Section; and is currently a member of the NIH Distinguished Editorial Panel, the American Society for Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians. Dr. Panettieri earned his medical degree from the University of Philadelphia. He completed his internal medicine internship and residency, and a pulmonary diseases research fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



Heena Shah-Patel, MD, is an Allergist-Immunologist with Allergy, Sinus & Asthma, Inc. in Upland, California, and is affiliated with the Pomona Valley Hospital and Riverside Community Hospital. She is also a primary investigator of clinical trials for Integrated Research of Inland, Inc. in Upland, and a sub-investigator of clinical trials for Integrated Research Group, Inc. in Riverside. Board-certified in both internal medicine and allergy / immunology, Dr. Shah-Patel has participated in numerous clinical trials for asthma, nasal polyps, urticaria, atopic dermatitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and eosinophilic asthma. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, San Diego, before pursuing her medical degree at Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies. She completed her residency with the Kaiser Permanente Internal Medicine Program in Santa Clara, California,

and an allergy/immunology fellowship at Louisiana State University Health School of Medicine in New Orleans.



H. James Wedner, MD, is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Washington University (WU) School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. His interests include asthma, urticaria, hives, children with asthma, infectious diseases, allergies, allergic diseases, immunological diseases, allergic reactivity, allergic conjunctivitis, articulation of asthma, eosinophilia, usage of antibodies, immunochemistry, lymphocyte activation, development of immunities, clinical immunology, chronic fatigue syndrome, fungal allergies, environmental control for allergies. He serves as a board member for the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter. Dr. Wedner earned his medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in Ithaca, New York. He completed his residency at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, and an immunology fellowship at WU's School of Medicine.