

Executive Board Candidates

Stephen Ostroff, MD

Candidate for PRESIDENT-ELECT

Since February 2007, Steve Ostroff has been the director of the Bureau of Epidemiology of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and since June 2008 has served as Secretary-Treasurer of CSTE. Previously, he had a 21-year career with the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), with all but two of those years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. While at CDC, Steve attained the rank of Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS, and was Deputy Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID), with responsibility for coordination of outbreak investigations performed by NCID scientists and for issues related to emerging infectious diseases.



Steve is from Philadelphia PA, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1981 and completed residencies in internal medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (1984) and preventive medicine at the CDC (1988). He began his career with the USPHS as a National Health Service Corps assignee to Pohnpei, Micronesia, followed by doing the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program assigned to the Washington State Department of Health in Seattle from 1986-1988. He worked in the Enteric Diseases Branch, the Division of Viral & Rickettsial Diseases, and the Respiratory Diseases Branch in NCID before becoming NCID's Associate Director for Epidemiologic Science from 1993-2002. During 2002-2004, he was also Acting Director of CDC's Select Agent Program. He has served as Dispatch Editor of CDC's Emerging Infections Journal, special advisor to the President of the International Society for Travel Medicine (2001-2005), and President of the Department of Defense's Armed Forces Epidemiology Board (2001-2005). In addition to his role as CSTE Secretary-Treasurer, he chairs the CSTE Surveillance Policy Committee, the Public and Global Health Committee of the American Society for Microbiology's Public and Scientific Affairs Board and is a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiologists of America. He currently is a member of an Institute of Medicine Committee re-examining research needs related to live variola (smallpox) virus, and continues to serve on an intermittent basis as a consultant to the World Bank on avian influenza projects in the south Asia region. In addition to membership in ASM, he is also a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and a member of the American Epidemiological Society and Pennsylvania Medical Society.

In Pennsylvania, in addition to directing the Bureau of Epidemiology, Steve is also the Acting Pennsylvania Physician General, runs the State Health Department's Institutional Review Board, and is the Department of Health's representative to the Pennsylvania State Medical Board. He is the author of over 50 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters on emerging infectious diseases, and has testified before Congress on a number of occasions.

Executive Board Candidates

Tom Safranek, MD

Candidate for PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Thomas Safranek has been the Nebraska State Epidemiologist since 1990. Prior to that he served on the faculty at Creighton University in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Internal Medicine. He did undergraduate work at the University of San Francisco, and attended medical school and completed his Internal Medicine residency training at Georgetown University. Following that, he served as Chief Medical Resident and Infectious Disease Fellow at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He then participated in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS 1984) at the Centers for Disease Control, where he worked in the Hospital Infections Program.



In his capacity as State Epidemiologist, he oversees epidemiologic investigation and study of a variety of public health problems affecting the state's population. While this activity is centered on communicable diseases, he has worked in all areas of public health epidemiology, including maternal-child health, chronic disease and injury epidemiology programs. Since 2000, he has devoted substantial efforts to state and national public health informatics initiatives, including National Electronic Disease Surveillance System and Health Alert Network. He has lobbied for enhancement and funding of electronic laboratory reporting and sought to expand the scope of diseases and data tracked through this system. In addition he has worked with a public health unit responsible for addressing the identification and control of bioterrorism in the state.

He has been a member of CSTE since 1990 and served on the Executive Board for the past two years. His interest and enthusiasm for public health epidemiology and CSTE in particular are fueled by the relationships and partnerships with genuinely fun, interesting, and passionate professional colleagues who are motivated for all the right reasons.

Executive Board

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Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD

Candidate for ENVIRONMENTAL / OCCUPATIONAL / INJURY CHAIR

Dr. Carina Blackmore is currently the State Environmental Epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian for Florida Department of Health. In this capacity she oversees the Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine, an office with 44 staff focused on environmental epidemiology and toxicology issues. The programs under her direction include the Aquatic Toxins Program, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Program, the Analytical Environmental Epidemiology Program, the Food and Waterborne Disease Program and the Zoonotic Disease Program. She is an active member of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) and the co-chair of their Animal Contact Compendium Committee.



Dr. Blackmore received her Master of Science in Veterinary Medicine (equivalent of the DVM or VMD in the U.S.) in 1989 from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden and her PhD in Biology (focus area arbovirus epidemiology) in 1996 from University of Notre Dame in Indiana (USA). She joined Florida Department of Health in 1998 as a regional epidemiologist. She joined the Division of Environmental Health and was named State Public Health Veterinarian in 2003. She became the State Environmental Epidemiologist in 2005.

She is a recognized national “One Health” leader who served on the American Veterinary Medical Association’s One Health Initiative Task Force and is now representing ASTHO on the One Health Initiative Joint Steering Committee. She has been an adjunct professor of Pathobiology at University of Florida’s College of Veterinary Medicine since 2004.

Dr. Blackmore has been an active member of CSTE since 2003. She has authored and consulted on position statements and represented CSTE on various workgroups and panels addressing mosquito-borne disease surveillance and control and avian/pandemic influenza.

Dr. Blackmore enjoys spending time at her cottage in Sweden. She also appreciates good music, books and food. She is married, has two children, Carl (9) and Linnea (12), and a dog, Garbo (13.5).

Executive Board Candidates

Martha Stanbury, MSPH

Candidate for ENVIRONMENTAL / OCCUPATIONAL / INJURY CHAIR

Martha Stanbury is Section Manager in the Division of Environmental Health, Michigan Department of Community Health. She has been a member of CSTE for more than 10 years. She has been active in the CSTE Occupational Health Surveillance Workgroup since its inception in the late 1990s, and has served on the CSTE Executive Board as Chair of the Environmental/Occupational/Injury Committee since June 2007.



In her current position in Michigan, she is responsible for federally funded programs in chemicals and public health preparedness, occupational and environmental health surveillance, and the Michigan Hazardous Substances and Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) system. Since coming to the Department in 2001 she has developed the Department's chemical emergencies public health preparedness and response program, revived the Department's occupational health surveillance program, promoted environmental and occupational health issues with local health departments and other state agencies, developed new systems for environmental and occupational disease surveillance, coordinated outbreak investigations of acute illnesses associated with chemical poisoning, collaborated in studies of occupational disease, and initiated a variety of environmental public health intervention projects.

Martha received her Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Missouri Columbia in Community Health Education. She began her public health career at the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. She then spent 17 years (1984-2001) at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services where she was Manager for the Occupational Health Surveillance Program and then Public Health Advisor to the State Epidemiologist/Assistant Commissioner, Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health where she worked on a variety of cross-cutting public health issues including bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, and cancer control.

She has co-authored 26 peer reviewed published papers and over 30 other reports, including MMWR articles, health department publications, and a book chapter.

Executive Board Candidates

Bernadette Albanese, MD, MPH

Candidate for INFECTIOUS DISEASE CHAIR

Bernadette Albanese, MD, MPH received her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She completed her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and a pediatric infectious disease fellowship at Brown University. Dr. Albanese served as a hospital-based pediatric infectious disease specialist and Division Director, providing inpatient and outpatient consultation and training for pediatric residents in Baltimore. In 1997, she transitioned from patient care into public health at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, working on an infectious disease surveillance project and public education campaign aimed at reducing drug-resistant pneumococcal infections in children and promoting appropriate antibiotic use. Dr. Albanese completed her Master in Public Health at Johns Hopkins then served as a Medical Epidemiologist with the New Mexico Department of Health. While in NM, Dr. Albanese worked in infectious disease epidemiology, managed surveillance activities and outbreak investigations, provided oversight of epidemiologic investigations, improved quality of surveillance, and implemented health education campaigns for hand hygiene. She was instrumental in building the NM Emerging Infections Program, which is a national population-based surveillance and public health research network funded by the CDC. She served as Principal Investigator of the NMEIP Active Bacterial Core Surveillance and Co-Principal Investigator for NMEIP's Influenza surveillance program, and guided efforts in laboratory and hospital-based surveillance. Currently, Dr. Albanese is the Medical Director of the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment (Colorado) and Director of the Disease Prevention and Control Division, where she administers programs in communicable disease, epidemiology, environmental health and vital records.

Dr. Albanese has been a member of CSTE since 2002, and for the past 2 years has participated on the Infectious Disease Committee, Immunization subcommittee. In 2006 and 2007, she also participated on two CSTE/CDC-sponsored steering committees that evaluated and made recommendations regarding influenza surveillance in the United States. For those steering committees, Dr. Albanese served on the influenza-like illness and laboratory surveillance workgroups. Since 2008, Dr. Albanese has also served on the ArboNet evaluation workgroup on behalf of CSTE.



Executive Board Candidates

Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH, FAAP

Candidate for INFECTIOUS DISEASE CHAIR

Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH, FAAP, is Chief of the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program for the Los Angeles (LA) County Department of Public Health which performs disease surveillance and epidemic control activities for more than 80 diseases and syndromes in an area of 4,000 plus square miles with 10 million people. She received her Bachelor of Arts with distinction in Biology from the University of Rochester and graduated from St. Louis University Medical School. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She completed her internship and residency in Pediatrics from Childrens Hospital of LA. She earned a Masters of Public Health from the University of California, LA. She served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in the Division of Venereal Disease Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, was a field officer in LA, and also completed the CDC residency in Preventive Medicine.



Dr. Mascola has extensive experience in epidemiology and infectious disease prevention and control, publishing more than 100 articles and abstracts in numerous medical and public health journals and is the first author on several book chapters. She has presented at the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Pediatric Academic Societies meetings. She has been a member of CSTE for the last 7 years and presented on Pandemic Influenza and BioWatch at two annual meetings. She has made major contributions in a variety of areas. For example: As a result of her expertise in food safety, Dr. Mascola was appointed to the FDA Food Safety Committee and received the FDA Commissioner's Special Citation. She was the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Pediatric AIDS Spectrum of Disease Project for over 15 years. She pioneered routine HIV prenatal screening in county clinics. She is the PI of the Varicella Active Surveillance Project, one of two national projects, in collaboration with the CDC, the results of this study led to national policy decisions with respect to the two dose varicella vaccination schedule. In addition to investigating hospital-associated infectious disease outbreaks, she formed a Hospital Outreach Unit which is an innovative public health practice in which public health nurses play an integral role in communicable disease control and reporting along with hospital based infection control professionals. Her program has also developed a relationship with skilled nursing facilities and is looking forward to working with large ambulatory care centers to educate on appropriate infection control techniques.

Throughout her career, Dr. Mascola has been a close mentor to physicians (including infectious disease fellows), EIS Officers and Preventive Medicine residents, and has served on numerous federal, state, and local public health committees. In addition to reviewing infectious disease articles for peer reviewed journals, Dr. Mascola has been asked to be reviewer for the Institute of Medicine. She has also consulted for the World Health Organization. She recently was nominated by the American Academy of Pediatrics for appointment to the Board of Scientific Counselors at CDC. She ran in 2008 for CSTE Executive Board Member-at-Large position and is a 2009 CSTE plenary session moderator. She participates on CSTE's immunization, tribal epidemiology and hospital-associated infections committees. Dr. Mascola has a broad breadth of experience in multiple areas of infectious disease. She also has five Charles C. Shepard Science Awards from CDC for papers published on important infectious disease topics. Her vision for the chair of CSTE Infectious Disease Committee entails the use of evidence based research to prioritize various projects that CSTE committee members are pursuing, especially in an era of cost constraints that are facing local and state health departments.

Executive Board Candidates

E. Oscar Alleyne, MPH

Candidate for MEMBER AT-LARGE

E. Oscar Alleyne has been a member of CSTE since 2003, has attended several annual meetings including presenting abstracts and participating in valuable training workshops. As the Rockland County epidemiologist (NY), he is principally responsible for the surveillance of communicable and chronic diseases in a population of approximately 300,000 residents. This includes coordinating and building collaborations with local and regional public health professionals, academic institutions, hospitals, Federal, state and local health agencies for disease surveillance.



He has energetically engaged in liaison activities with many epidemiological organizations, serving in the APHA Epidemiology Section as the Secretary and CSTE-APHA Liaison, the Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology, and has been an invited guest representing local epidemiologists at two CSTE Executive Board Meetings.

Other activities include currently serving as the First Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the New York State Public Health Association, various committees of the International Society for Disease Surveillance, and as a representative of the NACCHO Infectious Disease Prevention & Control advisory group at consultations and reverse site visits with the Coordinating Center for Infectious Disease (CCID), including the August 2008 Emerging Infections Program Review. He was an active member of a national workgroup for the development and revision of Phase I & Phase II Target Capabilities on Infection Control from DHS' Target Capabilities List. He has also served in an advisory capacity to the Community Health Status Indicator project Core Working Group and partners about local user needs and priorities (types of indicators, mapping priorities, report customization, data methods etc.)

Oscar has worked to promote policies and organizational activities that address the many issues affecting local epidemiologists and has sought to strengthen relationships among local, state, and federal governmental partners. He developed a Joint Investigation Protocol for Public Health Response Teams & Law Enforcement for the Counter Terrorism Zone 4 region comprised of Rockland, Orange & Sullivan counties and trained several multi-agency professionals. He actively participated and chaired regional quarterly meetings of the Metropolitan New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Bioterrorism Epidemiology Workgroup and assisted in the development of the Regional Outbreak Characterization System for the sharing and dissemination of real time outbreak characterization alerts across local, regional and interstate epidemiologists.

He served as a volunteer epidemiologist to the Ministry of Health in Grenada in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, providing syndromic hospital and health center surveillance and epidemiological support to the Ministry of Health and the Caribbean Epidemiology Center. He believes that he can be of great service to CSTE by running for a Member-At-Large position and further enhance the capacity to support the needs of local, State and territorial epidemiologists.

Executive Board Candidates

Richard Danila, PhD, MPH

Candidate for MEMBER AT-LARGE

Richard has been a member of CSTE for over 20 years. He is currently the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Deputy State Epidemiologist and Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section Manager, where he has worked for 24 years. In the past, he has served as the Acting State Epidemiologist. He is the Principal Investigator for the Emerging Infections Program and the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreements, and the MDH Institutional Review Board Chairman. He also holds an Adjunct Associate Professor position in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Epidemiology Division. Richard has an M.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota.



Richard has been the CSTE representative to the Poison Control Centers National Poisoning System Data Meeting and the ASTHO Performance Improvement Policy Committee, and has also served on the CSTE Workforce Steering Committee, and Bioterrorism Committee. He has also served on many CDC review and consultancy committees including those related to biosurveillance, BioWatch, HIV prevalence, HIV chemoprophylaxis, and blood-borne pathogens. He is a peer reviewer for nine medical journals and an author of over 40 published articles.

Richard has a daughter and step-son both of whom will be college seniors. In his spare time, he volunteers at the Minnesota Historical Society as a gallery guide, and is a member of the Society for Commercial Archeology, and the Sons of the Desert (a Laurel and Hardy fan club).

Richard has only missed one annual CSTE meeting in the 10 years or so and has a strong desire to serve his colleagues and CSTE.

Executive Board Candidates

Cortland Lohff, MD, MPH

Candidate for MEMBER AT-LARGE

Dr. Cort Lohff received his MD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his MPH in Epidemiology and International Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He completed residency training in General Preventive Medicine/Public Health from the New York State Department of Health/University at Albany School of Public Health and he is currently board certified in this area.



Upon completion of his residency training, Dr. Lohff became the Assistant State Epidemiologist and Chief, Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at the Iowa Department of Public Health. After four years there he became the State Epidemiologist and Chief, Infectious Disease Section at the Vermont Department of Health. He held this position for five years, after which he became the Medical Director for Environmental Health at the Chicago Department of Public Health, a position he currently holds.

Dr. Lohff first became involved in CSTE in 2000. In addition to being a member, he has held the position of STD Team Lead for the last several years. In this position he has organized and moderated several breakout sessions at the annual conference and organized and facilitated meetings of the STD Team. Most importantly, he has been actively involved in efforts to promote and develop the capacity for neonatal herpes simplex virus (nHSV) surveillance. In this role, he has co-authored position statements, helped to organize and facilitate a meeting that included experts from academia, medicine and public health, and helped to organize and facilitate the nHSV Working Group.

Dr. Lohff's training and experience will serve him well in the Member-at-Large position. His residency training and work experience in state and local public health has afforded him the opportunity to understand the issues that are important to epidemiologists at the state and local level. Additionally, his experience working with CSTE has afforded him the opportunity to understand how CSTE can best support epidemiologists. Lastly, Dr. Lohff's ability to organize his work, work effectively and in collaboration with others and his commitment to CSTE will serve the membership of CSTE well should he be elected to the Member-at-Large position.

Executive Board Candidates

Robert Rolfs, MD, MPH

Candidate for MEMBER AT-LARGE

Dr. Rolfs is the Utah State Epidemiologist. As State Epidemiologist, he oversees communicable disease and environmental epidemiology, environmental sanitation, and a program to prevent deaths due to prescription opioid overdose. Before that, he was a CDC epidemiologist assigned to the Utah Department of Health beginning in 1993, where he served in a variety of positions including chronic disease epidemiologist, Director of the Center for Health Data, and ultimately State Epidemiologist in 2002. He retired from the USPHS in 2006.



He began his public health career as a CDC EIS officer and subsequently a medical epidemiologist in the Division of STD/HIV Prevention where he from 1986 to 1993. He has worked on a wide variety of topics during a ~23 year public health career, including STD's, HIV, injuries, chronic diseases, MCH, and general communicable diseases. He directed surveillance for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and has been involved since then in preparedness activities, including the smallpox vaccination program, and pandemic influenza planning. Currently, he is most involved in a project to prevent deaths from prescription opioid overdose and in guiding a public-private collaboration to develop an open source, NEDSS compatible surveillance software system.

He has been an active CSTE member since 1993 and served on the Executive Board representing Chronic/Oral/MCH issues during 2000-2001. He has been involved in a variety of committees and position statements over the years.

Before entering public health, he was trained clinically in internal medicine and received epidemiologic training as part of a General Medicine Fellowship at University of Colorado. He practices internal medicine as a volunteer at a community health center serving the homeless and serves as Vice-chair of the board of that clinic. In addition to his work at the Department of Health, he holds faculty positions in Biomedical Informatics and Family and Preventive Medicine. He is a co-investigator on several grants, including a CDC Center of Excellence for Research in Biomedical Informatics grant.

In addition to work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, 2 children, and dog, especially in the outdoors. He enjoys hiking, skiing, bicycling, golf, woodwork, and guitar.