

2024 CRW Symposium

Speaker Bio's



Robert Sege, MD, PhD, FAAP, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the Tufts University School of Medicine, is the Director of the HOPE National Resource Center located within the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine at Tufts Medicine and is the Co-Director of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement program at the Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute. He is a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, a national, nonprofit public policy, research and technical assistance organization. Dr. Sege is a board-certified general and child abuse pediatrician for over 20 years, leading pediatric primary care at the Tufts Children's Hospital (formerly Floating Hospital for Children) and Boston Medical Center. Dr. Sege is nationally known for his research on effective health systems approaches that directly address the social determinants of health. His academic work incorporates community engagement at all stages of design, implementation, dissemination, and improvement. At the HOPE National Resource Center, he has led numerous publications that includes research on the [prevalence of positive childhood experiences \(PCEs\) among adults](#) (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report), [corporal punishment](#) (Pediatric Reports) and [child physical abuse](#) (JAMA Pediatrics) during the COVID-19 pandemic, and [addressing health equity in clinical translational research](#) (Journal of Clinical and Translational Science). Dr. Sege holds a MD degree from Harvard Medical School, a PhD degree in biology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a BS degree in biology from Yale University. He is an avid swimmer and lives in the Boston area where he and his wife have raised three adult children.



R.J. Gillespie, M.D., M.H.P.E is a general pediatrician with The Children's Clinic in Portland. He attended medical school at Oregon Health Sciences University, graduating in 1997, and completed his residency and chief residency at Rush Children's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois in 2001. He also earned a Master of Health Professions Education from University of Illinois – Chicago in 2007. He has served as the past Medical Director of the Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership from 2010-2016, and as the Medical Director of Quality Improvement for the Children's Health Alliance from 2007-2010. He currently conducts clinical research on assessment of parental Adverse Childhood Experiences, which has been published in Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma, Pediatrics, and Pediatric Annals. As a consultant, he educates providers, patients, and policy makers on the effects of ACEs on lifelong health and wellness; and specifically on the effects of parental trauma on child development. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Health Share, the largest Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization in Oregon.



Renée Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD, a pediatrician and social epidemiologist, is an associate professor at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine. She is the founding director of the Vital Village Networks. Vital Village uses a trauma-informed lens to improve community capacity to promote child wellbeing and advance equity through dedicated collaborative partnerships, research, data-sharing, and community leadership development in Boston and nationally through the NOW Forum and CRADLE Lab. Her scholarship has focused on early-life adversities as life course social determinants of health. She has a specific concentration on psychosocial stress and neuroendocrine and reproductive health outcomes, including obesity, puberty, and fertility. She is nationally recognized for work on the intersection of community violence, intimate partner violence, and child abuse and neglect and neighborhood characteristics that influence these patterns.



Heather C. Forkey, MD, is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, and Vice-Chair of Pediatrics and Director of the Foster Children Evaluation Service (FaCES) of the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center. She also serves as the Pediatric Director for Lifeline For Kids at University of Massachusetts Medical School. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She completed her pediatric residency and chief residency at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Forkey has been the recipient of local and federal grants to address issues of children in foster care and to translate promising practices to address physical and mental health needs of children who have been traumatized. She has published and presents nationally and internationally on the topics, and serves in leadership roles for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the Massachusetts Chapter and national American Academy of Pediatrics on issues related to foster care, mental health and child trauma. She coauthored the book *Childhood Trauma and Resilience: A Practical Guide*, available from AAP Press.



Michael (Mick) Krasner (he/him), MD, FACP is a Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Krasner has been teaching Mindfulness-Based programs to patients, medical students, and health professionals for more than 23 years, involving over 4000 participants and more than 2000 health professionals, and continues to facilitate Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for employees and dependents of the University of Rochester. He was the project director of *Mindful Communication: Bringing Intention, Attention, and Reflection to Clinical Practice*, sponsored by the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians, funded by the Physicians Foundation for Health Systems Excellence, with results reported in *JAMA* in September 2009. This program led to the establishment of Mindful Practice in Medicine Programs at the University of Rochester which he co-directs, offering continuing educational programs to health professionals and educators locally and internationally for the past 14 years, and includes a multi-year teacher training program for future facilitators of Mindful Practice. He has been engaged in a variety of research projects including the investigations of the effects of mindfulness practices on the immune system in the elderly, on chronic psoriasis, and on caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. His current projects, in addition to continuing to co-direct the Mindful Practice in Medicine Programs include hosting a podcast called *Flourishing in Medicine: From Surviving to Thriving*, and as the Executive Producer of a documentary film now in post-production and expected for distribution in 2025, *The Healer's Journey*, by Blue Sky Projects Films, about the early professional identity formation of a group of medical students. Dr. Krasner graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1983 and received the Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine in 1987, completing residency in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry where he continued as a full-time faculty member and still engages in medical student and residency education, post-graduate medical education, and research. He has shared his work in peer-reviewed publications, scientific assemblies, workshops, visiting professorships, and intensives throughout the world, focusing primarily on the roots of Hippocratic medicine through the cultivation of attention, awareness, and reflection on the health professional- healing relationship. He describes his personal mission as centered on health professional flourishing, supporting both high quality care delivery and increased professional engagement, satisfaction, and meaning.



Sasha S. Svendsen, MD – Chief, Division of Child Protection and Assistant Professor, UMass Chan Medical School at UMass Memorial Medical Center. Her specialties are General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics, and her interests include Child Protection, Injury Prevention and Medical Care of Children in Foster Care.