

# Healthy Beginnings 2016 speakers



## **Keynote Speaker**

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**Jennifer Howse, PhD**  
**President, March of Dimes**

Jennifer Howse, Ph.D. became president of the March of Dimes Foundation in January 1990. Under Dr. Howse's leadership, the March of Dimes has achieved unprecedented revenue growth and significant expansion of mission initiatives.

Dr. Howse joined the March of Dimes as Executive Director of the Greater New York Chapter. Prior to that, Dr. Howse held a number of top public service positions in health related organizations, including State Commissioner for Mental Retardation in Pennsylvania, Associate Commissioner of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities for New York State, and Executive Director of the Federal Court Appointed Willowbrook Review Panel.

Dr. Howse holds a Ph.D. in psycholinguistics from Florida State University. She serves on the Board of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, the National Health Council, and the James Beard Foundation. She has served on national advisory committees for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including the Committee on Genetic Diseases in Newborns. Dr. Howse is an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## **Featured Speakers**

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**Natalie Archer, PhD, MS**  
*Medical Research Specialist*

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

Natalie Archer, PhD, MS, is a medical Research Specialist and team lead with the Office of Program Decision Support, which is part of the Family and Community Health Services (FCHS) Division.

**Scott Berns, MD, MPH, FAAP**  
*President and CEO*  
*National Institute for Children's Health Quality*

Scott D. Berns, MD, MPH, FAAP, is the President and CEO of the National Institute for Children's Health Quality. Berns joined NICHQ from the March of Dimes National Office, where he was the Senior Vice President of Chapter Programs and Deputy Medical Officer.

**Christina Davidson, MD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Baylor College of Medicine*

Christina Davidson, MD, is an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine.

**Carla Ortique, MD**  
*Texas Children's Hospital &  
the Women's Specialists of  
Houston*

Dr. Ortique has been in the active practice of obstetrics and gynecology in Texas since August 1995. She is chair of the Texas Medical Association's Committee on Maternal and Perinatal Health.

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**Ann Salyer-Caldwell, MPH, RDN/LD**  
*Associate Director of  
Community Health Promotion  
Tarrant County Public Health*

Saylor-Caldwell is responsible for oversight of public health preparedness, chronic disease prevention, immunizations and maternal and child health activities for Tarrant County Public Health.

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**Michael Speer, MD**  
*Professor of Pediatrics and  
Neonatology  
Baylor College of Medicine*

Dr. Michael Speer is a neonatologist in Houston, Texas and a professor of pediatrics and neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine.

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**Charleta Guillory, MD**  
*Director Neonatal-Perinatal  
Public Health Program, Texas  
Children's Hospital*

Charleta Guillory, MD, is an associate professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and the Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

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**Amy Boriskie Hair, MD**  
*Assistant Professor  
Baylor College of Medicine*

Boriskie Hair specializes in care for infants born at the edge of viability as well as infants born at term or earlier with congenital defects or other conditions that need specialized intensive care. Her research focus is neonatal nutrition.

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**June Hanke, MSN, MPH**  
*Strategic Analyst / Planner/ GIS  
Analyst Harris County Hospital  
District*

June Hanke has been with Harris County Health System since 2003. She now serves as a strategic analyst, planner, and GIS analyst with the system.

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**Arthur James, MD**  
*Associate Professor  
Ohio State University Wexner  
Medical Center*

Arthur R. James, MD, is a general obstetrician and gynecologist and associate clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

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**Alexander Kenton, MD**  
*Neonatologist  
Pediatrix Medical Group*

Dr. Kenton is a neonatologist in San Antonio, Texas and is one of the leaders of TEXPAC, the bipartisan political arm of the Texas Medical Association.

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**Michelle Kormondy**  
*Epidemiologist  
Department of State Health  
Services*

Michelle Kormondy is an epidemiologist with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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**Dorothy Mandell, PhD**

*Assistant Professor  
UT Health Northeast*

Dr. Mandell supports the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies and is the Primary Investigator for the Safe Babies project in Population Health. She served as the primary investigator for the Texas Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and is currently a research consultant for Texas PRAMS.

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**Susan Landers, MD**

*Neonatologist  
Pediatrix Medical Group*

Dr. Landers is a past chair of the Texas Breastfeeding Coalition, a member of Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section of Breastfeeding, and a neonatologist with Pediatrix Medical Group in Austin.

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**Michael Mackert, PhD**

*Deputy Director  
Center for Health  
Communication*

Dr. Mackert is an associate professor in the Moody College of Communication at The University of Texas at Austin. His current research focus is on health literacy, with a particular interest in the best ways to design health messages to reach low health literate populations.

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**Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP**

*Professor, Mount Sinai Health  
System*

Dr. Howell is a Professor in the Departments of Population Health Science & Policy, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science, and Psychiatry, and Associate Dean for Academic Development. She is a NIH-funded ob/gyn health services researcher and her research addresses quality of care and racial/ethnic disparities in maternal and child health.

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**John Hellerstedt, MD**

*Commissioner  
Texas Department of State  
Health Services*

Dr. John Hellerstedt became commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services on January 1, 2016. Hellerstedt left his position as chief medical officer at the Seton Family of Hospitals to join DSHS.

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**Lesley French Henneke, JD**

*Associate Commissioner,  
Texas Health and Human  
Services Commission*

French Henneke is Associate Commissioner for Health, Developmental & Independence Services. Prior to her current role, she was associate commissioner of Women's Health.

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*For more information on the Healthy Beginnings conference, contact UT System Population Health at [tchmb@utsystem.edu](mailto:tchmb@utsystem.edu) or call 512.499.4397.*

*For more on the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers & Babies visit [txchmb.org](http://txchmb.org).*