

A VIRTUAL PANEL SERIES

# Paths to Recovery

*Strategies for a Better Future*



**PANEL 1: HEALTH CARE IN PANDEMIC TIMES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH | SEPTEMBER 16, 3:00 P.M.**

## PANELIST BIOS

*(In order of appearance)*

### WELCOME



**ROSS GITTELL, PH.D., President, Bryant University**

Distinguished economist Dr. Ross Gittell began his term as Bryant University President in July 2020. Highly regarded in economic and policy circles for his economic analysis and forecasting, Gittell frequently serves as an expert resource for government, non-profit, and business leaders regionally and nationally on such issues as economic policy, workforce development, and the business climate. He was previously the James R. Carter Professor in the Department of Management at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. He also has taught at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, and in the School of Education, Economics Department and Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Chicago.

## MODERATOR



**KIRSTEN HOKENESS, Ph.D. Bryant University Professor; Chair, Department of Science and Technology; Director, Center for Health and Behavior Science**

Kirsten Hokeness, Ph.D., is a Professor of Science and Technology at Bryant University and an expert in immunology and virology. She was instrumental in starting the Biology program at Bryant in 2012 and served as the program coordinator for five years. Hokeness has contributed to science education, publishing several case studies. She has established interdisciplinary faculty and student collaborations across departments at Bryant, investigating vaccine hesitancy and the role of informational sources in decision making about critical health information. She is a sought-after media expert and has been featured in *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *Huffington Post*, *NBC News.com*, *Good Housekeeping*, *NY Daily News*, *Shape.com*, and *WPRI 12*. Hokeness received her B.S. in Biology from the University of New Hampshire and her Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from Brown University.

## PANELISTS



**DINUSHA W. DIETRICH, M.D., FAAP, Clinical Assistant, Smithfield Pediatrics**

Dinusha W. Dietrich, M.D., FAAP is a board-certified pediatrician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Brown Medical School and at Bryant's Physician Assistant Program. She previously served the Vaccine Advisory Board at the RI Department of Health and currently serves on the Infection Prevention Committee at Women and Infants Hospital. Dietrich is Chair of the Pediatric Steering Committee on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation. She graduated Magna cum Laude with a B.A. in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Comparative Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. She received her M.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine, did her pediatric residency training at Hasbro Children's Hospital/Brown University, and remained there to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases.



**JAY AMRIEN, MPAS, PA-C, Bryant Physician Assistant (PA) Program Director, Clinical Associate Professor**

As Founding Director of the PA Program at Bryant University, Jay Amrien helped develop a state-of-the-art facility for the program, hired a world class staff, and continues to recruit some of the best qualified students in the country. He continues his clinical work as a PA at the MGH Chelsea Health Center and leads a weekly student clinic at the Rhode Island Free Clinic. Amrien previously served as a PA and an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard for more than 22 years. Jay serves as Treasurer of the Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants, a member of the American Heart Association Council on Hypertension, a Cardiovascular Team Member of the American College of Cardiology, and a lifetime member of the Veteran's Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Jay received both his B.S. and his MPAS from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE.



**JENNIFER A. COLEMAN, PH.D., Clinical Psychologist, JBSA Lackland**

Major (Select) Jennifer Coleman, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist and Flight Commander for the Behavioral Analysis Service (BAS) at JBSA Lackland. She is a faculty member at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center (WHASC) where she supervises clinical psychology interns. Coleman has held a variety of leadership positions including Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) Program Manager and Mental Health Flight Commander. Her clinical experiences

include working with adults with a wide range of difficulties including: co-occurring substance use disorders and PTSD. Coleman is interested in the application of behavioral science in forensic settings. Her research interest includes developing and implementing improved treatments for individuals with dual diagnoses. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center (WHASC), JBSA, Lackland and earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Kent State University in Kent, OH.



**ANDREY ZARUR, PH.D., Founder, President and CEO, GreenLight Biosciences**

Dr. Andrey Zarur is the Founder, President and CEO of GreenLight Biosciences, a company focused on solving some of the world's greatest challenges in human health, animal health, and food production through the use of ribonucleic acid (RNA). Greenlight Biosciences is currently developing and expanding vaccine

efforts to establish a scalable current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) manufacturing platform. This platform will allow for the production of almost any RNA-based COVID-19 vaccine at a scale and cost that enables global delivery. In parallel, the company is also advancing a number of RNA-based vaccines and therapeutics against COVID-19. Zarur is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lumicell Surgical and is a Senior Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has contributed to the development of a number of breakthrough, life-saving therapies in a number of areas of human health including oncology, autoimmune diseases, genetic disorders and infectious diseases. Dr. Zarur completed his undergraduate studies in engineering at the National University of Mexico and received doctoral degrees from the Chemical Engineering Department at MIT and from the Department of Immunology at Harvard Medical School.