

# Conference Speakers

## ***Hany Abdelsayed - Tower MSA Partners***

Hany Abdelsayed serves as Executive Vice President of Strategic Services for Tower MSA Partners. In this capacity, he is responsible for sales, marketing and account management and consults with Tower's clients about MSAs and MSP compliance. In addition, Hany works directly with Tower's CEO to improve services and develop new products.

For more than half of his 30+ year career, Hany has held executive roles in all aspects of Medicare compliance in the insurance space. He is a nationally recognized expert in MSP compliance and has presented before numerous organizations and carriers.

Hany has overseen high exposure claims, managed investigations, prepared depositions, and served as an expert in court proceedings. In addition, he has managed the development of new products and services and customized compliance programs for clients. In addition, he is a former instructor with the Insurance Education Association (IEA) and was the association's first Medicare Set-Aside instructor.



## ***Brian Allen - Optimized Outcome Solutions***

Brian Allen has nearly 40 years of experience in the insurance industry, the last 20 years focused almost exclusively on shaping workers' compensation policy across the country. He has been a featured speaker at many conferences and is a frequent contributor to various trade journals discussing innovation and trends impacting the workers' compensation system.

As Vice President of Government Affairs for Enlyte Pharmacy Solutions, Brian has extensive experience influencing laws and regulations in almost every state. He is passionate about helping injured workers and others recover to the fullest extent possible. Brian is a co-founder of Optimized Outcome Solutions, a patient education and coaching program for injured workers.



## ***Hon. Thomas (Lee) Bruner - Worker's Compensation Court***

Thomas ("Lee") Bruner was appointed as Workers' Compensation Court Judge by Governor Greg Gianforte on September 1, 2023. Judge Bruner was raised in Butte and currently resides in Butte with a ranch in Whitehall. He graduated from Butte Central High School, received his B.S. in physics at Montana State University, and received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Montana School of Law in Missoula in 1995. In addition, Judge Bruner received an Honorable Discharge from active duty in the United States Air Force, serving from 1986-1990, and was assigned Inactive Status from 1990-1994.



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Most of Judge Bruner's career as a practicing attorney was spent handling medical negligence cases, and a smaller percentage of his practice included employment law, torts, environmental law, and complicated high value litigation matters. He practiced law at two prominent law firms as well as being appointed as Deputy Clerk by the Clerk of Court of the Montana Supreme Court for a five-year term.

Judge Bruner has been a member of the State Bar of Montana and the Federal District Court since 1995, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the US Supreme Court since 2008. Judge Bruner was appointed by Governor Racicot to the Montana Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board, and appointed by Governor Gianforte to the Water Pollution Control Advisory Council and Board of Environmental Review and has taught environmental law at Montana Tech. He owns and runs a multigenerational farming and ranching operation south of Whitehall. He and his wife Pollann have raised three boys, Robert, Michael, and John, who are active on the family farm and ranch.

## ***Michelle Despres PT, CEAS II, REAS, CETS - One Call***

Michelle Despres is a leader within the world of physical therapy and leads her team to deliver a high-quality experience for injured workers and provider partners. She also serves as a mentor to clinicians to improve their delivery of treatments and maximize return-to-work outcomes. Her expertise goes beyond traditional PT to include functional capacity evaluations (FCEs), work hardening, work conditioning, post-offer employment testing, employer-based initiatives, and ergonomics.



Michelle provides customers with a clinical perspective on their claims and delivers continuing education credit seminars on PT, ergonomics, and rehabilitation topics. She regularly presents at industry conferences throughout the country, including RIMS, NWCDC, APTA Combined Sections Meeting, WCI 360, SEAK and Higher Education Risk Management. In addition, she is often interviewed or asked to submit thought leadership to industry publications such as Risk & Insurance and WorkCompWire and national media outlets such as Good Morning America, USA Today, Parent's Magazine, and Scripps Media.

## ***Chris Fisk - Butte & Montana Historian***

Chris Fisk was raised in Dillon Montana and attended college at the University of Montana Western and MSU Billings where he received BS degrees in History and Special Education. Later, Chris earned a Masters in Education from Lesley University and his concentration over 30 years of teaching primarily focused on Montana and Butte history.



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Chris has received numerous awards: the 2010 National History Teacher of the Year presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution; Heritage Keeper Award for the state of Montana, presented by the Montana Historical Society; and he's been inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame in 2013 for the University of Montana Western.

Chris has been seen on national TV with the likes of "Haunted Collector", "The Dead Files", "Codes and Conspiracies", and most recently finished a series for the Travel and Discovery Channel called "The Ghosts of Devils Perch."

## ***Laura Kirsch Phd, ABPP - Licensed Psychologist***

Laura Kirsch is a Board-Certified Forensic Psychologist, with a private practice conducting psychological evaluations and providing consultation for criminal and civil matters in state and federal courts throughout Montana. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Montana, teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in the Psychology Department and the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and has a contract conducting forensic evaluations at the Montana State Hospital.



She has extensive experience conducting mental health evaluations for the courts, including for dependency-neglect proceedings, criminal cases, personal injury litigation, and worker's compensation claims. She has published peer-reviewed research articles and book chapters on forensic topics and presented her research at state, national, and international conferences.

## ***Amy Lee - Steadfast Policy Strategies, LLC***

Amy Lee is President of Steadfast Policy Strategies, a consulting firm which focuses on using data to support public policy initiatives. She retired in 2021 from the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) after 27 years of state service, all of which was focused on conducting research, serving as a legislative resource witness, and providing policy guidance to decision makers on workers' compensation issues.



Prior to her retirement, Amy served as the Special Advisor to both the Texas Commissioner of Workers' Compensation and Commissioner of Insurance and oversaw the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group, which produces the agency's annual network report card and evaluations of legislative reforms. She also authored DWC's biennial reports to the Texas Legislature from 2007 to 2021.

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Prior to her time at the Texas Department of Insurance, she served as the Policy and Research Coordinator for the Texas Research and Oversight Council on Workers' Compensation, a small state agency that conducted unbiased research and provided legislative oversight on the Texas workers' compensation system.

She was a member of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) Texas Advisory Committee, the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions' (IAIABC) Research and Standards and Proof of Coverage committees and was a fellow with National Academy of Social Insurance.

Recently she served as a peer reviewer for a series of WCRI studies evaluating the impact of pharmacy closed formularies in several states, and has presented at multiple industry conferences, including WCRI, IAIABC, National Council of Insurance Legislators, and the National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference.

## ***Brie Meyer - Water & Environmental Technologies***

Brie Meyer is an industrial hygienist/environmental engineer for WET and has 20 years of environmental and industrial hygiene experience, ranging from environmental and industrial hygiene sampling, to human health risk assessments and personal exposure monitoring evaluations.

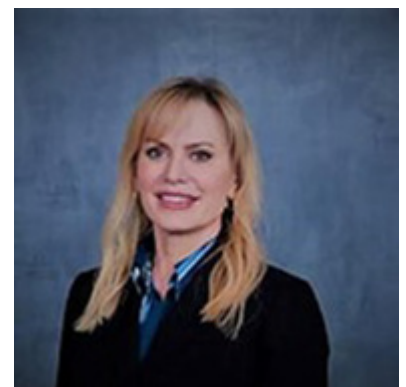
While working as a contractor to the Department of Energy (DOE), she managed safety and industrial hygiene programs for sites across the US. This work included supporting development of and updates to documents to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and DOE requirements, participating in work planning to support all safety and health aspects of new projects, and performing exposure evaluations on workers.

She also supported public health assessment reviews at various sites related to environmental remediation and public health status updates. In the consulting industry, she has a substantial amount of experience managing human health risk assessments as part of EPA's remedial investigation process, environmental data review and quality control evaluation, and supporting National Environmental Policy Act reviews.

## ***Rene Mills MS, CCC-SLP, CBIST - Craig Hospital***

Rene Mills is a Speech Language Pathologist specializing in brain injury rehabilitation for over 30 years, with experience across the continuum of care, from ICU to home health and outpatient services.

She is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer, a CARF Medical Surveyor, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado. Rene is a Provider Relations Manager at Craig Hospital.



### ***Dr. Ethan Moses MD, MPH, FACOEM - Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation***

Ethan Moses is the Medical Director for the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation. He is a fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine where he serves as a member of their Council on Occupational and Environmental Medicine Science.



Dr. Moses continues to serve patients as the Chief Medical Officer at Peak Form Medical Center, and he holds faculty appointments at both the Colorado School of Public Health and the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In addition to his other roles, Dr. Moses is a former president and active board member of the Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational & Environmental Medicine.

He has previously served in several executive leadership positions, including Chief of the Division of Occupational Medicine at Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Chief Resident at the University of Colorado's Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency, and Chief of Aerospace Medicine at Buckley Air Force Base where he served as an active-duty flight surgeon.

### ***Dr. Albert Olszewski MD - Treasure State Occupational Health***

Albert Olszewski was born and raised in Great Falls, MT and attended Carroll College followed by the University of Washington School of Medicine and completed his General Surgery and Orthopedic Residency at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. In 1995 he completed a Sports Medicine Fellowship at University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr Olszewski then served in the Air Force and held the positions of Flight Surgeon, Chief of Flight, Training Officer, Orthopedic Surgeon for Mobile Surgical Field Team and Teaching Chief of Staff for the Department of Orthopedics at Lackland AFB.



Dr. Olszewski has been in private practice as an Orthopedic Surgeon at Flathead Valley Orthopedics for over 20 years. He was a scientific coordinator for the Montana Orthopedic Society and a clinical consultant for Stryker Orthopedics. In addition, he has served on the Advisory Board for The Doctors Company. Dr. Olszewski is a healthcare policy expert and advocate.

### ***Kerri Poe CSSC - Arcadia Settlements Group***

Kerri Poe is a Certified Structured Settlement Consultant with offices in Los Angeles and Nashville, handling cases nationwide. Her experience includes Workers Compensation, General Liability, Mass Torts, Minor's Cases, Medical Malpractice, and Employment Litigation. Her goal is to bring value to both sides of the negotiation by facilitating settlements and working as an advocate to the settlement process.



As part of the settlement team, Kerri assists with case evaluation, prepares settlement proposals, attends conferences and mediations, and reviews legal documents to ensure the tax benefits of the structured settlement are preserved. Her extensive experience with Medicare Set Asides and the integration of public benefits allows her to provide needs-based financial options for the injured party.

As the President of the National Structured Settlements Trade Association, she is involved in our industry's efforts to protect the future of structured settlements. Kerri has also been a guest speaker at numerous claims associations and risk management groups as well as providing continuing education training seminars for law firms and insurers.

### ***Daniel Tiscareno Romero - Ametros***

Daniel Tiscareño serves as Strategic Account Executive focusing on Account Management. Daniel's specific focus is on implementing, facilitating, & managing key accounts. He encompasses over a decade of Claims Eco. System & Sales/Account Management experience. Having managed the MSP Act compliance process to third-party administrators, carriers, & self-insureds. Daniel served as board member for Valley Industrial Claims Association (VICA) Northern California. His positive outlook and unique industry perspective continue to serve Ametros and clients.



The son of immigrants, Daniel is first generation and received a B.S. degree in Business Administration, Marketing from CSU, Fresno. Dedicated to his daughter, faith, and fitness. He is based in Sacramento, CA he looks after his aging parents, volunteers alongside his daughter, & enjoying preparing gourmet meals at home. A recent personal accomplishment was summiting Mt. Whitney (tallest peak in continuous US) in snow/ice conditions.

### ***Dr. Silvia Sacalis PharmD, MPH - HealtheSystems***

Silvia Sacalis, BS, PharmD, provides clinical leadership and strategic direction as Vice President of Clinical Services at HealtheSystems. Her healthcare experience and clinical expertise span the PBM, retail pharmacy and managed care environments. Leveraging her technology background, clinical skills and leadership expertise, she helps develop and operationalize strategic clinical initiatives to help workers' compensation insurance payers maximize the impact of a pharmacy benefit management program.



Throughout her career, she has held various leadership roles in which she provided oversight of clinical services teams, the development of clinical programs, and integration of analytics technology coupled with clinical consultative support. Dr. Sacalis is a national thought leader and contributor to various industry presentations, publications and interviews. Dr. Sacalis received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Doctorate of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### ***Dr. John Schumpert MD, MPH, FACOEM - REOH***

John C. Schumpert, founded Resources for Environmental and Occupational Health, Inc. (REOH) in 2001 and is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Montana, Doctor of Medicine from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, and Master of Public Health from the University of Minnesota Graduate School of Public Health, where he also completed his residency in Occupational Medicine.



Immediately following residency, Dr. Schumpert was a staff physician at the corporate headquarters of 3M Company and was awarded the 3M Chairman's Leadership Award for his contributions to the Industrial Hygiene Exposure Assessment undertaken at four of the 3M specialty chemical plants involved in fluorochemical production.

Returning west, Dr. Schumpert then provided direct occupational medicine patient care and medical surveillance services at the Idaho National Laboratory. Upon his return to Montana, he was recruited to serve as medical director for occupational health at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls, where he provided direct patient care, hospital consultative services, program development expertise, and independent medical evaluations. He has served as a faculty affiliate of the University of Montana Center for Environmental Health Sciences since 2002, and as Medical Director for the Employment Standards Division of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry from 2010-2012 and 2015 to 2018.

### ***Dr. Amanda Waltemath PharmD, MPH - HealtheSystems***

Amanda Waltemath, PharmD, MPH, is a clinical pharmacist and Director of Clinical Services at HealtheSystems, where she lends her subject matter expertise to the myriad of clinical programs that have been developed by the pharmacy and ancillary benefits management organization.



Dr. Waltemath leverages her special interest in pain management and data analysis to provide insight into the creation of actionable analytics and develop risk assessment tools for workers' compensation payers. She is a member of the Florida Pharmacy Association.

### ***Dr. Daniel Whiting MD - Northern Rockies Orthopaedics***

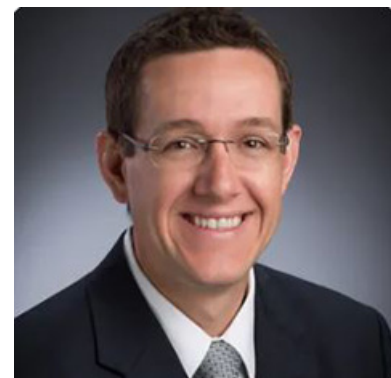
Daniel Whiting is Montana's only dual fellowship trained hip surgeon and performs both hip arthroscopy and anterior hip replacement. Daniel grew up on the Washington coast in the town of Aberdeen and earned his undergraduate degree from Oregon State University and his medical degree from St. Louis University. After medical school, he completed his orthopedic residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. There, he spent a large portion of his time working directly with leaders in hip and knee replacement. This included training in complex hip and knee replacement, revision joint replacements, and hip preservation.



After residency, he then spent an additional year at The Orthopedic Surgery Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT refining anterior hip replacement and receiving additional training in hip arthroscopy and other hip preservation surgeries.

### ***Dr. Michael Wright MD - Missoula Bone and Joint***

Michael Wright is a fellowship-trained, board-certified sports medicine doctor with an interest and expertise in arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder, hip and knee. Dr. Wright specializes in ACL reconstruction, rotator cuff repair, meniscus knee surgery, shoulder instability, hip labrum surgery, patellar instability, articular cartilage procedures, and shoulder replacement surgery.



He joined the Missoula Bone & Joint team in 2017, after completing his fellowship training in Sports Medicine at UCLA and working with the LA Lakers. The focus of his practice is joint preservation. Dr. Wright works with his patients to explore all treatment options including non-surgical solutions such as physical therapy, oral medications, home exercise programs and injections. Dr. Wright shows patient x-rays and discusses treatment options so the patient can make an informed decision about what is best for them.

He lives in Missoula with his wife and four children. He loves spending time in the outdoors with his family, teaching them to ski and enjoying all the activities Montana has to offer. He volunteers his time as part of the sports medicine team providing medical coverage at Hellgate High School.