

# AMSA Conference Speakers

---

[BACK TO MAIN AMSA PAGE](#)

---

## Keynote Dr. Ed Zuroweste

### Border Health

**Institution: Migrant Clinicians Network; College Station, PA**

Dr. Ed Zuroweste is the Chief Medical Officer for the Migrant Clinicians Network. In this position, Dr. Zuroweste is responsible for the oversight of all of MCN's clinical activities. He was present for the first "official meeting" of the Migrant Clinicians Network in 1985 and have been consistently involved with the organization since that time.

Dr. Zuroweste began his work with migrants as a partner in a private practice in Chambersberg, PA. He later became the Medical Director of Keystone Health Center, a large Migrant and Community Health Center in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. While attending to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Zuroweste also maintained a full-time clinical practice in family practice and obstetrics, including full hospital privileges in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine and Obstetrics.

In addition to his work with MCN, Dr. Zuroweste is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he directs an International Rural Health Elective in Honduras. Dr. Zuroweste is also the staff physician for Dauphin and Franklin County HD tuberculosis clinic, PA Dept. of Health; a Clinical Consultant for 3 separate consulting firms; and serves as a Locum Tenem family physician for multiple sites.

Dr. Zuroweste has traveled extensively in Central America, especially Honduras and Guatemala both for teaching and pleasure. He has also traveled to Europe, South America and the Caribbean.

**Topic Description:** Across the United States, physicians are being met with patients who have crossed the southern border and consequently present a new set of challenges. Late stage diseases, and lack of health insurance is just the beginning.

---

## Dr. Patti Patterson

### Rural Health

**Institution: TTUHSC; Lubbock, TX**

Dr. Patti Patterson is Professor of Pediatrics at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Dr. Patterson has 20 years of experience in public health, including serving as the Commissioner of Health, Executive Deputy Commissioner of Health and Maternal and Child Health Director for the State of Texas. She was also instrumental in the development of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Patterson holds a medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She was a family medicine resident at Texas Tech Regional Academic Health Center in Amarillo. She is board certified in pediatrics, completing both pediatric residency and chief resident at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She also has a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and a Bachelor's degree from Lubbock Christian University.

With a continuing concern for international health, Dr. Patterson has participated in 34 medical mission trips to Mexico, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, and Africa.

**Topic Description:** The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has the unique role of providing medical service to the largest region in the United States, most of which is rural farm land. Having grown up in West Texas, Dr. Patterson has an insider's view of this unique group of

people who often go untreated.

---

## Dr. Rush Pierce

### International Refugee Resettlement in Amarillo Texas

**Institution:** TTUHSC; Amarillo, TX

Dr. John Rush Pierce, Jr., MD, MPH, grew up in Texas and graduated with an undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He obtained his M.D. in 1977 from the University of California, San Francisco, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He subsequently did an internship and residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. He received an M.P.H. from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Pierce has been the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo-Bi-City-County Health District since 1995. In 1997 he received the James E. Peavy Memorial Award from the Texas Public Health Association for distinguished contributions to public health in Texas. He has been on the full-time faculty of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center since 2003. He is currently Chief of the Division of Preventive Medicine and Regional Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine for the Amarillo campus. He has been actively involved in developing preventive medicine curriculum for medical students, primary care residents, and primary care practitioners. Dr. Pierce's research interests include organizational issues of local public health departments and population based strategies for control of communicable diseases and poor health behaviors. Dr. Pierce is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, general preventive medicine, and public health.

**Topic Description:** Amarillo Texas is one of the last places one would expect to find a large Myanmar, Somalian, Sudanese population. However, the Refugee Resettlement program sees between 250 and 450 refugees yearly, often presenting with unusual medical problems as well as a new set of cultural norms.

---

## Dr. Linda Brice

### Sexual Health and Education

**Institution:** TTUHSC; Lubbock, TX

**Topic Description:** Lubbock Texas has been known in recent years for its alarming STD and teen pregnancy rate. Coincidentally, its public education system has one of the most stringent policies on sex-ed in the nation. Dr. Brice describes the challenges she has faced against the status quo in hopes of bringing down the rate of STD transmission.

---

## Dr. Robert Casanova, M.D.

**Institution:** TTUHSC, Lubbock, TX

Robert Casanova, M.D. attended Tulane University for his undergraduate studies and then completed his medical education at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He then did his Ob/Gyn residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth and went into private practice in Austin, Texas. After more than 20 years in practice, he joined the Ob/Gyn faculty at Texas Tech.

Dr. Casanova was born in Cuba just before the revolution and emigrated with his family in 1961. He grew up on the Texas-Mexico border where he was exposed to extreme disparities in access to healthcare. Maintaining constant communication with his Cuban relatives, he developed a close relationship with his cousins who were all physicians in Cuba. In 2002, he visited Cuba with his father and was given a behind the scenes tour by his 3 cousins and 2 of their wives, all of them physicians.

**Topic Description:** The goods and the bads of the Cuban Healthcare System

---

## Dr. Linda Prine

### Reproductive Health

**Institution:** Sidney Hillman Family Practice; New York, NY

**Topic Description:** Reproductive Health is often overlooked until pregnancy, however reproductive health is an important aspect of every woman's day to day life. In addition to addressing this, Dr. Prine will lead a papaya-abortion clinic.

---

## Dr. Nick Gorton

### Transgender Health

**Institution:** Private Practice; San Francisco, CA

Dr. Nick Gorton is an openly transgender physician. He completed residency and chief residency in Emergency Medicine at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Gorton has a twice weekly clinic focusing on transgender patients at the Lyon-Martin Clinic in San Francisco. He lectures on transgender health care at medical schools and medical education conferences. He has worked as a medical consultant regarding transgender health care for Lambda Legal, the Transgender Law Center, the Northwest Justice Project, the New York Legal Aid Society, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and is on the advisory board of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

**Topic Description:** The transgender community presents a unique and often unaddressed list of challenges to the average physician. This community demands a level of respect, professionalism, and cultural awareness beyond which is taught at most learning institutions. Dr. Gordon shares his experiences in the field.

---

## **Bhavik Kumar, MSIII**

**Institution: TTUHSC**

Bhavik Kumar is a third year medical student at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. He was the chapter's secretary last year and is currently the vice president of the El Paso campus. His other significant experiences include serving as the AMSA Region 9 LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) chair, serving as the AMSA region leader for the Committee on Gender and Sexuality, designing and coordinating a sex education program for LISD (Lubbock Independent School District) high schools, and chairing the program for STD & Pregnancy Education at the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, Bhavik is a member of the Lubbock & Garza County Medical Society subcommittee on Public Health and the Teen Straight Talk committee.

**Topic Description:** Fighting conservative culture and politics to get sexual education available to students in an area leading the nation in STD and teenage pregnancy rates.

---

**[BACK TO MAIN AMSA PAGE](#)**

---