

COVID-19 VACCINE TOWN HALL

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

ALICE THORNTON, MD

Professor of Medicine
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases
Medical Director, Bluegrass Care Clinic
University of Kentucky Medical Center
Lexington, Kentucky

Dr. Thornton completed her medical degree at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. She completed her residency at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Internal Medicine. She then completed her fellowship training with the Division of Infectious Diseases at Indiana University Purdue University (IUPUI) where she studied the pathogenesis of chancroid. She was recruited to assist in the development of an Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at the University of Kentucky in 1998.

Dr. Thornton has successfully acquired four HRSA funded grants – Ryan White Part B, C and D and the Local Performance Site grant of the Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center. She is PI of the NIH-funded Reprieve Study – Randomized Clinical Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV.

Dr. Thornton is a clinical site visitor for HRSA, and also serves as a grant reviewer for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She serves on the HIVMA Board of Directors. She is a Professor of Medicine in the University of Kentucky Department of Internal Medicine and Chief of the UK Division of Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Thornton led the creation of the KY ID COVID-19 Task Force in March 2020 and is the co-moderator.

REBECCA DUTCH, PhD

Dr. Rebecca Ellis Dutch is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry at the University of Kentucky, and currently leads the COVID-19 Unified Research Experts Alliance team focused on biomedical and clinical issues related to the pandemic for the university. Becky received a BS in Biochemistry and a BS in Microbiology from Michigan State University in 1986. As a Churchill Scholar, she then completed a M.Phil. degree in Biochemistry from Cambridge University, focusing on plant biochemistry. She received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Stanford University in 1994, working with Dr. I. Robert Lehman on recombination in herpes simplex virus. Becky then moved to studies of viral glycoproteins in RNA viruses for her postdoctoral training at Northwestern University/HHMI with Dr. Robert Lamb. She joined the faculty of the University of Kentucky in 2000. Her research, which has resulted in continuous NIH funding since 2001 and numerous other grants, manuscripts, and presentations, focuses on emerging RNA viruses, with a particular emphasis on viral entry, assembly and spread. Dr. Dutch was a 2015-2016 University Research Professor in recognition of

her outstanding research efforts. Dr. Dutch teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and has twice been named a finalist for the Provost's Outstanding Teacher award. She is also highly committed to the training and mentoring of young scientists, and has served as the primary mentor for 19 Ph.D. students, 4 MD/Ph.D. students, five postdoctoral scholars and 28 undergraduate researchers. Dr. Dutch is an editor for Journal of Virology (where she also serves as the Spotlight editor), Plos Pathogens and mSphere. She has been a member of numerous grant review panels, including serving as a standing member of the NIH VIRB and MID study sections. She also served as the elected President of the American Society for Virology from 2016-2017.

FRANK ROMANELLI, Pharm.D., MPH, FAPhA, BCPS, AAHIVP

Dr. Romanelli is originally from Waterbury, Connecticut. He received both his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston. He completed both a Pharmacy Practice and Critical Care residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center where he also served as Chief Resident. Subsequently, he received a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Kentucky.

He is currently the Paul F. Parker Endowed Professor of Pharmacy with joint appointments as Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor of Physician Assistant Studies. He also serves as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Chief Academic Officer for the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Romanelli has received several commendations by various groups for outstanding teaching. In 2003 he was selected by the University of Kentucky Alumni Association as a 'Great Teacher', this is the oldest continuous award presented by UK. In 2004, he received the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Innovations in Teaching Award and in 2008 the UK Provosts Award for Outstanding teaching by a Tenured Faculty member. Dr. Romanelli has also been recognized as an Outstanding Professor of the Year by both the College of Pharmacy and College of Health Sciences at UK. From student nominations, Dr. Romanelli has been recognized by the UK College of Education as a "Teacher Who Made a Difference." In 2012 he was inducted as an honorary member of Pi Alpha, the National Physician Assistant Academic Honor Society and in 2013 he was inducted into Delta Omega, the honorary society for Public Health. In 2018 he was named by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy as a "Distinguished Teacher Scholar." In 2019, Dr. Romanelli was named an Academic Leadership Fellow by the Southeastern Athletic Conference.

Dr. Romanelli is board certified in pharmacotherapy and recognized by the American Association of HIV Medicine as an HIV Pharmacist. In 2009 he was elected a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association. Dr. Romanelli currently serves as Executive Associate Editor of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. Additionally, he is the section editor for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections for the Annals of Pharmacotherapy.

He maintains an active practice in the area of HIV/AIDS and his research interests include pharmacy education and pedagogy. He is currently overseeing a major curricular revision and re-engineering of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at the University of Kentucky.