

Dear Future Me: Lifelong Benefits of Folic Acid - Speakers

Jessie Genoway, MPH | Panelist

Communications Director, Food Fortification Initiative

jessie.genoway@ffinetwork.org

As Communications Director for the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), Jessie Genoway works to maintain the organization's strategic communications, engage key stakeholders, and build partnerships. With 15 years of experience in communications and strategic partner engagement, Jessie has worked as a freelance journalist and as a health communications and policy specialist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Center for Global Health. She holds a Master of Public Health from École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique, the French School of Public Health, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Davidson College.

Lindsay Denson, PhD, RDMS | Panelist

Program Manager, Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry

lindsayxd@health.ok.gov

Dr. Lindsay Denson's first career as an obstetrical sonographer provided her with invaluable clinical experience but left her with a desire to learn more. She pursued a doctoral degree at the University of Oklahoma with the intention of a career in ultrasound research. While in school, she joined the Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry as a student in 2015, an experience that reshaped her career path. Her knowledge of anatomical defects from her sonography career, coupled with her epidemiological training, provided an ideal foundation for a career in birth defects surveillance and research, which has since grown into a passion. Dr. Denson's research interests and publications focus on women's health, diagnostic imaging, and birth defects.

Jonathan Castillo, MD | Panelist

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician, Children's Nebraska

joncastillo@childrensnebraska.org

Dr. Jonathan Castillo is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician with extensive experience in folic acid fortification and neural tube defect prevention. His clinical work includes caring for children and families affected by spina bifida and other complex developmental conditions. Through this work, Dr. Castillo brings both clinical expertise and an understanding of the lifelong impact of neural tube defects on children and families. His experience in prevention and in supporting children with complex developmental needs offers an important perspective on the role of folic acid across the lifespan.

Haley Bice, MA | Moderator

Communications Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health

health.cyshn@state.mn.us

Haley Bice works in the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs section at the Minnesota Department of Health. Her work focuses on public awareness, digital accessibility, and strengthening web and communications practices that help connect state programs with partners and communities. She leads the NBDPN Folic Acid Awareness Week planning subcommittee and also supports the NBDPN Health Promotions Committee's Birth Defects Awareness Month and CMV Awareness Month activities.