

About the Facilitators...



Cynthia A. Lindquist Mala, MPA, Ph.D., earned Liberal Arts Bachelor's degree in Indian Studies and English at the University of North Dakota in 1981 and a Master's degree in public administration (Indian health systems emphasis) at the University of South Dakota in 1988. As a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow, Ms. Lindquist is currently working on a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of North Dakota and will graduate in December 2002.

Ms. Lindquist joined the faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences in 2001 in the Department of Community Medicine. Her new role is to establish a division for the study of Indian health issues. She comes to the University after serving three and half years as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, a Governor appointed position that functions as the liaison between the State and the Indian Tribes in North Dakota.

Her past experiences include serving as Senior Advisor to the Director of the Indian Health Service in Washington DC; staff for the North Dakota Health Task Force; writing and developing the Northern Plains Healthy Start initiative; and being the Associate Director of the University of North Dakota's Center for Rural Health. Ms. Lindquist's career began as her Tribe's Health Director/Planner in the early 1980s. She also serves as consultant and advisor to the Kaiser Family Foundation on American Indian health issues.

In June 1999, Ms. Lindquist was honored as one of the ten national winners for the "Women in Government" award presented by *Good Housekeeping* magazine, the Ford Foundation and the Women's Center at Rutgers University.

Dr. Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., is Director and Professor (Tenured) of the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, in Grand Forks, ND. She has held this position since November 28, 2001. The Center for Rural Health engages in policy analysis, research, and educational initiatives. Priority policy issues include Medicare, quality in health care, Native American health issues and emergency medical services. Dr. Wakefield is also Adjunct Professor at the UND College of Nursing.

January, 1996 - December, 2001, Dr. Wakefield served as Professor and Director of the Center for Health Policy at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. The Center for Health Policy engages in policy analysis, research, and educational initiatives. Priority policy issues include rural health, Medicare, quality in health care, health workforce, and international health policy.

January 1993 - January 1996, Dr. Wakefield was the Chief of Staff for United States Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND). In this position she oversaw the legislative, administrative, political, public, and press relations of the office in addition to managing the Washington D.C. office as well as four state offices. From 1987 until 1992, Dr. Wakefield served as Legislative Assistant and Chief of Staff to Senator Quentin Burdick (D-ND). Throughout her tenure on Capitol Hill, Dr. Wakefield advised on a range of public health policy issues, drafted legislative proposals, worked with interest groups and other Senate offices. From 1987-1992, Dr. Wakefield co-chaired the Senate Rural Health Caucus Staff Organization. In this capacity she was directly involved with a wide range of rural health policy issues including recruitment and retention of health care providers, reimbursement, emergency services, telemedicine, among others. In December 1992, she worked as a consultant for the Global Programme on AIDS at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Wakefield serves on many health related advisory boards. From March 1997 through March 1998, she was on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. In September 1998 she was appointed to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. In 1999, Dr. Wakefield was appointed by the U.S. Comptroller General to a three-year term on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, which is responsible for advising the U.S. Congress on the Medicare program. In June 1999, she was appointed to the Advisory Commission to the Office of Rural Health Policy, Department of Health and Human Services. On October 1, 2000, Dr. Wakefield was appointed to a three-year term to serve on the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality of the Federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In April, 2002, Dr. Wakefield was appointed to the National Commission on Veteran's Affairs effective through August, 2004. Currently, she serves as chair of the National Advisory Council, and co-chair of the Institute of Medicines Committee on the Health Professions Education Summit.

Dr. Wakefield received her Master of Science in Nursing and her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin. Her Bachelor of Science in Nursing is from the University of Mary at Bismarck, ND. She was a Kodak Fellow in the Program for Senior Managers in Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Dr. Wakefield is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.