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The Federal Government Source for Women's Health Information

Wanda Jones, Dr.P.H.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Dr. Wanda Jones is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health) in HHS and the Director of the Office on Women's Health (OWH). Since her selection in February 1998, Dr. Jones has focused her efforts on eliminating health disparities for women through a variety of programs and initiatives, including the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, the OWH public outreach programs (The National Women's Health Information Center, womenshealth.gov, and girlshealth.gov) and the Panel of Experts on Minority Women's Health.

Dr. Jones also actively participates in HHS efforts concerning violence against women and HIV/AIDS. In addition, she recently chaired a public meeting on the safety of dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids, convened a three day "Young Women's Health Summit" with teens and young women from all over the country, and is an active voice for Departmental efforts to increase breastfeeding among minority women. She has also supported women's health activities outside Washington, D.C. through women's health coordinators assigned to each of the ten regions of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Jones has long been recognized for her leadership on women's health issues in the federal and state public health communities. Prior to her current position, Dr. Jones was the Associate Director for Women's Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. A Penn State graduate in medical technology, she has worked in an inner city blood bank and its hematology laboratory; in a small town hospital as its night shift technologist and then as its microbiologist; and for a State public health laboratory as a laboratory improvement consultant. She obtained her doctorate in Public Health Laboratory Practice from the University of North Carolina. Dr. Jones joined CDC in 1987 as an HIV laboratory trainer. In 1990, she became the Assistant Director for Science in the Office of the Associate Director for HIV/AIDS, where she was active in policy issues related to HIV laboratory testing, women and AIDS, HIV vaccine development and health care workers.



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Valerie Scardino, M.P.A.

Director, Division of Outreach and Collaboration
Office on Women's Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Ms. Scardino is the Director of the Division of Outreach and Collaboration within the HHS Office on Women's Health (OWH). Ms. Scardino has 16 years of experience in health communications and project management, both within HHS and in the private sector.

In her current position, she directs the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of multi-year contracts. She develops communications strategies for OWH and implements national health campaigns. Ms. Scardino organizes press events, prepares press materials, and generates media coverage for these campaigns and events. Ms. Scardino oversees the writing, graphic design, production, and distribution of all print and web-based documents for the office. As OWH's liaison to the HHS Office of Public Affairs, Ms. Scardino is actively involved in obtaining approvals for developing and printing educational materials and for responding to media requests.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Scardino served as the Program Manager for the OWH outreach programs womenshealth.gov and girlshealth.gov. In that capacity, she managed the program's contract and budget. She oversaw all marketing activities, enhancements to the toll-free telephone service, periodic design updates to the web sites, selection of new materials, evaluation activities, and program expenditures.

Ms. Scardino received her B.B.A. in Business/Marketing from the University of Massachusetts and her M.P.A. from Suffolk University in Boston, MA.



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R. Ann Abercrombie, MLS

Program Manager for womenshealth.gov and girlshealth.gov
Office on Women's Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Since February 2005, Ann Abercrombie has served as the Program Manager for the Office on Women's Health (OWH) outreach programs which include two web sites—womenshealth.gov and girlshealth.gov—and two national helplines—the OWH public information and referral service and the National Breastfeeding Helpline. In this capacity, she is responsible for managing design and content enhancements to both web sites. Ms. Abercrombie also oversees the online fulfillment of hundreds of requests for the Office's print materials on women's and girls' health. She works closely with the Acting Director of the Communications Division on budget, schedules, personnel, print materials, and evaluation.

Ms. Abercrombie retains her responsibilities as the Office's Outreach Librarian, a role she has held since joining OWH in June 1998. In this capacity, she has developed and managed a women's health resource library and data access system to facilitate research. She maintains an inventory of health and medical journals as well as federal publications on women's health topics.

Concurrent with these activities, she is also the Manager of the OWH Exhibits Program. In addition to determining the exhibit schedule, she attends conferences across the country to promote the work of OWH and the activities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Abercrombie has a Master's degree in Library Service from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.