



## Mentor Directory

### Get to Know Your Mentors!

These talented STEM professionals are trained and ready to share their experience and knowledge with the next generation of young Jewish women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



**Dr. Amanda Cohn** currently serves as Executive Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and Senior Advisor for Vaccines for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD). She previously served as the Deputy Director of NCIRD's Immunization Services Division. Dr. Cohn came to the CDC in 2004 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and joined the Meningitis and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Branch in 2006, where she focused on prevention and control meningococcal disease, both domestically and internationally. From 2007 to 2014, she was the CDC lead for the ACIP Meningococcal Vaccines Work Group. She is board certified in Pediatrics and is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She obtained her medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine and completed a residency in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts. Dr. Cohn grew up in Atlanta and has three girls who attended the Epstein School.



**Dr. Anne Costolanski** is a Research Scientist at Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) in Atlanta, GA. Her professional work has spanned two different careers, one in finance and one in engineering. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a major in math and minors in physics and computer science. Her first career was in finance, where she worked for local government and private industry.

She received her masters degree in Mathematics from George Mason University in 2007 and was named the math department's Outstanding Graduate Student. Her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics was awarded in 2013 from North Carolina State University, where her dissertation centered on improving techniques for modeling nanoscale semiconductor devices. She joined GTRI in 2013, and her current focus is modeling

large scale radar systems, such as the ballistic missile warning systems deployed around the world. In addition to her work at GTRI, Dr. Costolanski is the current chair of the Atlanta Women in Engineering (WIE) affinity group associated with IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the professional society for electrical engineers).



**Dr. Erica Davis** is a Technology Specialist/Patent Agent with Fish & Richardson in the Atlanta office. Her practice consists of patent prosecution and litigation in the areas of nanotechnology, electrical & computer technology, cleantech, manufacturing, Internet technologies, and software. Prior to joining Fish, Dr. Davis worked as a Process Engineer at an additive manufacturing startup, where she participated in both R&D efforts as well as process development and optimization. Dr. Davis completed her doctoral dissertation at The University of Texas at Austin in Electrical Engineering, and has authored/co-authored over 10 academic journal publications in the field of semiconductor optoelectronics.

**Dr. Elizabeth Herman, MD, MPH** has enjoyed a career spanning several areas of primary care and public health. She recently retired from her position with CDC's National Asthma Control Program and is exploring options to provide medical care to underserved populations in the Atlanta area. Upon receiving a B.A. in anthropology from Princeton University, Elizabeth pursued a degree in medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She completed a family practice residency at Duke-Watts Family Medicine Program. Following her residency, Dr. Herman worked as a primary care physician in India then as a medical officer and clinical director of the ACL Indian Hospital in New Mexico. She later obtained a masters degree in public health and completed a preventive medicine residency at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Her interest in international health led her to an assignment with the World Health Organization in Geneva which involved field work in Africa and Asia. After relocating to Atlanta, Elizabeth worked as a primary care physician at the Emory Clinic before joining CDC in 1998. She first worked on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Project in developing countries through the Malaria Branch before transitioning to the National Asthma Control Program.



**Laurie Hunt, RN, BSN** graduated from Yeshiva Atlanta in 2011 and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in 2016. She graduated summa cum laude as a member of the prestigious Sigma Theta Tau international nursing honors society. After nursing school, she went on to complete a nurse residency in general pediatrics at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Finally, she completed her nursing fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology and bone marrow transplant, which is her true passion. During her last two years as a pediatric hem/onc and BMT nurse, Laurie has precepted new nurses during their residencies. She is a member of the hem/onc and BMT evidence-based practice and research council and led her first project in 2019. Laurie also serves as an Ethics Liaison on her unit at CHOA. Laurie combines her passion for her patient

population and her love of Jewish summer camp and attends Camp Simcha in the summers. She also works as a nurse at CHOA's camp for kids with solid tumor transplants and kidney failure. In her spare time, Laurie enjoys running and has completed 3 full marathons so far! She also enjoys yoga, peanut butter, and travelling.



**Dr. Arielle Lasry** moved from Montreal to Atlanta, in 2006, to be a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She is a Senior Advisor in the Division of Global HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis where she leads epidemiologic studies and travels to countries most affected by HIV to provide technical assistance for their prevention efforts. Before turning her focus to public health, she spent 10 years working in information technology and supply chain software industries.

Arielle has authored over 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She holds a PhD in Management Science from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor and MSc degrees from the HEC school of Management. Arielle is a graduate of the one-year program for overseas students at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has volunteered for the American Jewish World Service and was assigned to develop a tracking system for a human rights NGO in Dakar, Senegal. She is married to Salomon Knafo and they have three boys who can be found at the AJA lower school.



**Rachel Meltzer**, a Georgia Tech graduate, works as a software engineer for tech startup Banyan Hills Technologies. Previously she worked as a software engineer with Rev.io, developing a robust telecom and IoT billing platform in the cloud. She has hosted her own radio show, Koshers Noise, and also worked with several Jewish non-profits in the past, including the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival, LimmudFest, USY, and Ramah Darom. When she is not teaching herself how to code, Rachel enjoys volunteering as a princess for children in need, training for Olympic weightlifting competitions, and supporting her alma mater's Chabad of Downtown Universities.



**Rivka Monheit**, a partner at Pabst Patent Group, works with clients throughout the world to help them obtain patents in the fields of medical devices, drug delivery materials, imaging and diagnostic agents, personal care products, and chemical technologies. She holds a law degree from the University of Georgia and has been working in patent law for 20 years. While studying Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech, she co-oped with Westinghouse Remediation Services and was an undergraduate researcher in Emory's vascular surgery department. Rivka is a graduate of Yeshiva High School of Atlanta (now AJA Upper School) and has served in a variety of

leadership roles in the Jewish community during college, law school, and afterwards, including President of the Jewish Law Student Association, President of Congregation Anshi S'fard, Board member of Yeshiva Atlanta and AJA, Chair of the Atlanta Chapter for Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA), and is

currently a member of the Wexner Heritage Program (Atlanta cohort). She and her husband have two children, both of whom are students at AJA.



**Victoria Razin** always knew she wanted to help people but never thought she would be an electrical engineer. In fact, she didn't know what electrical engineering was until the summer before her senior year of high school. That summer Victoria attended the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences, where she built a love for collaborative work, circuits, soldering, and singing pop songs while soldering. Victoria obtained a BSE in Electrical Engineering at Princeton University. Her favorite classes were American Musical Theater History, Shakespeare, and the Art of Comedy. (She also enjoyed Circuits and Programming). Victoria went on to obtain an MSc in Medical Electronics and Physics as a Marshall Scholar at Queen Mary, University of London. She currently works as a research engineer at the

Georgia Tech Research Institute, where she does human factors research, circuit design, app development, and test engineering for healthcare applications. She has a passion for developing systems that improve people's lives and for creating a healthy, happy, inclusive work culture. Outside of work, she enjoys hanging out with her husband and toddler, singing, and reading fantasy novels.



**Dr. Chanie Wilson Steinberg** is a proud graduate of Hebrew Academy of Atlanta and Yeshiva High School of Atlanta. She graduated summa cum laude from New York University with a BA in biology. She attended Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and graduated in 1998. She completed her Internal Medicine residency in 2001 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. She moved back to Atlanta in 2002 and has been practicing internal medicine/outpatient primary care since. Currently she works at Emory Downtown Decatur Primary Care. She has taught and mentored medical, PA and nurse practitioner students and residents. Her main interests of focus include preventive medicine, geriatrics and women's health. Her husband Scott is a general and bariatric surgeon at Emory Decatur Hospital. She has 3 children who all attend Atlanta Jewish Academy.



**Dr. Amy Funk Wolkin** is the Senior Advisor for At-Risk Populations for the Center for Preparedness and Response at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Wolkin focuses on improving the resilience of at-risk populations to natural and human-caused disasters, disease outbreaks, and other adverse events. She provides scientific expertise for emergency preparedness and response activities. Since joining the CDC in 2002, Dr. Wolkin has led numerous national and international outbreak investigations and emergency responses. Her research experience includes vulnerable populations and emergencies, health impacts of extreme weather events, community health assessments, chemical and radiological terrorism, and environmental epidemiology.

Dr. Wolkin has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on disaster epidemiology, environmental epidemiology, and surveillance. She received her Doctorate of Public Health from University of North Carolina, her Masters of Science in Public Health from Emory University, and her bachelor degree from the University of Georgia.

### **Other Mentors:**

**Liraz Beldie**

**Stefanie Sarnat**