



Association of
Immunization
Managers

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ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNIZATION MANAGERS INDUCTS THREE LEADERS INTO HALL OF FAME

[ROCKVILLE, MD] – August 19, 2026 - The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is pleased to announce the 2026 inductees for the AIM Hall of Fame: Kristen Ehresmann, Molly Howell, and James Lutz.

AIM's Hall of Fame enshrines exceptional figures from the AIM community of immunization leaders who have made a profound impact on AIM's mission and goals, the public health jurisdictions they served, and the broader immunization community. Induction into the Hall of Fame is a rare honor bestowed on selected leaders who have given their time, passion and expertise to AIM over the course of their careers.

The following individuals will be inducted this year:

- **Kristen Ehresmann, RN, MPH**

Retired Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division, Minnesota Department of Health

Kristen Ehresmann served for more than 30 years in the Minnesota Department of Health in various roles including immunization program manager and director of the infectious disease division. Kris served as AIM Chair in 2007 and played a key role in guiding AIM through the pursuit of hiring its first staff. She fought for AIM to secure a liaison seat on the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and represented AIM as the ACIP liaison and liaison to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC). She also served as a voting member of both the ACIP and NVAC.

- **Molly Howell, MPH**

Director of Disease Control and Forensic Pathology, North Dakota Health and Human Services and Former Immunization Director and Assistant Section Director, Disease Control and Forensic Pathology, North Dakota Health and Human Services

Molly Howell serves as the director of the Disease Control and Forensic Pathology for North Dakota Health and Human Services after being promoted from her position as immunization program manager. As a program manager and member of AIM, Molly

was dedicated to the success of all program managers and the AIM organization. She served as AIM Chair, on the Executive Committee, as a mentor, and chaired several AIM committees. She has been honored with multiple AIM awards, including the AIM Bull's-Eye Award, the AIM Impact Award, and the prestigious Natalie J. Smith, MD Award for Excellence in Program Management. Molly represented AIM as a liaison member to ACIP and NVAC and also served as a voting member of NVAC.

- **James (Jim) Lutz, MPA**

Retired Senior Public Health Advisor, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Immunization Program and Former Program Manager, City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Division of Disease Control, Philadelphia Immunization Program

Jim Lutz served as the first immunization program manager in Philadelphia, a founding member of AIM, and on AIM's first Executive Committee. Jim played an important role in the development of the AIM bylaws and other guiding principles. He developed the first AIM logo - the building blocks - which was AIM's official logo for several years. Jim was also an integral part of recruiting AIM's first executive director by sitting on the selection committee and interviewing all candidates. As a vocal champion for AIM, Jim helped establish credibility, respect, and recognition of AIM with CDC and other partners.

"This year we are excited to recognize the meaningful contributions that **Kristen, Molly, and Jim** have given AIM and the immunization community. All of our inductees are dedicated and passionate about building and strengthening AIM's infrastructure and impact. We owe our successes to the building blocks they gave us," said AIM Executive Director Claire Hannan, MPH.

The new Hall of Fame inductees will be celebrated and given a plaque at the 2026 AIM Leadership in Action conference in December. Visit the [AIM awards webpage](#) for additional background, photos, and to learn more about the inspiring work of this year's recipients.

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About Association of Immunization Managers:

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is a nonprofit membership association comprised of the directors of the 66 federally funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs. AIM is dedicated to working with its partners nationwide to reduce, eliminate, or eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases. AIM also works to ensure the success of its members by providing support in their programming interests. Since 1999, AIM has enabled collaboration among immunization managers to effectively control vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization coverage in the United States. For more information on AIM, please visit www.immunizationmanagers.org/