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Colonel Tonya S. Rans is Chief, Immunization Healthcare Division, Deputy Assistant Director - Public Health at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, VA.

In May 1994, Col Rans graduated with Distinction from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force Medical Corps. She was accepted into the Health Professions Scholarship Program and graduated as a Medical Doctor from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1998.

Following medical school, Col Rans was competitively selected for the Pediatric Residency Program at Keesler Medical Center. She completed Professional Military Education in line with rank while in her third year of pediatric residency, graduated in 2001, and became a board-certified Pediatrician that same year.

Her next assignment was Edwards AFB, CA, where in addition to medical care of pediatric patients, the base Child Development and Youth Center liaison she participated in a base-wide town hall with bioenvironmental engineering and base leadership when concerns of lead in base housing were elevated. She arranged with the lab to accept walk-in requests for blood lead levels from beneficiaries without physician orders and personally contacted all patients with results.

As Medical Director and Pediatrician at the MacDill AFB-Brandon Clinic from 2004-2006, Col Rans led the transition from paper records to an Electronic Medical Records system and improved Pediatric access by 60%. Additionally, she was competitively selected for an Allergy/Immunology Fellowship at the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC) from 2006-2008.

Within one year of graduation, Col Rans cultivated the first-ever Allergy/Immunology Clinic at Nellis AFB. Additionally, she received initial board certification as an Allergist/Immunologist and recertification as a Pediatrician, procured a critical vaccine during a national shortage, was the 2nd highest relative value unit (RVU) producing specialist, and revised deployment immunization forms with public health to avert superfluous visits.

Col Rans returned to the SAUSHEC Allergy Fellowship program as faculty and modernized this sole Air Force Allergy/Immunology Fellowship training platform in 2009. Following duties as Allergy Clinic Officer in Charge and Flight Commander in addition to maintaining Assistant Professorship of Pediatrics and Medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Col Rans was competitively selected as Program Director of the Allergy Fellowship Program in 2012 and remained in that position until 2016. During this period, her trainees had 100% on-time graduation and 100% board certification. She also fostered academic relationships with the SAUSHEC Pulmonary fellowship and the Ear, Nose, and Throat residency programs, resulting in novel joint trainee rotations across all three specialties. In 2015, she was competitively selected as the first Air Force Deputy Director of Medical Education for SAUSHEC and represented all Accreditation Committee of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) issues at the 59 MDW to include the Scientific Advisory Council, Human Research Protection Program, and Process Improvement Committee. Furthermore, she was Vice Chair of the Allergy/Immunology Core Curriculum, Education and Residency Review Subcommittee for the ACGME. From 2016-2017, Col Rans was the Medical Director for the 59 Medical Subspecialties Squadron at JBSA-Lackland, charged with streamlining the transition of the MTF from one site to another.

In 2017, Col Rans joined the Defense Health Agency as Chief, Immunization Healthcare Division and is charged with developing and promoting programs and services that enhance immunization effectiveness, safety, and acceptability. Further, the division provides evidence-based solutions that improve immunization health care through policy implementation guidance, strategic communication, education, training, and clinical services worldwide.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, Col Rans served as DHA medical SME on COVID vaccination with the Coronavirus Task Force directed COVID vaccine Operational Planning Team (OPT). Following sunset of the COVID OPT 30 June 2021, Col Rans continues as Chair, Coronavirus Vaccine Implementation Program Workgroup at DHA where future work includes anticipatory planning for pediatric COVID immunizations, additional vaccination for those immunocompromised, booster COVID vaccine, and military guidance following FDA licensure of one or more COVID vaccines.

Col Rans is a graduate of Squadron Officer School and Air War College. She is the recipient of the Excellence in Clinical or Academic Teaching Special Experience Identifier, 3 Air Force Meritorious Service and 2 Commendation medals. Additionally, she published the 9th edition of the DHA Immunization Tool Kit, 8 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 9 abstracts, and 13 presentations at national meetings.