



## Biographies



**Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD**  
*Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer*  
American Parkinson Disease Association  
Staten Island, NY

Rebecca Gilbert joined APDA in 2018, bringing a wealth of practical experience in diagnosing and treating Parkinson's disease (PD), as well as a strong background in fundamental and clinical science to the team. She is responsible for overseeing APDA's research portfolio in conjunction with APDA's Scientific Advisory Board, and also provides medical and clinical expertise to support APDA programming as well as print and web content.

Dr. Gilbert received her MD at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and her PhD in Cell Biology and Genetics at the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences. She then completed her Neurology Residency training as well as Movement Disorders Fellowship training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. She continues to maintain a limited schedule of patients one day a week through Bellevue Hospital Center.

Prior to joining APDA, she was an associate professor of neurology at the Fresco Institute for Parkinson's and Movement Disorders, NYU Langone Medical Center where she saw movement disorders patients at both NYU and Bellevue Hospital Center, initiated and directed the NYU Movement Disorders Fellowship, and participated in clinical trials and other research initiatives for Parkinson's disease and lectured widely on Parkinson's disease.



**Annette Kluge**  
*Associate Director, Outreach*  
Banner Neuro Wellness  
Gilbert, AZ

Annette Kluge graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and has spent her career helping people stay active and involved in their lives regardless of ability.

In 2010 Annette was recruited by Banner University Medical Center to develop and build a community-based program for people with Parkinson's disease. Since then, Annette and her team have worked tirelessly to provide exercise and wellness programs that help to maintain independence, address symptoms, and create a higher quality of life for the individual and their family.



## Biographies (cont.)

Annette presented a poster session at the 2013 World Parkinson's Congress. She has also been invited to numerous conferences for the movement disorder and neurological patient populations to discuss the efficacy of the Banner Neuro Wellness model of care as a best practice standard for the PD community.



**Joanne Ruelas, LMSW**  
*Social Worker and Educator*  
Patient Navigation and Outreach  
Barrow Neurological Institute  
Phoenix, AZ

Joanne Ruelas is a licensed master social worker (LMSW) in the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at Barrow Neurological Institute. She works in the Legacy Care Program.

Ms. Ruelas' expertise includes providing support, education, and resources to patients and caregivers. She works with patients who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

Ms. Ruelas obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Arizona State University. She's been practicing social work as an LMSW for 13 years.