Karla Thornton, MD, MPH is a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She received her MD from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas and her MPH in general epidemiology from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She currently serves as the Associate Director of Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). Dr. Thornton’s clinical expertise is in the treatment of HCV. Using the ECHO model, she trains primary care providers to treat HCV in their own communities, in the state prison system and nationally throughout the Indian Health Service. She provides technical assistance to the county of Georgia on replication of the ECHO model to increase access to HCV treatment. She runs a national collaborative of HCV ECHO Projects focused on the sharing of best practices, development of clinical guidelines and HCV outcomes research. In addition to research and training providers, she is committed to reaching underserved populations to teach them about HCV. In 2009, she founded the New Mexico Peer Education Project: Prisoner Health is Community Health which trains state prisoners to be peer educators and experts in HCV and addiction.