



GRANDPARENTS *For* VACCINES NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Grandparents for Vaccines Announces New Board Members George L. Askew, MD, Sean Clements, and Allison Girvin

*New members bring expertise in public health,
communications, governance, and media relations
as organization expands offerings, audiences*

July 7, 2026 — [Grandparents for Vaccines](https://www.grandparentsforvaccines.org), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children from vaccine-preventable illness, today announced that it has expanded its Board of Directors. George L. Askew, MD, an Affiliated Faculty member at the University of Maryland and public health expert; Sean Clements, a communications firm leader and retired Public Affairs/Communications Strategy Officer of the Marine Corps Reserves; and Allison Girvin, a Case Western Reserve University professor and media expert, have been elected to the Board.

“As we approach the first anniversary of our founding, we are focused on bringing in new audiences for the important stories our members tell about what’s at stake when it comes to childhood vaccination,” said Dr. Arthur Lavin, Founder and President of Grandparents for Vaccines.

Grandparents for Vaccines was founded on Grandparents Day, September 7, 2025, to share and amplify real stories from people who lived through the time before childhood vaccination was available. The organization has grown rapidly since its founding and has been featured on numerous national and local media outlets throughout the country.

“Dr. Askew, Mr. Clements, and Ms. Girvin are already doing important work in public health and communications,” Dr. Lavin added. “I am delighted to

welcome them and look forward to working together to help overcome vaccine skepticism and protect more children from preventable diseases.”

About the new members:

- Dr. Askew is Professor of the Practice in the Department of Family Science at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. He has a longstanding history of innovative work in child and family advocacy and executive leadership and recently served as the President and CEO of the Meyer Foundation in Washington, DC. Prior to this, he held numerous posts in public health and governance, including as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education for Prince George’s County, Maryland, Deputy Commissioner of Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and as the first Chief Medical Officer for the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Mr. Clements is the Principal and Founder of SPC Strategies, a communications consulting firm, and a retired Public Affairs/ Communications Strategy Officer of the Marine Corps Reserves. He has held numerous leadership positions in communications in the pharmaceutical industry, most recently as Senior Director, U.S. Business Unit Communications Leader at Johnson & Johnson and including roles in vaccines at GSK and Sanofi, and corporate affairs and news media relations at Novo Nordisk.
- Ms. Girvin is a Professor at Case Western Reserve University and senior editorial leader with 20+ years of experience at the highest levels of national media, from NBC News to Bloomberg, where she led multi-platform teams. Ms. Girvin specializes in high-stakes storytelling for both external and internal audiences, reputation management, crisis communications, and executive visibility.

The new members will join Grandparents for Vaccines founding Board members Dr. Lavin and Dr. Danielle Dunetz.

About Grandparents for Vaccines

Grandparents for Vaccines was founded on Grandparents Day, September 7, 2025, to share the real-life stories of grandparents and others who lived through the time before childhood vaccines were available. Participants

witnessed and experienced significant harm from diseases like measles, mumps, polio, and rubella, and want to remind the public of what's at stake when it comes to vaccine decision-making. Grandparents for Vaccines is a fast-growing movement, with more than 5,000 members nationwide.

Visit grandparentsforvaccines.org to learn more.

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