

Dr. Julie Boom Bio

Dr. Julie Boom graduated with highest honors with a B.S. in Biology/Biological Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and completed her medical education at Baylor College of Medicine. Julie completed her internship and residency in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Boom joined the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine in 1997 and currently is a Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and the Director of the Immunization Project at Texas Children's Hospital.

Dr. Boom's early career focused on promoting vaccines through educational efforts, legislative advocacy, community collaborations, and the implementation and development of the Houston-Harris County Immunization Registry. These initiatives caught the attention of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and led to her first federal grant to conduct surveillance for gastrointestinal disease to determine the effectiveness of rotavirus vaccines. Due to the quick success of her team's early surveillance efforts, Dr. Boom became the site principal investigator for one of seven nationwide vaccine-preventable disease surveillance sites for the CDC's New Vaccine Surveillance Network (NVSN). She has subsequently secured 16 years of competitive grant funding to conduct surveillance for both acute respiratory illness and acute gastrointestinal illness. Cumulatively, Dr. Boom's team has enrolled over 14,000 patients over the past 10 years into CDC's surveillance efforts. In collaboration with CDC, her team has conducted surveillance for emerging diseases and pathogens such as acute flaccid myelitis, EV-D68, arboviruses, and SARS-CoV-2.

Dr. Boom also has expertise in vaccine decision support, provider vaccine education and vaccine hesitancy research. With her colleague, Rachel Cunningham MPH, she has published a series of books, "Vaccine-Preventable Disease: The Forgotten Story." Told from the perspective of the patient/parent, these books address the potential harms associated with vaccine-preventable illnesses such as pertussis, influenza, measles, human papilloma virus and COVID-19. These stories have been also shared in the form of posters and videos. Additionally, Dr Boom has investigated vaccine hesitancy among pregnant women and parents of infants. Julie is the mother of three children, ages 17, 23 and 27. Her personal interests include running, swimming and antique shopping.