State newborn screening programs are among the most successful public health initiatives of the last 100 years. Thousands of lives have been saved, and tens of thousands have avoided significant morbidity because of early detection and treatment. The universal approach of these public health programs has led to reductions in health disparities among underserved populations. Whole genome (and exome) sequencing brings both the promise of expanding screening and the peril of dismantling the public health structure of newborn screening programs. This session begins with a brief history of newborn screening and leads to a discussion of the ethical and policy dilemmas faced by clinicians, researchers, and the broader public. As choices for genetic testing in the newborn period proliferate, what are the best ways to respect autonomy, safeguard infant lives, and optimize family and child well-being? Please read the AAP guidelines on genetic testing in children for this session: Ethical and Policy Issues in Genetic Testing and Screening of Children.

Jeffrey P. Brosco MD PhD, is the 2016 David Green Memorial Speaker. Dr. Brosco is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Associate Director, Mailman Center for Child Development. Dr. Brosco’s research includes an analysis of the history of health care for children in early 20th century Philadelphia, the historical epidemiology of intellectual disability, and the history of newborn screening in the US. His current work integrates history, ethics, and clinical practice to forge systems-level approaches to improving child health, especially regarding large-scale screening programs.