

# Addressing Policy and Structural Barriers to Improve Rural Cancer Health Conference

Speaker Biographies



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## Graham Colditz, MD, DrPH

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Dr. Colditz is the Niess-Gain Professor of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. He is also Chief of the Division of Public Health Sciences, Associate Director, Prevention and Control, at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center and Deputy Director of the Institute for Public Health at Washington University. He is an internationally recognized implementation researcher and epidemiologist, particularly in the area of cancer prevention research. His body of research focuses on conducting large-scale longitudinal studies examining lifestyle, biomarkers, and health, developing interactive risk assessment tools to provide tailored messages on the prevention of chronic diseases, and research synthesis and meta-analysis to inform policy and practice.

Dr. Colditz also leads the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities which is funded by Siteman Cancer Center and NCI to address cancer disparities and achieve cancer health equity in their catchment population. This includes studies of biologic, social, and behavioral determinants of disparities, and access to health services. Arising from these community partnerships he now leads the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing center at WashU funded through the NCI Cancer Moonshot. He also leads the Implementation Science Center for Cancer Control at Siteman (an NCI P50 award) that focuses on underserved populations to reduce disparities in urban and rural settings and a CISNET incubator for multiple myeloma

Dr. Colditz is a member of The National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He serves on the NIH Council of Councils.

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## Timothy J. Eberlein, MD

Director, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine

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Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, has served as the Director of the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine since 1999. As the founding director, Dr. Eberlein led Siteman's efforts towards its successful NCI designation in 2001, comprehensive designation in 2004, earning NCI's highest possible rating, "Exceptional," in 2015, and most recently a No. 10 ranking among cancer centers in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022-23 "Best Hospitals" list.

Dr. Eberlein was also instrumental in creating the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparity (PECaD), which has developed community engagement and prevention implementation strategies throughout Siteman's 82-county catchment area, encompassing most of the state of Missouri and two-thirds of the state of Illinois.

Dr. Eberlein holds a successful 30-year track record as a funded investigator and mentor as well as a principal investigator overseeing complex research projects. In addition to serving as Chair of an NIH Study Section, Dr. Eberlein has served on the Parent Committee (Subcommittee A) for Cancer Center Support Grants and the National Cancer Advisory Board of the Institute of

Medicine as well as Board of Scientific Counselors and Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee of the NIH.

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## Matifadza (Mati) Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, MPH

STL City Director of Public Health

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Dr. Matifadza Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, MPH, is the Director of Health for the City of St. Louis. Dr. Hlatshwayo Davis received her medical degree from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and a Master's in Public Health Degree from Case Western Reserve University. She completed her internal medicine residency at University Hospitals Case Medical Center. She went on to complete her Infectious Diseases fellowship at the Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM), also completing a one-year dedicated non-ACGME HIV fellowship and a two-year dedicated Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) fellowship.

She was a Clinical Instructor, Associate Program Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases fellowship program and in the leadership of the Office of Inclusion and Diversity at the Washington University School of Medicine. She was also an Infectious Diseases physician at the John Cochran VA Medical Center where she was the Lead HIV Clinician, Graduate Medical Education Coordinator, and Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy, supervisor.

Her passion for community engagement, health equity, and patients living with HIV (PLWH), culminated in her becoming the co-chair of the Fast Track Cities initiative in St. Louis, and later appointed to the City of St. Louis Board of Health. Dr. Hlatshwayo Davis is now a national and international medical contributor on COVID-19 with a particular focus on marginalized populations and has been featured in outlets such as CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, MSNBC, and

Newsweek, among others. She is also an Associate Editor for Disparities and Competent Care for the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

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## Katrina A.B. Goddard, PhD

Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

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Dr. Katrina Goddard was appointed Director of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences in October 2021. In this position, she oversees a division that covers a wide range of scientific domains and disciplines, including epidemiology, behavioral science, surveillance and statistics, cancer survivorship, and health services and outcomes research. Prior to joining NCI, Dr. Goddard was a Distinguished Investigator and Director of Translational and Applied Genomics at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland, OR.

Dr. Goddard is a genetic epidemiologist who focuses on public health genomics and the translation of genomic applications into clinical practice. She has directed or collaborated on over 25 federally funded research studies and has held numerous leadership positions on national research consortia. Dr. Goddard has also contributed to knowledge synthesis products that have far-reaching impact for numerous national organizations.

Dr. Goddard received her PhD in biostatistics from the University of Washington and a BS in molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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## Aimee James, PhD, MPH

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Aimee James, PhD, MPH, MA is a Professor of Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis and co-Program Leader for the Prevention and Control Program at Siteman Cancer Center. Her research program is focused on reducing health disparities and inequities in cancer prevention and control. Her intervention and implementation research is aimed at inclusive research in under-served settings, working with community-based healthcare settings and partnering with community members. In this, she has expertise in multi-level interventions to promote cancer screening and follow-up of positive screens. Her community-based research includes efforts to better understand the context of how care is accessed and received, and how financial hardship affects adherence to screening and treatment recommendations. Her research is primarily funded by the NCI.

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## Jamie Studts, PhD, MS

Professor University of Colorado School of Medicine

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Dr. Jamie L. Studts is a Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Scientific Director of Behavioral Oncology. Dr. Studts also serves as the Co-Leader for the Cancer Prevention and Control program and Co-Director of the Population Health Shared Resource at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. Prior to joining the University of Colorado, Dr. Studts served as Professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Assistant Director for Cancer Prevention and Control, and Director of the Behavioral and Community-Based Research Shared Resource Facility at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center. Dr. Studts is a licensed clinical health psychologist, and his interests address behavioral aspects of tobacco-related malignancies. His research develops and tests interventions to promote informed/shared decision making and behavior change among patients and clinicians regarding prevention, screening, and survivorship of lung and head/neck cancer. His research has been funded by NCI, NIDCR, NIDA, NIEHS, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, and the Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Program. Dr. Studts is the Principal Investigator of the Kentucky LEADS Collaborative, and he previously served on the Institute of Medicine National Cancer Policy Forum addressing the Implementation of Lung Cancer Screening. He is a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, a member of the Scientific Leadership Board for the GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's Lung Cancer Screening and Smoking Cessation Guideline Panels. Dr. Studts serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the American Cancer Society's National Lung Cancer Roundtable and Chairs the Survivorship, Stigma, and Nihilism Task Group. Recently, Dr. Studts joined the Steering Committee for the Lung Ambition Alliance. In 2019 he received the

Centerstone Healthcare Advocacy award in recognition of his efforts to reduce the burden of lung cancer in Kentucky.

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## Bettina Drake, PhD, MPH

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Dr. Drake is Professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine and Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement for the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center. Dr. Drake is a cancer epidemiologist and health disparities researcher with over 16 years of community-based research experience. She has maintained consistent cancer disparities funding as PI since 2009, receiving funding from the National Cancer Institute and the Prostate Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense. Her research focuses on identifying preventive strategies to reduce disparities. The objectives of her research program are: (1) to utilize community-based approaches to design, implement and disseminate research information; (2) to promote education and awareness of research and research participation in minority communities; and (3) to identify the modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors for cancer and other chronic diseases as well as the at-risk groups for these factors.

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## Heather M. Brandt, PhD

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Director- HPV Cancer Prevention Program, Co-associate Director for Outreach-St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center, Member-Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control

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Heather M. Brandt, PhD is director of the HPV Cancer Prevention Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and co-associate director for outreach in the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. She also serves as a full member in the department of epidemiology and cancer control. She is a faculty affiliate in the University of Memphis School of Public Health and University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health. As a social and behavioral scientist, her research interests focus on cancer-related health disparities in cancer prevention and control and specifically on working with allies and partners to effectively use what we know works to increase HPV vaccination.

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## Citesko Staples Miller

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Citesko Staples Miller leads the Healthcare & Life Sciences Public Affairs team in Washington, DC. For more than 20 years, Ms. Miller has been engaged in comprehensive, multi-faceted public policy campaigns focused on health care, access to coverage, cancer control and prevention, appropriations and government finance.

With experience in state government, the private and non-profit sectors, Ms. Miller has led national and state efforts to influence health care policy decisions through the development and execution of strategic legislative, regulatory and administrative advocacy campaigns. She has issue specific experience related to Medicaid; Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancers; HPV and vaccine policy; Comprehensive Cancer Control and Health Equity and Disparities. She has advised patient and consumer advocates, providers, health systems/hospitals, payers, government officials and a variety of stakeholders at the federal, state and local level on public policy decisions spanning the health care and cancer continuum.

Prior to joining FTI Consulting, Ms. Miller served as Director of State & Local Campaigns for the American Cancer Society's advocacy affiliate, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). During her tenure at ACS CAN, she led the organization's advocacy engagement on a broad range of access to coverage and care issues, in all 50 states, DC and the US territories.

Ms. Miller has experience building, managing and convening a broad range of partners, stakeholders and coalitions. She served as chair of the Comprehensive Cancer Control National Partnership (CCCNP) - a coalition of diverse and influential national organizations focused on changing the trajectory of the cancer burden by supporting, improving and strengthening comprehensive cancer control efforts in states, tribes and US territories. She also served as a member of the Policy Research Advisory Group for the California Breast Cancer Research Foundation; co-chair of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's (NCCRT), Policy Action Task Group; and advisor to the HPV Roundtable State Coalitions & Roundtables Task Group.

Prior to joining ACS CAN Ms. Miller managed public policy and government affairs for the Illinois-based operations of WellCare Health Plans, Inc., government-sponsored health insurer. Ms. Miller also served as Director of Local Government Finance in the Office of the Illinois State Comptroller.

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## Barbara Dentz, MD, FAAP

Child Health and Safety Advocate with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP)

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Dr. Dentz is a pediatrician by training, a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and a volunteer Child Health and Safety Advocate with the Tennessee Chapter of the AAP. Dr. Dentz graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She then completed her pediatrics residency at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where she also worked as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and as the Director of the Pediatric Faculty Practice. Dr. Dentz currently serves on the Board of ImmunizeTN and as co-chair of the ImmunizeTN Vaccine Provider Committee. She is also co-chair of the TNAAP Legislative Committee. Barb and her husband are the proud parents of two daughters who graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and she is very glad to have an excuse to be back on campus!



## Vetta Sanders Thompson, PhD

E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Studies, Washington University Brown School

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Vetta Sanders Thompson, PhD is the Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Siteman Cancer Center. In addition, she is co-director of the Center for Community Health Partnership and Research at the Institute for Public Health, and Brown School at Washington University Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Sanders Thompson's research focuses on the health and well-being of diverse communities, particularly the African-American community. Her funded research addresses promotion of cancer screening and HPV vaccination among African Americans and community engagement. Additionally, her scholarship covers race, racial identity, implications of experiences of discrimination, and socio-cultural determinants of disparities. Her goal is to empower members of the community to improve their health and well-being through education and opportunities for action. A licensed clinical psychologist, Professor Sanders Thompson served as an associate editor for the APA journal *PsycCritiques*, a past Chair of the State Committee of Psychologists, past President of the Missouri Psychological Association and has been honored by the St. Louis community, as well as her peers in the profession.

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## Karen White

Missouri Highlands Health Care CEO

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Karen R. White joined Missouri Highlands Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving 7 very beautiful & very rural counties in March 2009 as the Chief Financial Officer. She assumed the role as Chief Executive Officer in October 2014 and since that time, through her drive, integrity and work ethic alongside her passion for serving her rural Missouri neighbors and communities, she has provided oversight and direction for the growing health care organization. Missouri Highlands Health Care, long known for its quality primary medical, dental & behavioral health services, has added clinics in response to hospital closures, incorporated obstetrics & gynecology into the services offered and has grown into a mainstay for Substance Use Disorder treatment for rural populations under White's leadership in response to the needs of the area she serves.

White, a certified public accountant (CPA) obtained her Bachelors of Applied Science in Administration with concentration in Marketing and Management from Southwest Baptist University and her Masters in Accountancy from Missouri State University. During and after college she worked in farming, healthcare, banking, retail, management and Social Services prior to obtaining her CPA license and working in public accounting.

White enjoys raising her daughter Maive in the Ozarks where they spend time farming, gardening, playing in the Current River, and hiking through the hills and trees which serve as

the background music for life's adventures! White credits her parents with instilling in her a strong work ethic and drive to succeed. "Growing up, my parents served as strong role models of integrity and faith. They never compromised their message of hard work and education as the path to success. This, coupled with my desire to not have to feed 250 head of cattle for the rest of my life, drove me to succeed."

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## Diana Redwood, PhD

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Diana Redwood, PhD is a Senior Epidemiologist at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. She has worked in the Alaska Tribal Health System since 2004. Her expertise is in public health and epidemiology, with a focus on cancer screening and prevention. She conducts research into novel methods of colorectal cancer screening outreach and new screening methods for the Alaska Native population. Her research has focused on use of the stool DNA test (Cologuard) for improving screening, including Cologuard effectiveness, patient and provider perspectives on the test, and its cost-effectiveness within the Alaska Tribal Health System. Her current R01 work is a randomized controlled trial of Cologuard in rural/remote Alaska Native communities. Dr. Redwood is an Alaska representative to the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and is a passionate advocate for improving the health of Alaska Native people through decreasing the burden of colorectal cancer.

Website:

<https://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/od/investigatorProfile.do?contactId=34241192&grpId=>



## Tom Morris, MPA

HRSA, Director of Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

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Tom Morris serves as the Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the HHS Secretary on rural health issues. In 2012, Tom was the recipient of the HHS Distinguished Service Award and in 2015 he was awarded a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. Over the course of his Federal career, Tom has testified on rural health issues before the House and Senate. He has past work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS. A 1996 Presidential Management Intern, Tom came to government after a career as a newspaper reporter and editor. He has an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Community Health from East Carolina University. He also earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in 2008.

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## Timothy McBride, PhD

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Timothy McBride is an influential health policy analyst and leading health economist shaping the national agenda in health insurance, health reform, rural health care, Medicare and Medicaid policy, health economics, and access to health care. McBride studies the effects of health reform at the state and national levels, the uninsured, diabetes policy, Medicare Advantage, and long-term entitlement reform. In addition to several dozen scholarly publications, he produced the book "Transdisciplinary Public Health: Education, Research and Practice" co-edited with [Debra Haire-Joshu](#), as well as a collection of reports, white papers and other policy products that have had an important impact on the national policy debate. McBride has been active in testifying before Congress and consulting with policy constituents on health reform, health insurance issues, and rural health policy. He is a member of the Rural Policy Research Institute Health Panel that provides expert advice on rural health issues to the U.S. Congress and other policymakers. McBride serves as a member of several local and national committees and boards, including the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, and the St. Louis City Board of Health. Previously he served as chair of the state of Missouri's MOHealthNET Oversight Committee, which advises the state's Medicaid program.

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Ashley Houston, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L

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Ashley Houston, OTD is an assistant professor of surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Her research focuses on supporting cancer screening and treatment decision-making to reduce health disparities among socially marginalized populations. Specifically, she is interested in the dissemination and implementation of decision support strategies to improve health-related outcomes, particularly in populations that experience cancer-related health inequity. With a focus on how people evaluate and apply health information, her research uses qualitative and mixed-methods to identify opportunities to strengthen patient-provider engagement in decision-making across the cancer care continuum.

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## Michelle Silver, PhD, ScM

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Michelle Silver, PhD, ScM is an epidemiologist and health services researcher. Dr. Silver's research interests center around applied/translational epidemiology, and how to best use the results of epidemiologic studies to make and implement evidence-based decisions in cancer screening and prevention. Her research examines patient-, provider-, and system-level factors that influence the effective translation of evidence-based practices, especially screening recommendations, into routine clinical care. A large focus of her work is on the screening and prevention of human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

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## Thembie Shato, PhD, MPH

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Thembie Shato, PhD, MPH is a P50 Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Shato's research interests include intervention development and implementation science research focused on improving health-seeking behavior, access to preventive healthcare, and sexual and reproductive health. She is also interested in the role of social and structural determinants in the uptake of evidence-based interventions for chronic disease prevention and to reduce health disparities among adolescents and women. Her dissertation focused on cervical cancer prevention using quantitative and qualitative participatory research methods to examine the utilization and provision of cervical cancer screening among multiple stakeholders in urban Zimbabwe.

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## Lisa Richardson, MD, MPH

Director, CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

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Lisa Richardson, MD, MPH is the director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC). She is responsible for providing leadership and direction for all scientific, policy, and programmatic issues related to four foundational programs: the Colorectal Cancer Control Program, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the National Program of Cancer Registries. She oversees a well-developed research agenda that includes the national Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network. Prior to her current role, she served as director of CDC's Division of Blood Disorders, where she led national efforts to prevent complications and improve the quality of life for people living with hereditary blood disorders such as hemophilia and sickle cell disease. Dr. Richardson is a highly sought expert on public health's role in cancer control, the role of health care delivery and cancer outcomes, health equity, and quality cancer care.

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## Roy A. Jensen, MD

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Roy A. Jensen, MD is the vice chancellor and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center and has served in this position since his appointment in 2004. In addition to his position as director, he is a Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Professor of Cancer Biology, and William R. Jewell, M.D. Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He completed his residency in Anatomic Pathology at Vanderbilt University where he also completed his fellowship in Surgical Pathology. His research focuses on BRCA1 and BRCA2 in breast neoplasia and the characterization of premalignant breast disease. He is well-published with over 150 publications and is also active within several research and outreach organizations. His full list of accomplishments can be seen on his website below.

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## Lisa M. Klesges, PhD, MS

Professor of Surgery, Division of Public Health Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine, Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Environmental Health, University of Memphis

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Dr. Klesges is a Professor of Surgery in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine. Over the past ten years, Dr. Klesges has served as Professor of Epidemiology, Director, and Founding Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Memphis. Previously, she was an Associate Member in the Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She has also served as Senior Advisor for Implementation Science and Public Health with the National Cancer Institute and is currently a member of the Healthcare Industry Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Dr. Klesges earned her PhD in behavioral epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has since served as a principal investigator or co-investigator on over 40 research projects supported by NIH, national philanthropic and local agencies. Her research, resulting in over 100 publications, has looked at prevention of childhood obesity, evidence-based health behavior change, and translational research methods in cancer prevention and

control. Dr. Klesges's recent work has focused on implementation science and rural health disparities.

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## Mark Doescher, MD, MSPH

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Mark Doescher, MD, MSPH is a Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the Inasmuch Foundation Endowed Chair in Cancer Screening, Outreach, and Education. He currently serves as the Associate Director (AD) of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) at the Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) and AD of the Community Engagement Core of Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Research. Dr. Doescher's longstanding commitment to improving health equity in rural and tribal communities has led to studies funded by the NIH, CDC, AHRQ, HRSA, private foundations, and state government that have resulted in dozens of refereed publications, health policy reports, and policy changes at the local health care system, state and federal levels. Dr. Doescher's current research centers on partnerships with federally recognized tribes and their healthcare systems to increase receipt of evidence-based cancer screenings. In addition to conducting research and overseeing the SCC COE program, Dr. Doescher is a clinically active family physician with over two decades of experience seeing patients in public-sector settings.

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## Cory Williamson, RN

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Cory is an Oncology Case Manager for the Clinton Indian Health Center in Oklahoma. Corey has been a nurse for 6 years now and a case manager for 1 year. Most of his experience nursing comes from federal correctional facilities. He is married to his best friend and has one beautiful 6 month old daughter. Corey has been working with OU Medical center to increase Colon Cancer Screening in the Rural Native American population for 1 year.



## Kia L. Davis, ScD

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Trained as a social epidemiologist, Dr. Davis leads an action-oriented, policy-informing research program focused on 1) identifying and understanding how structural racism impacts chronic disease risk factors like obesity and sleep and 2) identifying opportunities for neighborhood or policy change that can undo or mitigate the deleterious health impact of structural racism on communities of color. She is particularly interested in racial wealth inequality and how the intersection of race, socioeconomic status, and associated stress drive disparities in chronic disease risk factors and incidence. For more than 15 years, she has been committed to health disparities research, where her interests have evolved from health communication to her current focus on social and structural determinants of health. She also has extensive experience in community-engaged research and is cultivating a new area of research in health equity and implementation science.

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## Adrienne Hunter-Green

Regional Educator

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Adrienne Hunter-Green is the youngest of four children. She is a wife of a Desert Storm War Veteran, a mother and a grandmother. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. While in high school her parents retired and moved to Southeast Missouri. She graduated from New Madrid County Central High School. Mrs. Hunter-Green earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lincoln University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southeast Missouri State University. She has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Williams Wood University and a Master's Degree in Human and Social Service with an emphasis in Family Crisis and Intervention from Walden University. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Human and Social Services.

As a young adult, Mrs. Hunter-Green returned to the Chicago area, where she began advocating for social change. She collaborated and worked tirelessly to decrease teen pregnancy, gang activity, and drug trafficking. She relocated back to New Madrid County, Missouri, and through employment and volunteer endeavors, she continued partnering with local governments and organizations to assist in improving communities. She has engaged in a host of community outreach efforts such as; physical activity, establishing walking trails, and community development. In addition, she has provided education and training on Fair Housing Rights, Agriculture Development, AIDS Awareness, Environmental Health, Human Trafficking Regulations, and Cancer Awareness. She served as a board member for the Girl Scouts, Caring Communities, and the Minority Health Alliance. She has volunteered as an Assistant Girl Scout

Leader and a Missouri 4-H Club Leader. She has contributed to enhancing the lives of residents and dedicated one year of service to AmeriCorps\*VISTA as a Financial Development Associate.

Mrs. Hunter-Green is employed with Lincoln University Cooperative Extension as a Regional Educator. She currently serves as a member of the Missouri Breast Health Coalition and the SITEMAN Cancer Center, and Disparities Elimination Advisory Committee. She also is the operator and owner of small farm operation, Adrienne's Specialty Items. Its mission is to promote healthy eating and healthy growing practices. She is the founder and Director of a non-profit organization, Angels with A Vision. The vision of this health initiative centers around collecting and disseminating information to encourage healthy lifestyles, promote a healthy community and serve the community's needs. She is also is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Her actions and vision are committed to social relations, assisting in making lives better and servicing all mankind.



## Heather Burns, MSW, LCSW, CCTP

Director of Programs Gateway to Hope

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During her social work career, Heather Burns has made several lasting connections as an individual who is willing to listen to individuals and the community and design programs around what stakeholders express as their own needs. In addition to this, she brings years of experience providing direct clinical services to individuals who have a chronic or terminal illness diagnosis. As the director of clinical programs and outreach at Gateway to Hope, Heather leads the agency's efforts in program development, overseeing implementation of services, and determining agency outreach strategy to key stakeholders based on the unmet and prioritized needs of the community in which Gateway to Hope serves.

Since joining Gateway to Hope more than a three years ago, Heather has provided support services to individuals battling breast cancer. She has been able to hone in on her St. Louis roots and connections to assist with navigating local resources and establishing partnerships with organizations that are doing similar work. Heather believes that when someone is going through a healthcare crisis, a continuity of care model is the one of the keys to lasting positive outcomes for patients.

Matters most concerning to Heather relate to healthcare, specifically relating to access, women's health, and end of life issues. Heather graduated from Maryville University as a double major, earning her Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology. She later attended University of Missouri – St. Louis, and graduated with a Master's Degree in social work. She obtained her clinical licensure in social work in the fall of 2020 and her certification in trauma care in 2021.

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## Stephanie Wheeler, PhD, MS

Professor Department of Health Policy and Management at University of North Carolina, Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement- UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Stephanie Wheeler, PhD, MPH is a health services researcher and decision scientist with a research focus on improving cancer care delivery value, reducing health disparities, and understanding the financial and psychosocial impacts of cancer. She is renowned for her knowledge of analyzing complex databases and building simulation models to support healthcare decisions. She is currently leading studies funded by NCI, CDC and ACS on optimizing colorectal cancer screening in medically underserved populations, implementing interventions to optimize oral medication adherence and financial outcomes after cancer with a focus on Black/African American and rural communities, improving HPV vaccination in diverse populations, and developing survivorship stratification algorithms. She directs the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement within the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, leads the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network as PI of the Coordinating Center, and co-directs the NCI-funded T32 Cancer Care Quality Training Program (CCQTP).

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## Shoba Srinivasan, PhD

Senior Advisor for Health Disparities, Office of the Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute

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Shobha Srinivasan, PhD, is a sociologist and the Senior Advisor for Health Disparities in the Office of the Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS), National Cancer Institute (NCI). She currently coordinates activities across DCCPS, NCI, the National Institutes of Health, and with other federal and non-governmental agencies to develop programs and initiatives to address health disparities and promote health equity. Through these NCI-funded programs she promotes the building of partnerships between communities and universities to address various health challenges in underserved and immigrant communities. Previously, she has taught and conducted research at various universities, and also has worked as a research director in a community-based health advocacy organization. Her research focuses primarily on social determinants of health, place, and inequities, including challenges in the utilization and access to health services. In all these projects, the goal is largely to inform health policy at the local, state, and national levels regarding health and health care for underserved and underrepresented populations.

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## Robin Vanderpool, DrPH

Chief of the Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB) in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at NCI

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Robin C. Vanderpool, Dr.P.H., is chief of the Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB) in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). As branch chief, Dr. Vanderpool leads the development of health communication research initiatives in areas such as cancer communication surveillance, patient-provider communication, cancer risk communication, health literacy, social/new media, and connected health. Dr. Vanderpool also contributes to the Division's efforts to support NCI-designated cancer centers' community outreach and engagement activities.

Dr. Vanderpool's scientific background includes both formative and interventional research on HPV vaccination, cancer screening, cancer survivorship, implementation science, and rural cancer control. Prior to joining NCI, Dr. Vanderpool was a professor in the Department of Health, Behavior & Society, part of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. She also held leadership positions at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, as the Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement and Co-Director of the Behavioral and Community-Based Research Shared Resource Facility.

Dr. Vanderpool earned her Doctorate of Public Health, with a concentration in Health Behavior, from the University of Kentucky. She received her Masters of Public Health in Public Health

Education from Western Kentucky University and her Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology from Centre College.

Website:

<https://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp/prgmStaffProfile.do?contactId=33399217&name=Robin-Vanderpool&bioType=stf>



## Sheldon Weisgrau

Vice President of Health Policy at Missouri Foundation for Health

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Sheldon Weisgrau has a long history of working to develop innovative health care delivery and financing models in rural communities, including directing the programs that led to the creation of Critical Access Hospitals. Before joining Missouri Foundation for Health, he was the senior policy advisor for the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, a broad-based statewide coalition that worked to expand eligibility for the state's Medicaid program. Weisgrau has also served in senior positions with a consumer-focused Medicare contractor, a state-based policy think tank, and a rural health consulting firm. During this time, he has worked to ensure the delivery of health care services in rural and underserved communities and to enhance the knowledge and engagement of health care consumers, providers, and policymakers.

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