

## Speakers

**Jann Balmer, PhD, RN, FACEHP**, *Director of Continuing Medical Education, UVA; Chair, Tobacco Free Alliance of Virginia; Chairwoman of Less Cancer Board of Directors*

Jann Balmer was appointed as the first full-time Director for Continuing Medical Education of the University of Virginia School of Medicine in December 1990. In her role as Director for CME, the Office of Continuing Medical Education has demonstrated significant growth in meeting the educational needs of physicians and other healthcare professionals. Over the past 20 years, the number of accredited CME activities has grown to a yearly average of 220 activities. Dr. Balmer is a nationally recognized authority on continuing medical education and has numerous publications in the field.

**Don Beyer**, *Representative of Virginia*

Don Beyer serves on the Joint Economic Committee, the House Committee on Natural Resources, is Ranking Member on the Oversight Subcommittee to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and a member of the New Democrat Coalition. Representative Beyer is a strong advocate for reducing disparities in healthcare.

**Robert Bilott, JD**, *Partner, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP*

Rob is a partner with the law firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, and practices out of the firm's Cincinnati, Ohio, and Northern Kentucky offices. For over 28 years, Rob has represented a diverse array of clients in connection with environmental compliance issues and related litigation, including the nation's first individual, class action, and mass/toxic tort cases involving human exposures to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). To date, Rob has helped secure over \$1 Billion in benefits for his clients exposed to PFOA in their drinking water. In 2017, Rob was a recipient of the international Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," for his work on PFAS contamination issues. His tireless efforts have been highlighted in recent film Dark Waters. Rob is a member of the Less Cancer Board of Directors.

**Doris C Brock**, *Widow of a deceased 35 year career Chief Master Sergeant in the NH Air National Guard*

Doris is a military widow who was married 46 years to CMSGT Kendall W Brock. Ken died June 30, 2017 from Stage IV Bladder/Prostate Cancer. He was a Chief Master Sergeant for the NH Air National Guard. Ken's 35-year career was at Pease Air Force Base starting in 1970 working for the NH Air National Guard until he retired in 2005. He had no family history of cancer nor was he a smoker. His urologist said his cancer was consistent with those that were exposed to Agent Orange, yet he did not go to Vietnam. This raised questions in my mind and his physician felt that his condition was a result of toxic exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds in the workplace. All of this has resulted in extensive research since his death. The wells at Pease were shut down in 2014 for PFAS exposure. The community outcry from the Testing for Pease group got me thinking. Doris's own research found that the wells at Pease were shut down in 1977 and again in 1980'S because of TCE contamination – not PFAS. Her voice resulted in the NH Air National Guard starting the Pease Health Work Group. She continues to educate people of the struggles the military is experiencing from not just water contamination from firefighting foam, but from toxic exposure at military bases.

**Jan Carney, MD, MPH**, *Clinical Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Public Health at the University of Vermont College of Medicine*

Dr. Carney is instrumental in educating future physician leaders and providing an essential bridge between public health practice and medicine. For 13 years as the state's Commissioner of Health, she combined the two disciplines in an innovative public health program—Healthy Vermonters—which significantly reduced levels of lead in baby's brains, made early baby visits almost universal in Vermont, cut the rate of infant child abuse, increased childhood immunizations and led to improvements in a number of other serious health issues, such as childhood obesity. Dr. Carney is a member of the Less Cancer Board of Directors.

**Megan Catalfamo**, *Director of Experiential and Service Learning at Highland School Warrenton, VA*

Ms. Catalfamo has been involved with Less Cancer since 2013 and brings a group of high school students each year to the workshop. She also leads a student group organization focused on reducing high cancer risk behaviors. Ms. Catalfamo holds a BA degree from Dickinson College.

**Sena Chehimi, MPH, *Director of Policy and Advocacy, Prevention Institute***

Sana leads Prevention Institute's federal engagement and partnership outreach efforts by directing the organization's policy and advocacy portfolio, aimed at supporting upstream prevention policies and investments to advance health, safety, wellbeing, and health equity. As part of the Health Systems Transformation team, much of Sana's work focuses on shifting perspectives on policy, strategic communications, and developing partnerships to promote community prevention practice nationally.

**William U. "Bill" Couzens, *Founder and President of Less Cancer***

Couzens' vision for the organization was to bridge a critical gap on escalating incidences of cancer. The work of the organization is specific to education, advocacy, policy and most recently research.

In addition Couzens has been the visionary for cancer prevention day and National Cancer Prevention Day February 4th; a resolution sponsored by Co-Chair of the House Cancer Caucus Congressman Steve Israel in both 2012, 2013 and 2014. Currently states recognizing Cancer Prevention Day are Virginia, Michigan, New Hampshire and most recently New York.

Since founding the organization over a decade ago under Couzens' leadership as he forged several partnerships among them Hospitals, Universities, Schools, Non-Profit Organizations in an effort to educate, advocate and participate in efforts for seeds of change in reducing risks for human health and the environment and creating choices and building awareness for choices that can reduce risk.

**Madeleine Dean, JD, *Representative of Pennsylvania***

Madeleine Dean has been a champion of healthcare access and environmental protection, including extensive work on PFAS issues and legislation. Rep. Dean is a proud founding member of the PFAS Task Force – a bipartisan group working to combat water contamination through legislative solutions. In this vein, Rep. Dean led a bipartisan letter of more than a dozen Members of Congress to fully fund a nationwide study on the impact of PFAS contamination in Fiscal Year 2020 – and get our communities the answers they need to make informed decisions about their health and water quality.

**Debbie Dingell, MS, *Representative of Michigan***

Debbie Dingell is the founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Cancer Prevention Caucus. An active civic and community leader, Dingell is a recognized national advocate for women and children and is the founder, and past chair, of the National Women's Health Resource Center and the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Donna Eacho, MBA, *Treasurer of Less Cancer, former Chairwoman of the Board of Directors***

Donna Eacho is a graduate of Duke University and holds an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked as a bank executive for ten years, including five years as Vice President of The First National Bank of Chicago. After her banking career, Donna focused on educational, community and political fund raising and volunteer efforts. For nine years, she was an active member of the Board of Trustees of Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland. Donna served as a judge for the National Capital Business Ethics Awards program, and she was a member of the Board of Visitors of Duke University-Trinity College of Arts and Sciences. From 2009 to 2013, Donna and Bill Eacho lived in Vienna, Austria where Bill served the US Ambassador to Austria.

**Jolynn Gardner, PhD, CHES, *Director of the Public Health Program, American University***

Jolynn Gardner is the Director of the Public Health Program in the Department of Health Studies. Dr. Gardner has over 25 years of experience in undergraduate Public Health education. She earned a doctorate in Community Health Education and Health Services Administration from The Ohio State University and she is certified as a Health Education Specialist. Dr. Gardner's academic and research interests include undergraduate public health education and curriculum development; issues associated with stress, change and loss, particularly among young adults; drug abuse education and prevention; and healthy nutrition / lifestyle initiatives.

**Ellen Hahn PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor, Marcia A. Dake Professorship, University of Kentucky**

Ellen J. Hahn is a Professor in the Colleges of Nursing and Public Health at UK and Director of BREATHE including the Tobacco Policy Division, the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy (KCSP), and the Radon Policy Division. She also serves as Interim Director of UK-CARES (Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences) and Leader of its Community Engagement Core. She is also a Faculty Associate at UK's NCI-designated Markey Cancer Center, and a member of the Lung Cancer Translational Research Group. Through KCSP, Dr. Hahn and her colleagues have assisted many of Kentucky's over 50 communities to go smoke-free. Hahn and colleagues have published multiple smoke-free workplace policy outcome studies showing positive health effects and no harm to business.

**Janie Heath, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN, FNAP, FAANP, Dean and Warwick Professor of Nursing, University of Kentucky**

Janie is the Dean and Warwick Professor of Nursing at the University of Kentucky, College of Nursing. She has been an endowed professor of nursing and the chief academic officer at the University of Virginia and the Medical College of Georgia. She has provided academic leadership for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Critical-Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs at Georgetown University in Washington DC and at the University of South Carolina. She has over 40 years of acute and critical care nursing experience in various positions from staff to administration to advanced practice and academia. She has been awarded over \$12 million for academic and/or research initiatives, generated over 150 publications and abstracts, served on numerous regional and national task forces for tobacco control and advanced practice nursing initiatives. Her primary research program of study involves workforce development utilizing the Rx for Change: Clinician Assisted Tobacco Cessation Curriculum to effectively intervene with tobacco dependent populations in acute and primary care settings. In addition, Dr. Heath served as a Board of Director for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), served as the inaugural Chair for the "Beacons of Leadership Initiative in Pursuit of Healthy Work Environments" a 30 hospital wide collaborative in the Washington DC – Baltimore MD area for the Greater Washington Area Chapter of AACN and founded the Nurses for Tobacco Control national coalition for nurse educators. She is a member of the Less Cancer Board of Directors.

**Kelly Hirko, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University**

Dr. Hirko's research aims to understand the etiology of cancer through the investigation of modifiable lifestyle risk factors, particularly obesity and nutrition, to reduce the overall burden of the disease. She is interested in using biomarkers, such as sex steroid concentrations and tumor marker characteristics, to illuminate the pathways through which exposures to certain lifestyle factors may result in the development of breast cancer. She is also particularly interested in understanding risk factors for aggressive breast cancer subtypes, including estrogen receptor-negative tumors, and inflammatory breast cancer. Her research interests also focus on investigating potential contributors to racial and socioeconomic disparities in cancer occurrence and prognosis after diagnosis. Investigating cancer disparities can lead to a better understanding of the etiology of cancer and the elucidation of novel risk factors for cancer incidence and disease progression. Dr. Hirko holds a BS in Biopsychology from the University of Michigan, an MPH in Epidemiology from Boston University School of Public Health, and a PhD in Epidemiological Science from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

**Katie Horvath, JD, CEO, Naveego, Inc.**

Naveego is a cloud-first and API based data management platform to fix and monitor data accuracy problems, and monitor and verify data in real-time. In the world of big data, Naveego cuts through data lakes to produce actionable business information accessible for decision-makers in a consolidated central portal that reveals overall impacts of data problems across an organization and manages data clean-up. Additionally, Ms. Horvath is the Director on Board of FLOW For Water seeking public trust solutions to protect the Great Lakes, and is a cancer survivor and an advocate for Less Cancer.

**Melinda Ickes, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion, University of Kentucky**

Melinda Ickes received her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 2010. Dr. Ickes is a faculty associate for the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy, and the Director of both Tobacco-free Take Action! and Go Tobacco-free,

two initiatives to promote tobacco-free college campuses. Her research interests are in the areas of tobacco control, college health promotion, and childhood obesity. Dr. Ickes teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in health promotion including Program Planning, Health Promotion and Behavior Change, College Health Promotion, and is coordinator of the health promotion practicum/internship program.

**Claudine J. Isaacs, MD**, *Co-director of the Breast Cancer Program and Medical Director of the Jess and Mildred Fisher Center for Hereditary Cancer and Clinical Genomics Research at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, MedStar/Georgetown University Hospital*

Dr. Isaacs' extensive research covers all aspects of breast cancer, including cancer risk assessment, and novel prevention, screening and medical management strategies for women at high risk for breast cancer. Toward that end, she has served as the principal investigator (PI) or co-investigator for numerous clinical trials and grants exploring potential new treatments for early-stage and metastatic breast cancer. Dr. Isaacs also was a PI for the Cancer Genetics Network site and for the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial. Lombardi was one of 10 sites nationwide that enrolled patients for this trial.

**Robert Kessel**, *Executive Vice President of Production, Participant Media*

Robert Kessel is Executive Vice President of Production at Participant, where he co-manages the development and production of the company's narrative film slate. Since joining Participant in 2013, Kessel has been integral in the production of the company's most commercially successful films to date — *Wonder* and *Green Book* — as an Executive Producer on the former and overseen production on both. In addition to those films, Kessel also oversaw production on such Participant films as *Spotlight*, *Deepwater Horizon*, *Beasts of No Nation* and *A Most Violent Year*.

Currently, he is serving as Executive Producer on the Todd Haynes film, *Dark Waters*, starring Mark Ruffalo and Anne Hathaway. Prior to Participant, Kessel held executive posts at Matt Tolmach Productions, Overture Films, Hart Sharp Entertainment and Miramax Films.

Robert serves on the board of Students Run LA, a non-profit organization which trains over 3,000 at-risk kids to run the LA Marathon each year. He also serves as an advisor on ReFrame Rise, an initiative of ReFrame, the parity organization run by Women in Film and the Sundance Institute. He holds a B.A. in political science and film from Vassar College.

**Ro Khanna, JD**, *Representative of California*

Representative Khanna is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Budget Committee, and the Oversight Committee. He is a Member of the Congressional PFAS Task Force and advocates for equal access to healthcare and improved care for military members and veterans.

**Kathleen Laraia, MS**, *Executive Director MHC Oncology Services at Munson Healthcare, Traverse City, Michigan*

Kathy's health care expertise includes strategic planning, operations management, physician contracting, service line development, financial analysis and budgeting. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., and a Master of Science in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Kathy is responsible for building an integrated network of cancer care within the Munson Healthcare organization. The network ensures easy access with timely appointments, standardizes care that meets national guidelines, coordinates care close to home, and ensures an optimal experience and healing environment to those who are undergoing cancer care. She is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American College of Healthcare Executives, and American Occupational Therapy Association.

**Rachel Madhur, MD Candidate**, Class of 2022, Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont

Rachel conducted a study in Public Health at the University of Vermont on HPV. She is in medical school and expects to graduate in 2022.

**Mindi Messmer, PG, CG**, *Former New Hampshire House of Representatives, District 24 served on Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee*

In the last 25 years, Mindi has consulted businesses, banks, and the U.S. government on the presence of environmental contaminants. With a heightened awareness of health and environmental issues, in 2014 she noticed an unusually high rate of pediatric cancer cases in Rye and reported it to the NH Cancer Registry. In February of 2016, the state concluded that the cases represent a cancer "cluster." Soon after, Mindi was asked to join Governor Hassan's Task Force to investigate the cause of the pediatric cancer cluster. Mindi is a past recipient of the Less Cancer Prevention Leadership Award for the uncovering of this cancer cluster.

**Miles O'Brien**, *Advocate for Less Cancer Bike Ride; Less Cancer Board Member; Journalist*

Miles O'Brien is a 26-year broadcast news veteran. Based in New York City, he owns a production company that creates, produces, and distributes original content across all media platforms. For nearly 17 years he worked as a correspondent, anchor, and producer for CNN based in Atlanta and New York. At various times he was CNN's science, space, aviation, technology, and environment correspondent. Miles O'Brien in the News: PBS, PBS-Moscow, Miles O'Brien Remembers Yuri Gagarin's Monumental Space Trip, CNN -Hurricane Katrina, CNN- Space Shuttle Columbia Breaks Up on Re-Entry, Part IV. He is a member of the Less Cancer Board of Directors.

**Chris Pappas**, *Representative of New Hampshire*

Congressman Pappas serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure which exercises jurisdiction over transportation and infrastructure issues around the country, including roads, waterways, transportation infrastructure, and federal management of emergencies and natural disasters. Representative Pappas fights for proposals that will expand access and improve health outcomes.

**Tim Pulliam**, *Less Cancer bike rider*

Tim has been a rider and recruiting for the Less Cancer bike ride since 2014 to impact the many preventative measures that people can take to improve the quality of their lives rather than waiting for doctors and drug companies to come up with a cure.

**Linda Reinstein**, *Co-founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization*

Linda Reinstein is the co-founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, a nonprofit focused on asbestos awareness and preventing related diseases through education, advocacy, and community efforts. Since the diagnosis of her husband, Alan Reinstein, from mesothelioma in 2003, she has become a leading global anti-asbestos activist. Reinstein is also primarily responsible for organizing ADAO's Annual International Asbestos Awareness and Prevention Conferences, an annual international scientific, medical and patient conference now in its 15th year.

**Vik Sahasrabuddhe, MBBS, MPH, DrPH**, *Program Director, HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials, National Cancer Institute*

Dr. Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe is Program Director in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute overseeing clinical trials focused on prevention of cervical cancer and other human papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe provides scientific direction and strategic guidance for efforts on optimization of clinic-based and population-based precision prevention strategies for HPV-related cancers and building the evidence base for their implementation in the United States and globally.

**Ty Schmidt, MPT**, *Co-founder, Norte*

A Canadian import, Ty came to Traverse City in 2006. Along with his wife, Johanna, a Leelanau County native, Ty founded Norte! in 2013 to advocate for more happy, healthy, strong young people. A recovering Cat 2 road/elite mountain bike racer, Ty now rides at kid pace with his two boys, Carter and Jameson, and loves it. He can often be seen at Munson Community Health Center where he is a part time physical therapist – he job shares with Johanna – or at Carter's Compost World HQ where he volunteers as a bucket scrubber and pile turner.

**Mi Stanley**, *Communications & Marketing Manager Traverse Health Clinic*

Ms. Stanley holds an AA from Northwestern Michigan College, BA from Michigan State University, and MFA from Syracuse University.

**Thomas Uldrick, MD, MS, Deputy Head of Global Oncology, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

Dr. Uldrick is the Deputy Program Head of the Global Oncology Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington, Division of Medical Oncology. He is a principal investigator and a member of the Steering Committee of the Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network. His major research interests are the pathogenesis and management of virus-associated cancers, including those that occur in the setting of HIV. He conducts clinical and population-based research in the United States and in sub-Saharan Africa focused on the intersection of virology, immunology and cancer with the objective of developing innovative approaches to cancer management in low-resource settings. He is a member of the Less Cancer Board of Directors.

**Gretchen Whitmer, JD, Governor of Michigan**

Gretchen Whitmer, JD has served in the State Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives and is currently the Governor of Michigan. She has fought for clean-up of Michigan's water systems and banning vaping.

**Planning Committee Members**

**Jann Balmer, PhD, RN, FACEHP, Course Director; Director of Continuing Medical Education, University of Virginia**

**Bill Couzens, Less Cancer Founder**

**Jolynn Gardner, PhD, CHES, Director of the Public Health Program, American University**

**Kathleen Haden, MSN, RN, ANP, Nursing Content Expert; Nurse Practitioner of Surgical Oncology, University of Virginia**

**Kathryn Reid, PhD, RN, FNP-C, CNL, Nurse Planner; Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Virginia**

**Andrea Zimmerman, EdD, Learning Engineer, University of Virginia**

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