



Patient Advocacy & Healthcare Worker Safety

Health Watch USA Conference

Oct. 4th, 2018 12:00 noon to 9:00 PM

Lexington, Ky at Eastside Library.

Speaker Bios

Christine Pontus



Christine Pontus is the Associate Director of the Division of Health & Safety for the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Chris has worked as a staff nurse in the hospital, a certified occupational health nurse and a certified case manager in the manufacturing environment.

She also was a risk manager administering workers compensation for a self-insured's business and a consultant to the Insurance Industry.

Currently she is involved in identifying and analyzing research, policy and current trends in the field of Occupational Health and Safety as it impacts nurses. As an educator and Nurse Planner, she is responsible for planning, developing and presenting approved educational programs for registered nurses.

Chris is directly involved with injured nurses helping them through the Workers Compensation System and testifying on their behalf. She represents the Massachusetts Nurse Association working in collaboration with diverse organizations and professionals both on a national and international basis.

Jonathan Rosen



Jonathan Rosen is the Principal Consultant for AJ Rosen & Associates LLC, providing occupational safety and industrial hygiene services to labor unions, government agencies, and organizations throughout the U.S. Previously Jonathan served as Director, Occupational Health & Safety Department for NYS Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO for 22 years. PEF is the labor union that represents 55,000 professional, scientific, and technical workers in New York State government agencies. Jonathan has been co-investigator on several federal NIOSH intervention research grants addressing workplace violence prevention in state institutions. He has had numerous articles, book chapters, and editorials on workplace violence prevention

published. Jonathan completed a Master's Degree in Industrial Health at the University of Michigan and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist

Joycelyn Elders



A native of Schaal, AR., Dr. Elders is the oldest of eight children. Now a Professor Emeritus of pediatric endocrinology, at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science. Dr. Elders never saw a physician prior to her first year in college. At the age of 15 she received a scholarship from the United Methodist Church to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. Upon graduation at age 18, she entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and received training as a physical therapist.

Dr. Elders attended the University of Arkansas Medical School (UAMS) on the G.I. Bill. After graduation in 1960, she was an intern at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis and did a pediatric residency and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock and she ascended the academic ladder to full professorship after her fellowship and board certification in 1976. She also holds a Master of Science degree in biochemistry.

Dr. Elders joined the faculty at UAMS as a professor of pediatrics and received board certification as a pediatric endocrinologist in 1978. Based on her studies of growth in children and the treatment of hormone-related illnesses, she has written many articles for medical research publications. She was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health in October of 1987. While serving as director, she was elected President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Dr. Elders was nominated as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service by President Clinton on July 1st, 1993, confirmed by the Senate September 7th, and sworn in on September 8th. Dr. Elders served in this post until January 1995 following which, she returned to the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital until her retirement on June 30th, 1998.

Dr. Elders has been active in civic affairs as a member of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Northside YMCA and Youth Homes. She was listed in 100 Outstanding Women in Arkansas, Personalities of the South and Distinguished Women in America. She has won awards such as the Arkansas Democrat's Woman of the Year, the National Governor's Association Distinguished Service Award, the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award, the De Lee Humanitarian Award, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Candace Award for Health Science. Dr. Elders has also received multiple honorary Doctorate of medical sciences degrees and honorary doctorate of letters degrees.

Dr. Elders says her greatest achievement is that she married Oliver Elders and they have two sons, Eric and Kevin.

Lisa DanielPour



Lisa Danielpour is a marketing, social media and nonprofit management consultant with a related blog at lisadanielpour.com. The mother of two sons, Lisa is a passionate patient and family and healthcare technology advocate and speaker. She is Vice President of the University Hospitals (UH) Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital Patient and Family Partnership Council (PFPC) in Cleveland, Ohio. Lisa is a member of the UH Patient Facing Technology Governance Committee and a new National Healthcare IT Patient and Family Council sponsored by OpenNotes and PFCCpartners. Her parenting blog focuses on raising children with chronic illness or special needs

at gooseling.com.

Sherry Culp



Sherry Culp is the Kentucky State Long Term Care Ombudsman. Sherry administers the Kentucky State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program from the Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass, Inc. (NHOA) a freestanding nonprofit agency located in Lexington, Kentucky that focuses on improving care for residents of long term care facilities through services provided by the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Sherry is the leader of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in Kentucky where she works with 15 local District Ombudsman Programs, consumers and other advocates to promote quality care. Sherry provides training and coaching to ombudsmen and educates the public about problems residents experience and how to resolve them.

Before becoming an ombudsman Sherry was a social worker with Lexington's Department of Social Services where she provided social work services to senior citizens

Sherry began as a volunteer ombudsman at the Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency in 1996 and became the agency's Director of Program and Services in 1999. In 2009 Sherry became the Executive Director of the agency and the local Bluegrass District Ombudsman. Sherry recruited, trained, and managed 30 certified ombudsman staff and numerous volunteers while leading the local program.

Sherry has a Master's degree in social work (MSW) from the University of Kentucky. She was a Leader on the council of The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care in Washington, DC, an officer of the National Association of Local Long Term Care Ombudsmen and mentor for many new ombudsmen. Sherry has given hundreds of presentations and provided training across the country to ombudsmen, nurses, social workers, the general public, as well as residents and their families on topics ranging from navigating the long-term care system to abuse prevention.

Melissa Clarkson



Melissa's father, Glenn Clarkson, died after a series of medical errors in a rural Kansas hospital in 2012. Shortly after Glenn's death her family began to ask questions about Glenn's care and inquire about what steps the hospital had been taken steps to prevent similar events from reoccurring—but her family received only silence and excuses. It was only by pursuing a lawsuit that they learned the extent to which Glenn's care deviated from standard and appropriate practice. Melissa and her mother, Nancy Clarkson, are now advocates for transparency and accountability in healthcare. Their advocacy work focuses on the disclosure of patient harm, and includes authoring legislative bills that would require the disclosure of harmful medical errors to patients in Kansas. They are currently working with the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement to promote Communication and Resolution Programs as a mechanism for holding healthcare institutions accountable after patient harm.

Melissa was a PhD student in the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics in the School of Medicine at the University of Washington when her father died. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Kentucky.

Rebecca Krall



Dr. Rebecca Krall is an associate professor in science education in the STEM Education Department at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. She began her career in science education after earning a bachelor of arts in education at Virginia Tech in 1988 with certification in grades K-8 and concentrations in science and literacy. She taught science in grades six and eight before pursuing a master's degree in science education at the University of Virginia. After completing her degree in 2000, she continued her graduate work to earn a doctor of philosophy in science education at the University of Virginia in 2004. Her research program emphasizes developing teachers' knowledge and skills for effective teaching of science. After completing her dissertation on the effect of a teacher preparation program technology integration model on secondary science teachers' instructional use of technology, she expanded her focus to include teachers' understanding of science content they are expected to teach, effects of professional development on teachers' science content knowledge, and the secondary effect on student learning of, and attitudes toward science. She has served as co-principle investigator and evaluator on National Science Foundation funded projects (\$3 million) and

has served as co-principle investigator and principle investigator on state funded projects from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (\$1 million). Dr. Krall also has served as the STEM Education Department Director of Graduate Studies and as co-chair of the University of Kentucky Elementary Teacher Education Program. Her interest in patient and health care advocacy began when her husband became suddenly ill following a dog bite wound. Missteps in treatment and diagnoses nearly cost her husband his life from an overwhelming post-splenectomy infection. She has interests in post-splenectomy patient and caregiver education and improving communication and diagnosis in referral to emergency department handoffs.

Jayne O'Donnell



Jayne O'Donnell is USA TODAY's healthcare policy reporter. She is also co-founder of the Urban Health Media Project, which trains high school students in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore to report on health and social issues.

Since the fall of 2017, Jayne has broken the stories of persistent sewage leaks in MedStar Washington Hospital Center operating rooms and anal rape claims against a former Cleveland Clinic colorectal surgeon. The latter story led Cleveland Clinic to adopt several new policies on such claims and prompted Ohio State University medical center to place the surgeon on administrative leave.

An author, TV contributor and freelance writer, Jayne has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, CNN, MSNBC, NPR and C-Span and been published in *Woman's Day*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Parents*.

She has also won several awards for her work, most notably for her 1996 articles in USA TODAY exposing the government coverup of the dangers air bags posed to children. That reporting prompted many government actions including the "smart" air bags and warning labels in every new vehicle.

A graduate of University of Maryland's College of Journalism, Jayne did graduate work at George Washington University's School of Business. She lives in McLean, Va. with her husband and their teenage daughter.

Catherine Duff



I began my journey into the world of the microbiome by having C. diff. 8 times in 7 years (2005-2012, after which I then founded The Fecal Transplant Foundation, to raise awareness, provide education, and advocate for patients and the science of microbiota transplantation. I serve on the Advocate Council for the PLMF (Peggy Lillis Memorial Foundation). I'm a member of S-FAR (Stakeholders Forum on Antibiotic Resistance, I'm on the CDC's Advocates Council for Antibiotic Resistance and Antibiotic Stewardship, I've spoken at PACCARB (Presidential Advisory Committee Combatting Antibiotic Resistance, I serve on the NIH funded Microbiota Transplantation Working Group (to develop a national legal framework for MT for the FDA), I serve on the CDC/ASM (American Society of Microbiology) Working Group to update testing recommendations for C. diff., I work with the Gulf Coast Consortium on C. diff., I've co-authored three papers with the University of Houston on C. diff, I've spoken all over the country to groups of physicians on Current Status and Emerging Trends of FMT, I regularly attend and host a booth on FMT at both DDW (Digestive Disease Week) and ID Week, the largest gatherings in the world for gastroenterologists and Infectious disease doctors to provide education and information on FMT, I'm a member of PSAN, the Patient Safety Action Network, I'm currently co-authoring a paper with Diane Hoffman, Director of the Law and Health Care Program at the University of Maryland College of Law for the Medicoethical Legal Journal on Ethical and Legal Considerations of FMT, co-authoring an article with Colleen Kelly and five others on the Status of DIY FMT in the U.S., and served on the Consumers Reports, Consumers Union Safe Patient Project, and have served as the Patient Representative on several PCORI funded clinical trials. I also run the FB groups, website and Twitter accounts for the Foundation, and am heading up our new project of Determination of Underserved Areas by FMT Providers, along with our current fundraising programs and oversight of volunteers.

Lee Tilson

Lee Tilson was recruited to the patient safety movement by delays in recognizing complications that adversely impacted two members of his family. As a medical malpractice lawyer, he realized that the delay in recognizing complications was a pattern present in the majority of malpractice cases. As a former logician, he saw a pattern to the delays in recognizing complications. When new abnormal symptoms appeared, they were not recognized as potential warning signs. The reason? The new symptoms were not considered in the full context of the patient: the patient's diagnosis and all the patient's abnormal symptoms. In an effort to prevent patients from being harmed by such delays, he developed a proposal that would force earlier recognition of complications by adding a page to the medical chart. (See Patent Application 20070016451). He has been active in the patient safety movement. In the past, he has blogged at www.RethinkingPatientSafety.com and has published articles challenging traditional medical literature. <https://tinyurl.com/AFewLeeTilsonPublications>

He received a BA from Ohio Wesleyan Univ. (Philosophy & Math); an M.A. from Wayne State Univ. (Philosophy); and a J.D. from the Univ. of Michigan Law School. Prior to attending law school, he taught philosophy at Wayne State Univ. and worked as a community organizer in Detroit. Since graduating from law school, he has worked as a plaintiff's medical malpractice attorney representing victims of medical errors. He founded and chaired the Birth Trauma Litigation Group. He served on boards including the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association. He has participated numerous professional associations and has organized a variety of conferences, seminars, and community events. In his spare time, he plays in a garage band.

Jonathan Furman

Jonathan Furman was deeply affected by the unanticipated effects of fluoroquinolone antibiotics. Although the debilitating symptoms that we now know are typical of fluoroquinolone toxicity appeared shortly after the first prescription in 1999, these weren't recognized for what they really were. This resulted in four more unnecessary quinolone prescriptions over the next 13 years each one causing additional permanent damage.

It wasn't until the summer of 2012 whilst consuming the fifth course of quinolones that these symptoms simultaneously and drastically escalated revealing the cause of the illness. During a harrowing and life-threatening experience that lasted a few months he discovered that there was a large community of people similarly affected by these same drugs all whom shared similar experiences with not being believed, misdiagnosis and lack of any meaningful support from the same health system that caused the problem.

Since then he has advocated for recognition of the dangers of quinolone antibiotics and meaningful support for those suffering from the toxic effects of them. We also now know that over use of these same antibiotics is directly contributing to the rise of antibiotic resistant organisms and often deadly clostridium difficile infections. He has worked to bring attention on this issue to the US Congress, talked about his experiences on television and testified in multiple FDA hearings on these issues. In recent years the FDA has required updates to the warning labels multiple times and coined the term Fluoroquinolone Associated Disability to describe the long lasting and sometime permanent effects of these drugs.

Jonathan lives in Richmond VA with his girlfriend and pets. He studied physics and mathematics and has worked professionally in the healthcare sector doing actuarial and information technology work since graduating from college in the late 90s.