NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

Epidemiologic Study on the Health of Veterans Who Served at Fort McClellan, 1979-1999

Committee Biosketches

Karl T. Kelsey, M.D., M.O.H. *(Chair)*
Karl T. Kelsey, M.D., M.O.H., has been a Professor of Epidemiology and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Brown University since 2007. Previously, he served as a Professor of Environmental Health and Cancer Biology at Harvard University. His research focuses on the use of laboratory-based biomarkers in environmental and chronic disease epidemiology, tumor biology, and immunology, with particular attention to mechanisms of individual susceptibility to exposure-related cancers and immune responses to environmental exposures and chronic disease. Dr. Kelsey has served on numerous National Academies committees, including the Committee on Health Effects of Mustard Gas and Lewisite and multiple Veterans and Agent Orange committees. He holds a B.A. in physics and an M.D. from the University of Minnesota, as well as a master's degree in occupational health from Harvard University.

David L. Albright, Ph.D.
David L. Albright, Ph.D., is a University Distinguished Professor at The University of Alabama and an Army veteran. He previously held the Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health Research at The University of Alabama. His expertise focuses on developing practical, systems-level approaches to improve health and well-being, particularly among rural populations and veterans. As co-founder and principal investigator of VitAL (Vital Alabama), he leads statewide partnerships that connect research, policy, and front-line practice to improve health outcomes. Dr. Albright holds leadership roles across multiple levels of healthcare governance. He serves on the board of the DCH Healthcare Authority, providing strategic oversight for regional healthcare delivery; chairs the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee; and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Alabama Opioid Overdose & Addiction Council. Through these roles, he advances long-term efforts to strengthen health and social infrastructure by building community capacity, reducing administrative barriers, and aligning policy with practice. Dr. Albright is a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and has received multiple awards recognizing his research and public service. He has served on previous National Academies committees, including the Committee on the Well-Being of Military Families. He earned his M.S.W. and Ph.D. from Florida State University and completed research fellowships with the Department of Veterans Affairs, RAND Corporation, and the National Rural Health Association.

Bruce H. Alexander, Ph.D.
Bruce H. Alexander, Ph.D., is Mayo Professor in Public Health and Head of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. He has served as the Director, Deputy Director, and Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Training Program Director of the Midwest Center for Occupational Health. He was the founding Director of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center. Dr.

Alexander is an occupational and environmental epidemiologist. His scholarly work includes environmental and occupational determinants of chronic diseases, injury prevention and control, One Health, and the health of agricultural populations. His research has explored the impacts of chemical, physical, infectious, and social factors on communities and working populations. He has developed partnerships with scientists in academia, public health practice, the private sector, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations. He has served on previous National Academies committees, including the Committee on Tetrachloroethylene and the Committee on the Review of Studies of Possible Toxic Effects from Past Environmental Contamination at Fort Detrick. Dr. Alexander holds a B.S. and M.S. in environmental health from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Washington.

Janice Chambers, Ph.D.
Janice Chambers, Ph.D., is a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Her research focuses on the effects of pesticides in mammalian systems to assess potential human health impacts. She leads projects examining pesticide metabolism and their neurochemical and behavioral effects in developing organisms, with the goal of predicting potential effects in infants and children. Dr. Chambers also conducts research to develop mathematical models that predict the effects of mixtures of pesticides on the nervous system, including models to characterize previously unstudied mixtures, as well as research aimed at developing more effective antidotes to nerve agent poisoning. She has served as principal investigator on numerous federally funded, competitive grants in toxicology and, in recognition of her expertise, has been asked to serve on multiple advisory boards and scientific committees. Dr. Chambers is board certified in toxicology by the American Board of Toxicology and the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. As Director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences, she has built an interdisciplinary research center, primarily funded by the National Institutes of Health, with expertise spanning neurotoxicology, biochemical toxicology, analytical chemistry, biostatistics, epidemiology, computational chemistry and simulation, biochemistry, and endocrinology. She was a member of the EPA FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel, the EPA Human Studies Review Board, and the NCEH/ATSDR Board of Scientific Counselors. Dr. Chambers, originally from Berkeley, California, holds an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of San Francisco and a Ph.D. in animal physiology from Mississippi State University.

Yates Coley, Ph.D.
Yates Coley, Ph.D., is an Associate Investigator in the Biostatistics Division of the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute and an Affiliate Associate Professor in the University of Washington Departments of Biostatistics and Health Systems and Population Health. Dr. Coley's statistical expertise includes the collection and analysis of clinical records and administrative health data. Their research program focuses on developing statistical methods to enable rapid evidence generation and synthesis from electronic health records, with the aim of informing and improving health care delivery. Dr. Coley collaborates across a wide range of content areas, including mental health, aging, cancer, and health services research. In 2023, they received the Emerging Leader Award from the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies

in recognition of their leadership in advancing statistical methods for learning health systems and clinical prediction models, as well as their contributions to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in the statistics profession. Dr. Coley previously served on the National Academies Committee on the Mental Health Effects of Toxic Exposures Among Veterans. They earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in biostatistics from the University of Washington and an A.B. in environmental science and policy from Duke University.

Jennifer Dykema, Ph.D.
Jennifer Dykema, Ph.D., is Professor of Sociology and Faculty Director of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC). Her research focuses on survey research methodology, including identifying sources of error in the collection of standardized measurements and developing methods to reduce those errors. Her work addresses three primary areas: increasing response rates, questionnaire design, and interviewer–respondent interaction. As Faculty Director, Dr. Dykema oversees a program of methodological research that integrates experiments and evaluations within ongoing survey projects. Her research has been published in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Journal of Official Statistics*, *Social Science Research*, *Sociological Methodology*, and *American Sociological Review*, as well as in edited volumes including the *Handbook of Survey Research*. She recently co-edited *Interviewer Effects from a Total Survey Error Perspective* (2020). Dr. Dykema earned a B.A. in sociology and psychology from the University of Michigan and an M.S. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Melissa Gonzales, Ph.D.
Melissa Gonzales, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. She previously served as a Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Her primary research expertise is in exposure assessment, with a focus on understanding the contributions of occupational, environmental, and social stressors to adverse health outcomes, as well as translating research to inform evidence-based policy and health care. As an educator, Dr. Gonzales has developed numerous curricula in occupational and environmental health for accredited graduate programs, undergraduate medical education, and medical residency programs. She has served on three National Academies committees: the Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides—Tenth Biennial Update; the Committee to Evaluate the Potential Exposure to Agent Orange/TCDD Residue and Level of Risk of Adverse Health Effects for Aircrew of Post-Vietnam C-123 Aircraft; and the Committee on Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up. Dr. Gonzales earned an M.S. in toxicology/industrial hygiene from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and a Ph.D. in environmental health from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health. She completed postdoctoral training in environmental epidemiology at the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development.

Allyson L. Holbrook, Ph.D.
Allyson L. Holbrook, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Public Policy, Management, and Analytics (PPMA) and, by courtesy, the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois

Chicago. She also serves as director of graduate studies for PPMA's Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Policy, and Master of Science in Civic Analytics programs. She is currently a co–Editor-in-Chief of *Public Opinion Quarterly*, an interdisciplinary social science journal that publishes research on public opinion theory and measurement. Dr. Holbrook's research focuses on two main areas: how people's attitudes and beliefs are formed and change over time and how those beliefs influence behavior, particularly in the context of political issues and activism; and how survey respondents think about and respond to requests to participate in surveys and to specific survey questions. Her teaching primarily centers on research methods, with an emphasis on the design and conduct of survey research. She has served as conference chair and president of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research (MAPOR) and was named a MAPOR Fellow in 2021. She has also served the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) as conference chair, secretary-treasurer, and education chair. Dr. Holbrook holds a B.A. in psychology and political science from Dickinson College and a master's degree and Ph.D. in social psychology from The Ohio State University.

Brian Linde, M.D., M.P.H.
Brian Linde, M.D., M.P.H., is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Primary Care and Population Health, at Stanford Medicine, and serves as Medical Director of Workforce Health and Wellness at Stanford Health Care. He is board certified in internal medicine and occupational and environmental medicine. Dr. Linde has expertise in evaluating exposure-related health concerns in both veteran and non-veteran populations. He previously served as a member of the National Academies Committee on Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes. He earned his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed residency and specialty training in internal medicine and occupational and environmental medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

Miguel Marino, Ph.D.
Miguel Marino, Ph.D., is a Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Family Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and a member of the Biostatistics Group in the OHSU–Portland State University School of Public Health. He also serves as Director of the Family Medicine Biostatistics Core and Co-Director of the Primary Care Effectiveness and Quality in Latinos Research (PRIMER) Center, where he supports large, multi-site primary care research networks. Dr. Marino's primary expertise is in the design and analysis of population-based and pragmatic health services research using electronic health record data. His work focuses on causal inference, longitudinal and multilevel modeling, missing data methods, and health policy evaluation, with applications in primary care, cancer prevention, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and care delivery in safety-net and community health center settings. Dr. Marino is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and a member of the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He also previously served on the Committee on Evaluating the Effects of Opioids and Benzodiazepines on All-Cause Mortality in Veterans. Dr. Marino earned his Ph.D. in biostatistics from Harvard University and an M.S. in biostatistics and a B.S. in mathematics/applied science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Lisa Muirhead, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Lisa Muirhead, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, is Interim Dean of the Emory School of Nursing and a Clinical Professor with national influence on veterans' health. A board-certified adult nurse practitioner, she provided clinical care to veterans over a span of 27 years, bringing extensive experience at the intersection of health system leadership, education, and frontline veterans' care. Dr. Muirhead is a recognized leader in Veterans Affairs workforce development, with a strong record of shaping nursing education and clinical practice standards. She has led three VA-funded initiatives focused on designing veteran-centered academic and clinical nursing education programs and contributed to the development of a validated nurse practitioner competency assessment used in VA nurse practitioner residency programs nationwide. Her scholarship has advanced understanding of health effects related to military service, including the development of a conceptual model that examines how access to care, system barriers, and social conditions influence older veterans' health outcomes. Dr. Muirhead has served as a member and advisor to federal agencies, national task forces and strategic planning groups, professional organizations, and public health bodies involved in shaping health policy and clinical standards. Her leadership has been recognized through election as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Dr. Muirhead earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Gurumurthy Ramachandran, Ph.D.
Gurumurthy Ramachandran, Ph.D., is a Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He also serves as Director of the Johns Hopkins Education and Research Center for Occupational Safety and Health. His research focuses on occupational exposure assessment and epidemiology, including the application of Bayesian methods to exposure modeling. Dr. Ramachandran has developed exposure assessment strategies for a wide range of airborne contaminants, as well as novel Bayesian statistical approaches that integrate exposure models, monitoring data, and probabilistic expert judgment. His work also includes the development of mathematical methods for exposure modeling and analysis of occupational exposure measurements. He has authored extensively in this field, including a widely used textbook on occupational exposure assessment, and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist. Dr. Ramachandran has served on three National Academies consensus committees, including those addressing the use of Agent Orange exposure reconstruction models, the review of the Department of Defense's proposed occupational exposure limits for lead, and the feasibility of assessing veteran health effects related to the Manhattan Project. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay; an M.S. in environmental engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences and engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elaine Symanski, Ph.D.
Elaine Symanski, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Center for Precision Environmental Health and the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. She also serves as Director of the Program in Population and Environmental Health Disparities. Trained in environmental sciences

and epidemiology, her research focuses on the health impacts of environmental exposures, with particular attention to populations that may experience higher exposure burdens or health risks. Her ongoing work evaluates the combined effects of chemical and non-chemical stressors within complex environmental settings primarily on maternal and child health. Dr. Symanski has served on three National Academies committees, including the Committee on the Respiratory Health Effects of Airborne Hazards Exposures in the Southwest Asia Theater of Military Operations, the Committee on the Review of the Styrene Assessment in the National Toxicology Program's 12th Report on Carcinogens, and the Committee on Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune. She also served on International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Working Groups for the *Monograph on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Volume 131 (Cobalt, Antimony Compounds, and Weapons-Grade Tungsten Alloy)* and *Volume 120 (Benzene)*. Dr. Symanski earned an M.S.P.H. and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences and engineering from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.