



## National Academies Committee on Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes

### Eastern Communities Town Hall (ATSDR Regions 1-4)

Speaker and Moderator Biosketches (in alphabetical order by last name)

April 7, 2021

#### **Laurene Allen**, Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water

Laurene Allen, LICSW is a Merrimack, NH resident who cofounded a community group, Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water, after learning in March of 2016 that the water she and her family drank for decades was contaminated by PFAS chemicals. Laurene has been an advocate for the needs of her PFAS impacted community for the last 5 years, engaging local, state and federal officials as well as bringing together residents to work together on both a local and national level. After working to gather health data in her community, Laurene coauthored the 2019 Environmental Health publication, *Making the Invisible Visible: results of a community-led health survey following PFAS contamination of drinking water in Merrimack, NH.*

#### **Stel Bailey**, Fight 4 Zero

Stel Bailey is the Chief Executive Director of Fight For Zero, Co' Facilitator of the National PFAS Contamination Coalition, certified in wildlife monitoring, and is a content administrator behind several online publications. Bailey's life took a dramatic turn in 2013 when her father, brother, the family dog, uncle, and herself were diagnosed with cancer. Her family's case was so unique that a genetic counselor invited them to do genetic testing, which showed no mutation genes, indicating they did not have an increased risk of developing the disease. Determined to find answers, she began to crowdsource other cancer cases in her hometown on Florida's space coast. As she spoke out about her family's case, she connected with many others affected by diseases in unusual ways. As a cancer survivor and military dependent, Bailey is passionate about helping families and veterans prevent disease by sharing her insights about harmful toxins and their health effects. Her broad knowledge in coordinating community engagement projects has resulted in various opportunities, such as contributing to local publications and speaking at events sharing environmental health education. She has led additional efforts that focus on harmful contaminants, such as assisting in getting a state health assessment, collecting water samples for countywide projects, and partnerships that will help better understand the burdens of PFAS contamination and related chronic diseases. Since 2014, she has worked on protecting military families and communities from these unnecessary exposures. Bailey is known for outstanding leadership, environmental health advocacy, organizational skills, and her powerful testimony of overcoming illness and losing her family members. As a mom of two, she strives to transform her children's future by providing communities with knowledge and resources to take on these challenges.



**Linda Birnbaum**, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (retired)

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S., is the former Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). After retirement, she was granted scientist emeritus status and still maintains a laboratory. As a board-certified toxicologist, Birnbaum served as a federal scientist for 40 years. Prior to her appointment as NIEHS and NTP Director in 2009, she spent 19 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she directed the largest division focusing on environmental health research. Birnbaum has received many awards and recognitions. In 2016, she was awarded the North Carolina Award in Science. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. She was also elected to the Collegium Ramazzini, an independent, international academy comprised of internationally renowned experts in the fields of occupational and environmental health and received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Rochester and a Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Illinois. She has also received Honorary Doctorates from Ben-Gurion University, Israel, and Amity University, India; the Surgeon General's Medallion 2014; and 14 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards, which reflect the recommendations of EPA's external Science Advisory Board, for specific publications. Birnbaum is an active member of the scientific community. She was vice president of the International Union of Toxicology, the umbrella organization for toxicology societies in more than 50 countries, and former president of the Society of Toxicology, the largest professional organization of toxicologists in the world. She is the author of more than 1000 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, and reports. Birnbaum's own research focuses on the pharmacokinetic behavior of environmental chemicals, mechanisms of action of toxicants including endocrine disruption, and linking of real-world exposures to health effects. She is an adjunct professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the Curriculum in Toxicology, and the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as in the Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program at Duke University where she is also a Scholar in Residence. A native of New Jersey, Birnbaum received her M.S. and Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Tracy Carluccio**, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Tracy Carluccio is Deputy Director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), where she works as an environmental advocate since 1989. Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the entire length and breadth of the Delaware River Watershed to defend its outstanding values and restore them where needed. Carluccio works for the Watershed's protection in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware addressing issues that include water quality; healthy habitats and communities; environmental regulation and policy; clean, efficient and renewable energy; and biodiverse ecosystems. Carluccio has worked on PFAS issues since 2005 and has commented and written extensively on community and regulatory matters related to these compounds in New Jersey, Pennsylvania,



and Delaware. Carluccio serves on the NJ Department of Health CDC Bio-monitoring Advisory Committee on PFAS.

**Emily Donovan, Clean Cape Fear**

Emily is co-founder of Clean Cape Fear. She is a tireless advocate for clean water, spending her free time educating the public on the dangers of PFAS and other toxins in our drinking water and environment. She has testified before Congress twice regarding DuPont/Chemours poisoning the drinking water supply for a quarter of a million residents downstream of the Fayetteville, NC facility; including giving testimony during the first ever congressional hearing on PFAS contamination. She participated in a Washington Post Live panel discussion with actor Mark Ruffalo and lawyer Rob Bilott. Most recently, she worked to secure reverse osmosis filling stations within 49 public schools impacted by PFAS contamination in Brunswick and New Hanover counties. She regularly travels the country sharing her personal impact story, as well as those of her friends and neighbors. She frequents Washington, DC and Raleigh, NC pressuring lawmakers and regulators for swifter responses to the growing PFAS public health crisis. Emily lives in Brunswick County with her husband, David, and boy/girl twins. She's been a resident of Brunswick County since 2009.

**Patrick Elder, Military Poisons**

Pat Elder is the Director of Military Poisons, an organization that works to draw attention to the role of the military regarding the environmental contamination it has caused through the use of per-and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams and other applications. Pat has written 200 articles on PFAS that have been published in several dozen publications, including Global Geneva, Truthout, Consortium News, Common Dreams, and LA Progressive. Many of Pat's articles may be found on the website, [www.militarypoisons.org](http://www.militarypoisons.org) Pat has been attempting to focus public attention on food, especially seafood, as the primary pathway of human exposure for this suite of chemicals. Pat argues there is too much focus on drinking water and not enough attention on the unregulated role played by municipal wastewater treatment plants in poisoning surface water and farm fields where sewer sludge is spread. In the absence of EPA regulation, a handful of states have moved to limit several types of PFAS to 20 parts per trillion in drinking water while fish caught near the burn pits of military bases have been shown to contain 10,000,000 ppt and they're not regulated. What's in your fish? Mr. Elder receives support from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF), WILPF US Earth Democracy, Patagonia Foundation, Peace Development Fund, and the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. Pat is presently working on campaigns in several New England states and Maryland, as well as in Germany and Japan, to influence policymakers to take steps to protect public health from the scourge of PFAS. Pat has toured the US and Europe several times, speaking on contamination at military bases. Pat holds an MA in Government from the University of Maryland, as well as a BA in Political Science/Education from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



**Maida Galvez**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Maida Galvez is an Environmental Pediatrician at Mount Sinai in New York City and Professor in the Departments of Environmental Medicine and Public Health & Pediatrics. Dr. Galvez works to translate research into programs and policies that prevent and reduce environmental exposures for children, their families, and their communities. She is Founding Director of the New York State Children's Environmental Health Center, the first state-wide, publicly funded model for children's environmental health services in the US and since 2006, has served as Director of the CDC/EPA funded Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit serving NJ, NY, PR and the USVI. Dr. Galvez also leads several Sinai-initiatives to bring researchers together with community partners to work on environmental health and environmental justice issues. Dr. Galvez is a member of the Institute for Exposomic Research at Mount Sinai, Co-Chairs the Communications Workgroup of the CDC/APHA National Environmental Health Partnership Council, and serves on the Board of Children's Environmental Health Network and on the Advisory Board for Parson's New School Healthy Materials Lab.

**Teresa Gerade**, Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity (DUMP)

Teresa is an advisory member of a Vermont-Canadian volunteer organization in the Northeast Kingdom known as DUMP (Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity.) We came into being in June 2018 to appeal the application for a 51 acre expansion of Vermont's only permitted privately owned landfill in Coventry. The goal of the group is to Restore and Protect the waters and watershed of Lake Memphremagog, an international lake located in the northeast corner of Vermont. The appeal was unsuccessful due to a lack of funding for legal representation. However, the group did participate in a mediation session with the owners of the landfill, and achieved a four year moratorium on the discharge of landfill leachate (the garbage juice that is created in landfills) in the Lake Memphremagog watershed. DUMP is now actively pursuing a state legislative designation of "Lake in Crisis" to garner funding and additional support for their efforts to restore and protect the waters of Lake Memphremagog.

**Hope Grosse**, Buxmont Coalition for Safe Water

Hope Grosse is the co-founder of Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water and serves on the National PFAS Contamination Coalition working to establish enforceable federal and state drinking water standards for this chemical class. Hope acts as the main point of contact for community outreach and leads social media efforts. She is the community liaison updating residents about PFAS water contamination and related issues. Hope has been featured WHYY's Radio Times, Live with Marty Moss-Coane discussing PFAS chemicals health and regulations. She also serves, with Joanne, as a Community representative on the Warminster Naval Airbase Technical Review Committee charged with oversight of the environmental clean-up under CERCLA.

Hope Grosse grew up directly across the street from Warminster Naval Base and also worked on the base after high school graduation. Her father died of cancer at 52 years of age and she was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer at age 25, which quickly spread to her lymph system. Other Unexplained tumors have also been removed from her body over the years.

After learning that the Warminster Naval Base was named a Superfund National Priority site, she began to get involved in environmental advocacy and was committed to bringing awareness to others in her community. Although she is primarily concerned about PFOA/PFOS/PFHxS water contamination, she is also concerned with the combined and cumulative effects of the 75 other harmful chemicals she was exposed to, many of which were found at dangerous levels in the water, soil and air.

**Loreen Hackett**, PFOA Project New York

Loreen Hackett has been advocating for contaminated families in Hoosick Falls, NY, since their severe contamination discovery over 6 years ago leading to issuance of the first NPL Federal Superfund Site declarations for PFOA. Learned through biomonitoring, her family has some of the highest levels of PFOA tested in the area. In June '16, she created #PfoaProjectNY, which has gone worldwide, and continues to share all things PFAS. She is Co-Chair of the Hoosick Falls Community Action Working Group established for the superfund sites, and is on the CAP committee for the CDC awarded site study. She's on the leadership committee of the National PFAS Contamination Coalition (NPCC). She has attended and submitted testimony in 2 Congressional hearings in D.C., and continues working with elected officials on bills regulating PFAS, as well as with varying environmental organizations. She is also a cancer survivor, potentially linked to PFAS exposure, and has a primary interest on health effects.

**Ayesha Khan**, Nantucket PFAS Action Group

Ayesha Khan is a graduate from Boston University with a BA in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. For a decade, she worked at Vitamin Water in New York City and after moving to Nantucket, MA, she worked for local surgeon, Dr. Leopre. Currently Ayesha, her husband Nate, and their two young kids live on the island of Nantucket, MA, where Nate works as a firefighter and Ayesha is a stay-at-home mom. Nate was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer. With Nate now in remission, and in researching more about his cancer, Ayesha found out about PFAS and its connections to AFFF and the firefighter gear. She co-founded Nantucket PFAS Action Group as an educational resource about the hazards of PFAS and a space for the local community members to openly discuss concerns, thoughts, and experiences.

**Kristen Mello**, Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves (WRAFT)

Kristen Mello has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, and a Master's degree in Analytical Chemistry specializing in Chemometrics. She is the Director of Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves (WRAFT), a community group formed in response to the PFAS contamination of their drinking water. Kristen led the effort to get PFAS blood testing for Westfield residents. She was a founding member of the National PFAS Contamination Coalition in 2017 and is one of only two Community Representatives invited to be on the MassDEP PFAS MCL Stakeholder Group. Kristen has regularly met with MassDEP, EEA, EPA, and MA and federal legislators regarding Westfield's water contamination and has voiced residents' concerns at City meetings including those of the Planning Board, City Council, Water Commission, Conservation Commission, and Board of Health. Her PFAS advocacy work, in large part, led to her being elected a Councilor At-Large in 2019.





**Laurel Schaider**, Silent Spring Institute

Dr. Laurel Schaider is a Research Scientist in Environmental Chemistry and Engineering at Silent Spring Institute, where she leads the Institute's water quality research on PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern. Her research focuses on 1) characterizing PFAS exposures from drinking water, diet, and consumer products, 2) understanding health effects associated with PFAS, 3) investigating socioeconomic disparities in exposures to drinking water contaminants, and 4) working with communities to develop research studies and resources to address their concerns. Dr. Schaider is the principal investigator for the PFAS-REACH (PFAS Research, Education, and Action for Community Health) study, a researcher-community partnership that is evaluating PFAS exposures and immune system effects in children in communities with PFAS water contamination and developing an online resource center for PFAS-affected communities. She is also the principal investigator of the Massachusetts PFAS and Your Health Study, one of seven projects within CDC's PFAS Multi-Site Health Study. She co-leads the Community Engagement Core for the STEEP (Sources, Transport, Exposure and Effects of PFASs) Superfund Research Program at the University of Rhode Island, including a study to evaluate PFAS levels in private wells on Cape Cod and identify contamination sources. She serves as a technical advisor to ATSDR's Community Assistance Panel at the Pease Tradeport in Portsmouth, NH. Before joining Silent Spring Institute, she was a research associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she currently holds an appointment as a visiting scientist. Dr. Schaider earned her master's and PhD in Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering Science from MIT. Dr. Schaider served as a member of the planning committee for the 2020 National Academies Workshop on Federal Government Human Health PFAS Research.

**Cheryl Sievers-Cail**, South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission/SC Idle No More

Cheryl Cail is a small business owner in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the Vice Chief of the Waccamaw Indian People, and the Chairperson for SC Idle No More, a Committee within the SC Indian Affairs Commission. She received associate degrees from Horry-Georgetown Technical College in both Legal Studies and Human Services and was a recipient of Phi Theta Kappa Society's All-State Academic Team award.

In December 2018, after her 20-year-old son was diagnosed with Testicular Cancer, Cheryl became aware of PFAS contamination in the groundwater at the former Myrtle Beach AFB and later learned of the extent of contamination from the use of AFFF at other DOD sites throughout the state. She joined the National PFAS Contamination Coalition in 2019 and is currently working to raise awareness of the impact of PFAS contamination to both the environment and people within the state of South Carolina.

**Mike Watters**, Grays Creek Residents United Against PFAS in our Wells & Rivers

After learning his well was contaminated with over 16 PFAS chemicals, Michael Watters set up a community outreach group. He created a Facebook group with over 2700 members and he actively goes out in the community to provide information to the community. He is ensuring wells are tested in a rapidly growing area around the Fayetteville Works Facility in NC. He has

provided input at all NC Science Advisory committees since Nov 2017 to present. He leads teams as they interact with the NC PFAST Network assisting in research. He actively works with NCSU research teams. He has been working with NC Department of Environmental Quality having participated in the Granular Activated Carbon pilot test. He currently has a State PFAS air monitoring station on his property and assists the state in gathering information. He has College Degrees in Information Technology and Firearms Technology. While in the military he was trained and certified as a DOD Hazardous Materials handler that would certify loads for shipment by air, land or sea. He attends the quarterly web seminars that Eurofins conducts to enhance his knowledge and pass it on to the community. He leads presentation to the community highlighting the area impacted in NC and rights of the community. He actively engages with State and Federal authorities ensuring violations and spills documented and action taken. Two notices of violation are directly tied to his actions.

**La'Meshia Whittington, North Carolina Black Alliance**

La'Meshia Whittington is a Professor in the Division of Sociology at Meredith College. She is also the Deputy Director for Advance Carolina and the Campaigns Director for the North Carolina Black Alliance. She is the co-convenor of the NC Black & Brown Policy Network, former National Democracy Campaigner for Friends of the Earth, Chairwoman of the FRENC Fund Administration, Founding member of Democracy Green, member of the Burke Women's Fund in Western NC and the former NC spokesperson on fair courts for The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Professor Whittington leads the work on intersectional democracy and environmental justice, she was a co-author of NC Senate Bill 673, prioritizing environmentally contaminated communities-of-color in voting rights, and a co-author in several Pro-Democracy North Star legislation bills. Professor Whittington is a member of the NC PFAS Team anchoring AFFF legislation, and a convener of the Black Firefighters Fighting PFAS Collective. Professor Whittington has created and co-convened national, regional, and statewide tours and workshops on environmental justice, namely chemical contaminants and dirty corporations. Professor Whittington continually works with the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, DHHS and government agencies to ground community needs and strategies in alleviating health disparities in Black and Brown communities. Professor Whittington led the development of a statewide map to highlight the intersection of environmental justice contamination zones and the frequency in which they are located within gerrymandered Black majority voting districts. Professor Whittington is a petitioner in two active petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for more information: PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane. Professor Whittington is an Afro-Indigenous woman from North Carolina, hailing from a former environmental justice settlement: The Kingdom of the Happy Land. She received her education at Western Piedmont Community College and Meredith College.

**Alan Woolf, Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital**

Dr. Alan Woolf is a Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School (HMS), a board-certified pediatrician and medical toxicologist, and a senior attending physician at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH). He is the Director of the Pediatric Environmental Health Center at BCH, directs its fellowship training program in pediatric environmental health and directs the Region 1 New



England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. Dr. Woolf is a member of the Executive Committee of the Council on Environmental Health of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a past-president of both the American Association of Poison Control Centers and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. He is an editor and author of two books: *The Children's Hospital Guide to Your Child's Health and Development* (Perseus Publishers, Cambridge, MA) and *The History of Modern Clinical Toxicology* (Academic Press - in press) and has authored or co-authored over 300 scientific publications.