Public Health Research and Surveillance Priorities from the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment: A Workshop

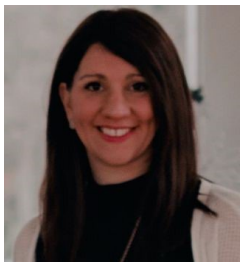
SPEAKERS BIOSKETCHES

MANISH ARORA, PH.D., M.P.H., BDS
Professor and Vice Chairman
Environmental Medicine and Public Health
Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine

Manish Arora is an environmental epidemiologist and exposure biologist, is the Edith J. Baerwald Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. A founding member of the Mount Sinai Institute for Exposomic Research, Dr. Arora serves as director of its environmental exposure and precision environmental medicine laboratories, leading a team of over 50 scientists who are advancing research in a vast array of diseases that are national health priorities, including autism, Lou Gehrig's, cancers, and gastrointestinal disorders. Dr. Arora's research focuses on the effects of prenatal and early-life chemical exposures on life-long health trajectories. In November 2021, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners announced that the exposome sequencing technology platform developed by Dr. Arora and his team was licensed to a new spin-off company, for which he serves as founder and CSO. Dr. Arora led this technology to an FDA Breakthrough Designation for an autism biomarker that can be applied at birth. Dr. Arora is currently the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator of eight research projects funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). He has received multiple honors throughout his career, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) awarded by the office of President Barack Obama in 2015, and the National Institutes of Health Director's New Innovator Award in 2014. Dr. Arora is the author of the book *Environmental Biodynamics: A New Science of How the Environment Interacts with Human Health.*

JULIANE BEIER, PH.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Juliane Beier's research focus is on environmental vinyl chloride exposure in the context of existing underlying liver disease. High occupational exposure to vinyl chloride is directly hepatotoxic; what is less clear is the impact of lower environmental exposure on exacerbating existing liver disease. Given the fact that a significant portion of the population has risk factors for liver disease (most commonly, obesity) and that 30% of the US population has elevated indices of liver damage, any potential impact of low environmental exposure could be dramatic. Her findings indicate that indeed vinyl chloride can exacerbate liver damage caused by another factor. This work shifts the paradigm of current risk assessment for not only this compound but any other environmental agent that may potentially damage the liver.



KRISTEN BAREFIELD, M.S.
Family Therapist
Metta Wellness

Kristen Barefield is a family therapist in Columbiana Ohio, she owns a private practice Metta Wellness. She has 15 years of experience working with adults, children, and families. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Youngstown State University in 2007. She went on to earn her Masters of Science in Social Administration Degree from Case Western Reserve University in 2013. She has been a Licensed Social Worker in the state of Ohio since 2008 and received her independent license in 2015. Kristen currently works with all ages and a wide variety of presenting problems. She works with individuals, specializing in struggles related to raising children, anxiety, depression, anger management, trauma, and stress of life changes such as going to college, changing jobs, and new relationships.

LINDA BIRNBAUM, PH.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.
Adjunct Professor
Department Of Environment Sciences and Engineering
University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

Linda S. Birnbaum became the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) on January 18, 2009. In these roles, Birnbaum oversees federal funding for biomedical research to discover how the environment influences human health and disease. Several advisory boards and councils provide Birnbaum and NIEHS/ NTP staff with input to accomplish this large task. She is one of six people selected to receive the 2016 North Carolina Award, the State's Highest Honor.

PATRICK BREYSSE, PH.D., CIH
Professor Emeritus
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Patrick Breysse has over 40 years of extensive academic and governmental leadership experience conducting health studies and leading nationwide efforts to address the most pressing environmental health issues of our times. A highly successful and prolific researcher, mentor, director, and leader, Dr. Breysse has over 270 publications investigating the impact of chemical, biological, and physical hazards on human health, along with a robust record of conducting health studies, attracting external funding, and advising students. In 2014, Dr. Breysse joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the Director of both the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR). Dr. Breysse led the CDC's efforts to address critically important national environmental health issues, including responding to the Flint water crisis; addressing widespread per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) contamination; responding to hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters; conducting assessments of drinking water contamination and health at Camp Lejeune, NC; revising cancer cluster investigation guidelines; and responding to an outbreak of lung injury associated with the use of E-cigarette (vaping) products. After a productive and exciting eight-year tenure, Dr. Breysse retired from governmental service in 2022. Dr. Breysse is a Certified Industrial Hygienist who holds master's (1980) and PhD (1985) degrees in Environmental and Occupational Health from the Johns Hopkins University and studied for

a year (1985) as a post-doctoral fellow at the British Institute for Occupational Medicine. He served on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering (JHBSPH/DEHE) for 29 years (1986-2014), advancing to the rank of Professor, with joint appointments in the Schools of Engineering and Medicine. Dr. Breysse directed the Occupational and Environmental Health Training Program and led a multidisciplinary research program investigating the impact of indoor and outdoor air pollution on childhood asthma and other respiratory impacts. Dr. Breysse is currently an Emeritus Professor of Environmental Health and Engineering at JHBSPH.

JOAN CASEY, PH.D.
Assistant Professor
Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences
University of Washington

Joan A. Casey is an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington School of Public Health. She received her doctoral degree from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2014. Dr. Casey is an environmental epidemiologist focusing on environmental health, environmental justice, and sustainability. Her research uses large secondary health datasets, such as electronic health records, to study the relationship between emerging environmental exposures and population health across the life course. She also considers vulnerable populations, joint social and environmental exposures, and health disparities, particularly in an era of climate change. Dr. Casey investigates a range of exposures, including wildfires, power outages, ambient temperature, the built environment, fossil fuel infrastructure, and concentrated animal feeding operations. Dr. Casey also holds a BS in Biological and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and an MA in Applied Physiology from Teachers College at Columbia University.

MOTRIA CAUDILL, PH.D.
Regional Director
ATSDR Region 5 Office

Motria Caudill is an Environmental health specialist with expertise in characterizing exposures and potential health effects from contaminants and offering solutions to reduce community risks. She has experience teaching domestically and internationally, mentoring public health graduate students. Caudill is an avid amateur musician with lifetime experience organizing, teaching, and fundraising.

WEIHSUEH A. CHIU, PH.D.
Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology
School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

Weihsueh A. Chiu is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences at Texas A&M University. He also has a Research Fellow appointment at the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy at the Bush School of Government and Public Service. Before joining the university in 2015, he worked at the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) for more than 14 years, most recently as branch chief in the Office or Research and Development. His research in human health risk assessment includes toxicokinetics, physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling, dose-

response assessment, characterizing uncertainty and variability, systematic review, and meta-analysis, with particular interest in Bayesian and probabilistic methods. He is author/co-author of over 80 peer-reviewed journal publications, many governmental and international agency reports, and several book chapters. Dr. Chiu has participated or chaired expert review panels for multiple government agencies, including the National Toxicology Program, the California EPA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He has also served on numerous national and international committees and workgroups for Health Canada, the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer, the International Program on Chemical Safety, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Chiu received an AB in Physics from Harvard University, a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University, and a Certificate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

JESS CONARD, M.A., CCC-SLP
Appalachia Director
Beyond Plastics

Jess Conard is a licensed speech-language pathologist who was launched into grassroots advocacy following the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment and chemical spill. Jess is a nationally recognized environmental activist and has been featured on multiple national news programs like CNN, Fox, and News Nation as well as NPR 1A and other local podcasts to champion endorsements for medical safety and air quality monitoring for her community. While she continues to seek national policy change for rail safety and amplify initiatives for ecological security, it was a seamless shift for Jess to join Beyond Plastics in 2023 to continue a positive path forward to end plastics pollution.

MARK DURNO
Homeland Security Advisor
U.S. EPA Region 5

Mark Durno has served as an On Scene Coordinator, Supervisor, and Deputy Chief in the Emergency Response Branch of the Superfund Program in Region 5 since 1997. He currently serves as Region 5's Homeland Security Advisor. Mark's efforts have included numerous emergency response actions to chemical and oil spills; support to national counter-terrorism planning and exercises; and international biological response planning. Notably, Mark has worked on or coordinated major incidents, including the Capitol Hill Anthrax response in Washington, D.C; Hurricane Katrina/Rita disaster response in Louisiana; and the Flint Drinking Water Incident in Michigan. For his accomplishments, Mark was named EPA's National On-Scene Coordinator of the Year in 2007 and received a Gold Medal for Exceptional Service in 2017.

SUE FENTON, PH.D., M.S.
Director, Center for Human Health and the Environment
North Carolina State University

Dr. Suzanne "Sue" Fenton is the Director of the NIEHS-funded P30 Center for Human Health and the Environment at North Carolina State University. She has 25 years of federal government research and mentoring leadership as a Reproductive Endocrinologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Her laboratory has expertise in the discovery of chemicals or environmental factors contributing to mammary gland developmental defects and cancer susceptibility, pregnancy-related disease, and persistent adverse health effects in developmentally exposed rodent offspring. She has received several NIH and EPA-based awards for her research on perfluorinated chemicals and endocrine disruptors.

GEORGE GARROW, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Primary Health Network

George Garrow has served as Primary Health Network Chief Executive Officer since June 2022. Since joining Primary Health Network in March 2016 as Chief Medical Officer, he has worked diligently to help address the clinical and social needs of patients and communities served by Primary Health Network, a Federally Qualified Health Center. He remains focused on overcoming health disparities which have led to a disproportionate impact of environmental factors among vulnerable groups within our community. Dr. Garrow earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University's College of Medicine. He completed Internal Medicine Residency and Chief Residency at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center, Denver, CO. He completed a Medical Oncology fellowship at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, where he was honored as an American Cancer Society Fellow. Dr. Garrow served on the faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the University of Rochester Medical Center. He achieved Board Certification in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He is a proud recipient of a 2023 Alumni Fellow Award from Pennsylvania State University.

CHRISTA GRAVES
Resident
Columbiana County, Ohio

ZSUZSA GYENES
Resident
Columbiana County, Ohio

MONA HANNA-ATTISHA, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Dean for Public Health
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

Mona Hanna-Attisha is the Associate Dean for Public Health and C. S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She is the founding director of the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative partnership of MSU and Hurley Children's Hospital in Flint, Michigan. She is reimaging how society can come together to eliminate infant poverty

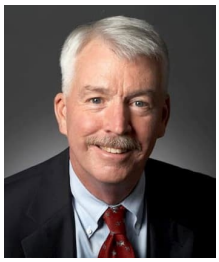
with a first-in-the-nation program, Rx Kids. A pediatrician, scientist, activist, and author, Dr. Hanna-Attisha was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World and recognized as one of USA Today's Women of the Century for her role in uncovering the Flint water crisis and leading recovery efforts. Dr. Hanna-Attisha is the author of the widely acclaimed and New York Times 100 most notable book, What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City.

JENNIFER HORNEY, PH.D., M.P.H., CPH
Founding Director and Professor
Epidemiology Program
University of Delaware

Jennifer Horney is Professor and Founding Director of the Epidemiology Program and Core Faculty at the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. Her research focuses on measuring the health impacts of disasters. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health. Dr. Horney recently completed her service as a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Center for Preparedness and Response and the National Academies of Science's Gulf Research Program Enhancing Community Resilience (EnCoRe) committee. She is currently a member of the CDC's Technical Workgroup on Improving Processes for Identifying and Reporting Disaster-Related Deaths. Dr. Horney has led interdisciplinary research projects funded by many federal agencies and was part of the public health response to Hurricanes Isabel, Charley, Katrina, Wilma, Irene, and Harvey where she conducted rapid assessments of disaster impacts on health. She has provided technical assistance to public health agencies globally around disasters, emerging disease outbreaks, and pandemic planning and response.

ERIKA KINKEAD, BSN, RN
Certified School Nurse, New Brighton Area School District
President, Beaver County School Nurse Association

Erika Kinkead is a graduate of Youngstown State University and a Certified School Nurse serving the New Brighton Area School District in Beaver County. She serves as the president of the Beaver County School Nurses Association. She is an advocate for community health and the pediatric population. She is currently studying at Youngstown State University in the Masters of Science of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Program. She is a resident of East Palestine, where she lives with her husband and two young daughters. She serves on the East Palestine School Board.



PHILIP LANDRIGAN, M.D., MSC
Director, Program in Global Public Health and the Common Good
Boston College

Philip Landrigan is a pediatrician, public health physician, and epidemiologist. His research uses the tools of epidemiology to elucidate connections between toxic chemicals and human health, especially the health of infants and children. He is a member of the National Institute of Medicine. His early studies of lead poisoning conducted in collaboration with his colleague Herbert L. Needleman, M.D. demonstrated that lead is toxic to children even at very low levels and contributed to the US government's decision to remove lead from paint and gasoline, actions that reduced population mean blood lead levels in the USA by more than 90%. A study he led in the 1990's at the National Academy of Sciences defined children's unique susceptibilities to pesticides and other toxic chemicals and

catalyzed fundamental revamping of US pesticide policy. In New York City, where he worked for many years in the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, he was involved in the medical and epidemiologic follow-up of 20,000 9/11 rescue workers. From 2015 to 2017, he co-chaired the *Lancet* Commission on Pollution & Health, which reported that pollution causes 9 million deaths annually and is an existential threat to planetary health. To continue the work of the *Lancet* Commission on Pollution & Health, he is now directing the Global Public Health Program and Global Observatory on Planetary Health at Boston College.

AUBREY MILLER, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Director Office of Science, Coordination, Planning, and Evaluation
National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS)

Aubrey Miller is an occupational and environmental health physician and serves as Deputy Director for the NIEHS Office of Scientific Coordination Planning and Evaluation. He leads a portfolio of programs involving global environmental health, climate change, and disaster research, as well as policy, strategic planning, and coordination of environmental health issues among NIH, U.S. federal agencies, academia, and other stakeholders. His experiences include numerous public health investigations and research studies involving a wide range of occupational and environmental health issues. He has contributed to the leadership and management of numerous disaster responses. He Co-Chairs the NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative and also directs the NIH Disaster Research Response Program. A retired Captain of the USPHS, his 32-year federal career includes the CDC Epidemiology Intelligence Service Fellowship and senior medical officer positions with the CDC, the HHS Office of the Secretary, EPA, and the FDA.

NICHOLAS NEWMAN, DO, MS, FAAP
Director
Environmental Health and Lead Clinic
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Nicholas Newman as a pediatric environmental health doctor, helps families identify and reduce triggers and allergens that affect their child's health. He believes that families and kids need to know that someone really cares about them and will help them address their health concerns. He works hard to stay up to date on the latest medical advances and use evidence-based practices. His training in pediatrics and occupational and environmental medicine let him educate families about environmental triggers related to their child’s condition. His research focus is two-fold: 1. He wants to better understand how common environmental exposures, like air pollution and lead exposure, influence neurodevelopment and behavior in children. 2. He works to improve asthma treatment by understanding environmental triggers and by developing interventions to reduce them. His recent research received the Michael Shannon Award for Pediatric Environmental Health Research from the American Pediatric Association. This project examines the influence of housing age and socioeconomic status on childhood lead levels. He also serves as co-director of the Community Engagement Core through the University of Cincinnati Center for Environmental Genetics. This is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research center. He actively works with communities to help them identify and advocate for improving air pollution and lead dust in neighborhoods.

GRETCHEN NICKELL, DO
Chief Medical Officer
East Liverpool City Hospital

BILL SUTHERIN
Director
United Methodist Committee on Relief, East Palestine, Ohio

MARCY PATTON, MSED, LPCC/S, LICDC-CS
Executive Director
Columbiana County Mental Health and
Recovery Services Board

Marcy Patton has a Master's Degree in Community Counseling and is dually licensed in the State of Ohio as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisory Endorsement (LPCC/S) and as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Clinical Supervisor (LICDC-CS). Marcy served as the Director of Youth Community Support Services at The Counseling Center of Columbiana County for over 29 years from 1988 to 2017. Prior to that, she worked as a Chemical Dependency Counselor at Family Recovery Center for 7½ years. Marcy is responsible for the Board's overall operation, relating to the implementation of Board policies, programs, and mental health and substance use services; oversight of an organized delivery system to provide access to services; and overall leadership and direction of day-to-day operations of the Board.

MELANIE PEARSON, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Environmental Health
Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

Melanie Pearson leads the Community Engagement Core of the Emory HERCULES Exposome Research Center. She works with a state-wide community of farmers, former chemical workers, residents, and their children who suffer from an industrial mistake that led to polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) being mixed into livestock feed, resulting in the contamination of food products distributed throughout the state of Michigan in the 1970s. This work has led to in-depth engagement with the community near the former chemical plant responsible for both the industrial mix-up as well as the waste practices of three Superfund sites. This collaboration with the affected community, a local non-profit, a district health department, and the research team led to an NIEHS-funded Research to Action grant. She seeks to integrate the exposome concept into her projects. She developed engagement strategies with the dual purpose of strengthening the capacity of an Atlanta community to address its environmental health concerns and to create a feedback system so that the community's concerns and ideas are shared with the scientists.

ALBERTO PRESTO, PH.D.
Research Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University

Albert Presto is a research professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and a member of the Center for Atmospheric Particle Studies (CAPS). Presto's research focuses on pollutant emissions from energy extraction and consumption, the subsequent atmospheric transformations that these emissions undergo, and their impacts on human exposure.

LAURYN SPEARING, PH.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor in Civil, Materials, and Environmental Engineering
University of Illinois – Chicago

Lauryn Spearing is an assistant professor in Civil, Materials, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. She earned her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on incorporating social perspectives in infrastructure management and disaster response. Dr. Spearing has experience researching infrastructure systems management and community perceptions after disasters such as the California Camp Fire, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Jackson Water Crisis. She is leading an NSF-funded RAPID project focused on understanding community members' experiences and concerns related to water, home, and environmental impacts after the East Palestine chemical spill and fires.

WESLEY VINS, DPA, REHS
Health Commissioner
Columbiana County General Health District

Wesley J. Vins is the Health Commissioner for the Columbiana County General Health District in Ohio where he is responsible for executing the district's public health programs, initiatives, and laws. Previously he served 11 years with the District Board of Health, Mahoning County as a Sanitarian and Deputy Director of Environmental Health. Prior to public service, Dr. Vins worked with Eagon & Associates of Worthington, Ohio as an environmental consultant to the solid waste, water supply, chemical and petroleum industries. Dr. Vins received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (1992), a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from Youngstown State University (2009), and a Doctoral Degree in Public Policy and Administration from West Chester University of Pennsylvania (2022). He has co-authored several published professional articles and he routinely partners with a variety of entities by serving on numerous committees and advisory groups at the local, state and federal levels.

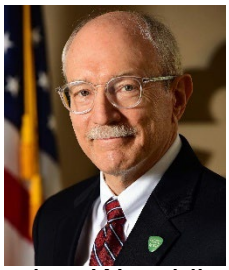
JUDY WESTRICK, PH.D.
Director, Lumigen Instrument Center
Wayne State University

Judy Westrick graduated from Wayne State University in 1985 and earned a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1989. Since her Ph.D., she has performed research with several interdisciplinary groups such as the Institute for Behavioral Genetics, U.S. EPA, and American Water Works Association. In 2001, she joined the faculty at Lake Superior State University. She

founded and directed the Lake Superior State University Environmental Analysis Laboratory; a self-supporting laboratory used to fund undergraduate training and research as well as K-12 camps and professional workshops. During her tenure, she mentored 81 senior research projects, advised the Chemistry Club, and was a key player in Lake Superior State University Department of Chemistry becoming ACS accredited. As a leader in cyanotoxins and harmful algal bloom research, she has managed numerous occurrence studies, determined cyanotoxin susceptibility of drinking water treatment processes, developed analytical methodologies, and validated commercial analytical products such as cyanotoxin ELISAs. Dr. Westrick has organized and served on several expert panels, reviewed grants for numerous federal agencies, written reviews, and edited a special edition of Toxicon. As the new Director of the Lumigen Instrument Center at Wayne State University, her goal is to provide professional and high-quality research and instructional support to Wayne State University researchers as well as to the greater Detroit and Michigan communities.

ANTONY WILLIAMS, PH.D.
Scientist, Center of Computational Toxicology and Exposure
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Antony Williams joined the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure in the Office of Research and Development at the US EPA in May 2015. He is a cheminformatician focused on the delivery of the center's data to the scientific community via the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard. His interests include the aggregation and curation of chemical data, the development of models to support physicochemical property prediction, and the development of software approaches to support non-targeted analysis. He has over two decades of experience in cheminformatics and chemical information management with a focus on internet-based projects to deliver free-access community-based chemistry websites. He is widely published with >300 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and books. He is known as the ChemConnector on social media networks and spends some of his spare time teaching scientists how to use these tools.



RICHARD WOYCHIK, PH.D.
Director
National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS)

Richard Woychik became the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in 2020. In these roles, Woychik oversees federal funding for biomedical research to discover how the environment influences human health and disease. Woychik and NIEHS/NTP staff receive input from several advisory boards and councils to accomplish this significant task. Prior to becoming Director and since 2011, Woychik served as Deputy Director of NIEHS. In this role, he assisted the former NIEHS Director, Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., in the formulation and implementation of plans and policies necessary to carry out the NIEHS missions and the administrative management of NIEHS. As a mammalian geneticist, Woychik has had a number of noteworthy accomplishments. His laboratory was the first to clone and characterize the gene called agouti, which provided molecular insights into obesity and the satiety response in the brain. Additionally, his laboratory was the first to identify a gene mutation associated with polycystic kidney disease, which provided insights into this molecular biology of this important human disease. Also, his laboratory was the first to determine that a member of the protocadherin family was associated with hearing loss in a mouse model that ultimately paved the way to better understanding the molecular basis of Usher syndrome type 1F in humans. More recently his research program has been focused

on investigating the molecular mechanisms associated with how environmental agents influence the epigenetic control of gene expression. Woychik completed his B.S. and M.S. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology at Case Western Reserve University in 1984. He received his postdoctoral training in the Laboratory of Philip Leder at Harvard Medical School with fellowship support from the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund and from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.