

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

## PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOSKETCHES



### **KRISTEN MALECKI, M.P.H., PH.D. (CHAIR)**

Director, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
University of Illinois Chicago

Kristen Malecki is a Professor and Division Director for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Epidemiology and Health Policy and a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was a member of the Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute and her research involved developing new scientific methods for indicator development to advance environmental health. Her current translational environmental health research uses a molecular biology approach to examine combined chemical (air pollution, water pollution), physical, and social stressors, and their influence on adult chronic disease, aging, and health disparities. She applies emerging multi-omic tools including epigenetics, transcriptomics, and the microbiome to identify interim biomarkers of exposure and response to improve understanding of the biological mechanisms linking environmental stressors across the life-course to persistent health disparities. Dr. Malecki's work is grounded in communities and uses community-engaged approaches to population and environmental health sciences research. Her ongoing work is funded by several NIH institutions, and she is a principal investigator for the NCI funded coordinating center for the new Cohorts for Environmental Exposures and Cancer Consortium. Before becoming an academic, she served as a Council for State and Territorial Epidemiology fellow and the lead epidemiologist for the state Environmental Public Health Tracking Program along with Climate Change and Health Programs within the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. In 2021, she was appointed to the National Academies of Sciences standing committee on the "Use of Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions." Dr. Malecki brings extensive experience in leading and managing multi-disciplinary teams of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in the development of new systems thinking approaches and developing practical solutions to address today's complex environmental and occupational health challenges.



### **THOMAS BURKE, PH.D.**

Professor Emeritus  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Thomas A. Burke is a Professor Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is also Director Emeritus of the Johns Hopkins Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute. Dr. Burke was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development. From January 2015 until January 2017 Dr. Burke was the EPA Science Advisor and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. His research interests include environmental epidemiology and surveillance, population exposures to environmental pollutants, risk

assessment and communication, and the application of epidemiology and health risk assessment to public policy. Before joining the University faculty, Dr. Burke was Deputy Commissioner of Health for the State of New Jersey and Director of Science and Research for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He was Chair of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Improving Risk Analysis that produced the report *Science and Decisions*, and currently serves as Chair of the Environmental Health Matters Initiative of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Burke received his BS from St. Peter's University, his M.P.H. from the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania.



**CAROL CUNNINGHAM, M.D.**

State Medical Director  
Ohio Department of Public Safety

Carol Cunningham was appointed State Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS in July 2004 and is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University and a board-certified emergency physician at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and the Academy of Emergency Medical Services. She is the co-principal investigator for the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines and was an appointed medical director of the federal-supported COVID-19 mass vaccination site at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center in 2022. Dr. Cunningham is a member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's First Responder Resource Group and has served on several committees and panels, including the Crisis Standards of Care, at the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the EMS Program Steering Committee of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors. Dr. Cunningham was selected as the 2021 National Preparedness Leadership Initiative Meta-Leader of the Year from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Center for Public Leadership. She is also the recipient of the 2021 University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award, Crain's Cleveland Business 2022 Women of Note Award, Lakeland Community College's 2022 Woman of Achievement Award, and the 2012 American Academy of Emergency Medicine James Keaney Leadership Award. Dr. Cunningham received her medical degree and completed an emergency medicine residency at the University of Cincinnati. She completed the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative and earned the Executive Certificate in Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education. She also completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.



**KRISTEN DICKERSON, PH.D., MSN, M.P.H.**

State Epidemiologist and Chief, Bureau of Infectious Diseases  
Ohio Department of Health

Kristen Dickerson has Bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Microbiology from Ohio University. She has also received her Masters and Doctorate in Public Health/Epidemiology. Additionally, she has a Master's degree in Public Health Nursing and has worked as an ER nurse and Infection preventionist within the hospital systems. She has served in the US Army, where she worked in biochemical warfare research, and the US Public Health

Service, where she managed clinical operations for 100 occupational health clinics in the DC Metro region. For the state, she has served as a Quality Improvement Coordinator working to improve clinical and mental health services for ODRC and was the Statewide Health, Wellness, and Special Programs Manager for BWC. Currently, she serves at ODH as the State Epidemiologist for Ohio supporting the work of epidemiologists at the state and local level and informing public health policy.



**ERIN HAYNES, DRPH, M.S.**

Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health  
University of Kentucky

Erin N. Haynes is the Kurt W. Deuschle Professor of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health. She is director of the UK Center for the Environment and deputy director of the UK Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences (CARES). She received a Master of Science in Toxicology from the University of Cincinnati and a Doctorate in Public Health in Environmental Health Science from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is a community-engaged environmental health scientist who has forged multidisciplinary research teams to investigate community-identified exposure issues, primarily in Appalachian underserved communities. She launched a community-wide survey to track the experiences and health symptoms of East Palestine, Ohio residents following the derailment. She is a member of the International Society of Exposure Science and was recently elected President-elect of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology and is currently appointed to the National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors. She was named a University of Kentucky University Research Professor and Wilmington College Distinguished Professional Achievement Alumni Award. She previously served on the National Academies of Sciences Committee on the Guidance for PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes.



**DARRYL B. HOOD, PH.D.**

Professor and Dean's Fellow  
Environmental Public Health Neurotoxicologist  
The Ohio State University

Darryl B. Hood is a Professor, Dean's Fellow, and Environmental Public Health Neurotoxicologist in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. Prior to joining The Ohio State University, he meritoriously served on the faculty at Meharry Medical College in alliance with Vanderbilt University School of Medicine for 20 years and led what has come to be known as the most successful minority NIEHS-sponsored program project-like (S11) grant initiative. This initiative was the "Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health" (ARCH) Program (2006-2011). The research conducted under this consortium ultimately contributed to the scientific database that the USEPA used to reassess the levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon emissions from smokestacks. Such reassessments have resulted in public policy changes that will serve to decrease the adverse health effects associated with environmental exposures. At The Ohio State University, Dr. Hood recently received a \$1.3 million-dollar USEPA STAR award and is the

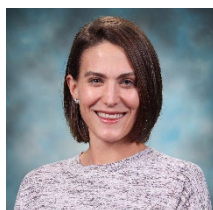
Co-PI on 3-additional collaborative USEPA projects that total in excess of \$5 million dollars to continue his innovation in discovery as the co-architect of the novel Public Health Exposome framework and analytics with an environmental justice lens. At The Ohio State University, his work is focused on the high-risk and vulnerable underrepresented minority census tracts of Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Hood currently serves as a member of the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He also serves as a member of the Children's Environmental Health Committee and the Standing Committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.



**ALEX KEMPER, M.D., M.P.H.**

Division Chief, Primary Care Pediatrics  
Nationwide Childrens Hospital

Alex R. Kemper is the Division Chief of Primary Care Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and Deputy Editor of Pediatrics. Dr. Kemper completed his pediatric residency training at Duke University followed by combined fellowship training in health services research and medical informatics with residency training in preventive medicine at the University of North Carolina. Prior to his current position, Dr. Kemper was a faculty member at the University of Michigan and at Duke University. His research focuses on preventive services delivery in the primary care practice setting. Dr. Kemper is a former member of the US Preventive Services Task Force and he chairs the Evidence Review Group for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children. His work has been funded by a variety of federal agencies, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Kemper also serves as Deputy Editor for Pediatrics. Dr. Kemper has worked with the National Academy of Medicine, including a recent planning committee for a meeting related to newborn genome sequencing and on a committee related to PFAS testing and health outcomes.



**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.





**ROBERTA LAVIN, PH.D, M.A, FNP-BC**

Deputy Director, Center for Health Equity and Preparedness  
University of New Mexico

Roberta Lavin is a Captain (ret) from the United States Public Health Service and currently serves as a Professor of Nursing and the Deputy Director for the Center for Health Equity and Preparedness at the University of New Mexico. Her current research focuses on the impacts of disaster experiences on metabolic and anxiety disorders. She currently works on disaster risk assessment innovation and implications for primary care based on region-specific risks. She received her Ph.D. from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.



**MAUREEN LICHTVELD, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dean  
University of Pittsburg School of Public Health

Maureen Lichtveld is the Dean of the School of Public Health, the Jonas Salk Chair in Population Health, and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Pittsburgh with over 35 years of expertise in environmental health. As Dean, Dr. Lichtveld oversees seven academic departments, 1000 students, 165 faculty and 320 staff. Her research focuses on environmentally induced disease, health disparities, climate and health, environmental health policy, disaster preparedness, public health systems, and community resilience. Dean Lichtveld is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), and the NAM Council, and a member of numerous NAM and National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Boards, Roundtables, and Committees. She is a member of the National Research Council (NRC) Governing Board and Project Approval Committee. Dean Lichtveld is the Chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH). She has co-authored the textbook on Environmental Policy and Public Health. Honors include Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, CDC Environmental Health Scientist of the Year, and Woman of the Year of the City of New Orleans for her contributions to science.



**MICHELE MARCUS, PH.D., M.P.H.**

Professor, Epidemiology, Environmental Health and Pediatrics  
Emory University

Michele Marcus is Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. She previously held a faculty position at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She has more than 30 years of experience as an environmental epidemiologist. Numerous insights into the health consequences of exposure to environmental chemicals have emerged from her research on PBBs, PCBs, pesticides, and per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFAS). She was honored with awards from the CDC and EPA for significant scientific contributions to understanding the health consequences of developmental exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals. She has also conducted research on air pollution, and various occupational exposures and served on federal expert panels reviewing the health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields,

bisphenol A, phthalates, and gene/environment interactions. For the past 20 years, she has worked with community partners to develop research and translation projects based on the impacted communities' needs and priorities. She served on the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine Committee on the health effects of dioxin exposure among Vietnam Veterans. She has published more than 150 peer-reviewed research papers. Her Ph.D. and M.P.H. were awarded by Columbia University.



**JULIE MILLER, PH.D., DABT**

Public Health Toxicologist  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

Julie V. Miller is a Public Health Toxicologist and board-certified toxicologist at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Prior to joining the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Miller worked as a toxicology consultant providing toxicological and analytical chemistry expertise to a variety of industries including chemical, pharmaceutical, and consumer products. Miller has developed and managed projects and programs related to human health risk assessment, toxicology components of regulatory submissions, exposure assessments, occupational exposure limits, toxicological study design, and environmental analytical method development. As a Public Health Toxicologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Miller is a subject matter expert and provides consultation on toxicological issues for the Commonwealth to protect the public from exposure to environmental hazards. She manages the health assessment program and provides consultation during emergencies that may impact public health. Miller is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and a member of the Society of Toxicology. She received postdoctoral training at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Miller received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from West Virginia University and a B.S. in Chemistry from Gettysburg College.



**KEEVE NACHMAN, PH.D.**

Associate Professor  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Keeve Nachman is the Robert S. Lawrence Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he co-directs the Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute and serves as the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. Nachman has rigorous training and extensive practical experience in the risk sciences, regulatory toxicology, exposure science, epidemiology, occupational and environmental health, and environmental policy and communication. He has over twenty years of experience in the field of public health, with experience working in two federal agencies (EPA and DOD/USACE) on issues related to toxicology, epidemiology, exposure science, and risk assessment. Nachman has a Ph.D. in Environmental and Occupational Health Policy ('06) and an MHS in Environmental Health Science ('01) from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Nachman's research is funded by the USEPA, USDA, NIH, and foundations. He has active projects focused on the development of novel methods to quantify infants' and children's soil and dust exposures,

prioritization of novel contaminants in human biosolids, and development of occupational exposure factors in the agriculture sector.



**HAROLD “FRITZ” NELSON, M.DIV.**

Pastor

First United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine

Rev. Fritz Nelson is pastor of First United Presbyterian Church in East Palestine, OH where he has served since 2016. In addition, he pastors First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana OH, and is co-founder of THE HUB, a spiritual community gathered around stories. Rev. Nelson earned a B.A. in Economics from the College of Wooster in Ohio and his M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Pastor Fritz did take a science class in college.



**IVAN RUSYN, PH.D.**

Professor

Texas A&M University

Ivan Rusyn is a University Professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. He is also chair of the Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology at Texas A&M University. His laboratory has an active research portfolio with a focus on the mechanisms of action of environmental toxicants, the genetic determinants of susceptibility to toxicant-induced injury, and the use of new approach methods in regulatory toxicology. His studies on the health effects of environmental agents have resulted in over 300 peer-reviewed publications. He was a member of the Research Committee of the Health Effects Institute and was on the Board of Scientific Councilors of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He has served on several committees of the National Academies, including the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, the Committee on Incorporating 21st Century Science into Risk-Based Evaluations, and the Committee on the Design and Evaluation of Safer Chemical Substitutions. Most recently, he chaired the Committee to Review Report on Long-Term Health Effects on Army Test Subjects and the Workshop Committee to Support Development of EPA's IRIS Toxicological Reviews. Dr. Rusyn received his M.D. from Ukrainian State Medical University in Kyiv and his Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**ANDREW WHELTON, PH.D.**

Director, Healthy Plumbing Consortium and Center for Plumbing Safety

Professor of Civil, Environmental, and Ecological Engineering

Purdue University

Andrew Whelton is a Professor in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering and Division of Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Plumbing Safety. Dr. Whelton is an internationally recognized environmental engineer with more than 20 years of experience in the infrastructure, environment, and public health disciplines. By leading innovative research teams, his work has advanced the safety of communities and workers in and outside the U.S. Dr. Whelton's expertise focuses on chemical fate and transport, infrastructure and environmental contamination, public health,

remediation, exposures, and disasters, among other areas. He has frequently been called into nationally significant disasters, and in some cases, to advise state and local executives, households, businesses, and the U.S. military on decision-making. Dr. Whelton previously worked for the U.S. Army, University of South Alabama, and in the private sector. He earned Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees from Virginia Tech and previously was a National Research Council Associate at NIST.