Biographies

Treatment Options for Severe Asthma in African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos

Workgroup Meeting
Friday, March 1st, 2013

1828 L Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

Joe V. Selby, MD, MPH
Executive Director
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Joe V. Selby is the first Executive Director of PCORI. A family physician, clinical epidemiologist and health services researcher, Joe has more than 35 years of experience in patient care, research and administration. He is responsible for identifying strategic issues and opportunities for PCORI and implementing and administering programs authorized by the PCORI Board of Governors.

Joe joined PCORI from Kaiser Permanente, Northern California, where he was Director of the Division of Research for 13 years and oversaw a department of more than 50 investigators and 500 research staff working on more than 250 ongoing studies. He was with Kaiser Permanente for 27 years. An accomplished researcher, Joe has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and continues to conduct research, primarily in the areas of diabetes outcomes and quality improvement. His publications cover a spectrum of topics, including effectiveness studies of colorectal cancer screening strategies; treatment effectiveness, population management and disparities in diabetes mellitus; primary care delivery and quality measurement.

Anne C. Beal, MD, MPH
Chief Operating Officer
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Anne C. Beal is Chief Operating Officer of PCORI. A pediatrician and public health specialist, she has devoted her career to providing access to high-quality health care through the delivery of health care services, teaching, research, public health, and philanthropy. As PCORI’s first COO, Beal is responsible for ensuring PCORI develops the structure and capacity needed to carry out its mission as the nation’s largest research institute focused on patient-centered outcomes research.

Anne joined PCORI from the Aetna Foundation, the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. As president, she led the foundations work on improving health care in the U.S., particularly for vulnerable patient groups. is also the author of The Black Parenting Book: Caring for Our Children in the First Five Years. Dr. Beal has been a pediatric commentator and medical correspondent for Essence magazine, The American Baby Show, ABC News, and NBC News. Anne holds a BA from Brown University, an MD from Cornell University Medical College, and an MPH from Columbia University. She completed her internship, residency, and National Research Service Award fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.
Romana Hasnain-Wynia, MS, PhD
Program Director, Health Disparities
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Romana Hasnain-Wynia is the Program Director for the Health Disparities research priority area at PCORI. Prior to joining PCORI, Dr. Hasnain-Wynia was the Director of Center for Healthcare Equity and an Associate Professor at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. She also held an appointment as Associate Professor in the School of Education and Social Policy. She was the associate director of Northwestern’s AHRQ Funded T-32 post-doctoral training program in health services and outcomes research and director of the integrated Ph.D. program in Health Sciences. Prior to joining Northwestern University, she served as Vice President of Research at the Health Research and Educational Trust of the American Hospital Association.

Dr. Hasnain-Wynia has served as the principal investigator for a number of national studies focusing on advancing equity for underserved populations, performance incentive programs, and the health care safety net, incorporating equity measurement in quality improvement and provision of language services to patients with limited English proficiency. In addition, she has led studies on the collection and use of race/ethnicity, language, and other demographic data in health care organizations as a foundation for conducting quality improvement work to reduce disparities in care. She was the lead author of the HRET Disparities Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Data, which has been endorsed by the National Quality Forum. She was also a senior associate editor for the Health Services Research journal for eight years and is now on the editorial board.

James Kiley, MS, PhD
Director of the Division of Lung Diseases
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

James Kiley serves as the Director of the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Prior to this position, he was the Director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at NIH. Dr. Kiley received his education and training at St Anselm’s College, Kansas State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of a number of professional organizations and has received numerous honors and awards for his outstanding contributions to advancing pulmonary biology in health and disease, sleep research, and public health. His major areas of interest include control of respiration, and the pathophysiology of obstructive airways disease. Dr. Kiley is the author or co-author of over 100 scientific articles.
Andrea Apter, MD, MSc, MA
Chief and Program Director
Section of Allergy & Immunology, University of Pennsylvania

Andrea Apter received her bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Connecticut where she was a University Scholar, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She then earned a master's degree in mathematics from Temple University and taught mathematics in secondary school before entering medical school. After receiving an MD from the University of Pennsylvania, she completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Northwestern University School of Medicine. She practiced general medicine in a rural community for one year and then joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut Health Center. There, Dr. Apter established the Section of Allergy and Immunology and developed a busy clinical practice and a curriculum for providing experience for students in allergy and immunology. She developed an interest in clinical research related to asthma that led to completion of a master of science degree in clinical epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Apter’s research focuses on asthma, the environmental and social factors that influence disease, patient-clinician communication including electronic communication, and the impact of health literacy on health, all with the goal of reducing health disparities. She has received funding from the NIH Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute, including research grants and two career development awards.

Dr. Apter evaluates patients with all allergy-immunology related problems including asthma, allergic rhinitis, sinusitis, adverse drug reactions, immunodeficiencies, urticaria, eosinophilic diseases, food allergy, urticaria, angioedema, and anaphylaxis. She directs the training program for Allergy & Immunology. Dr. Apter is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology; she served on the FDA Pulmonary Allergy Drug Advisory Committee and as a director of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. She is currently a board member of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology (AAAAI). She has been named a US News and World Report’s Top Doctor, Top Doc by Philadelphia Magazine, and Distinguished Clinician by the AAAAI.

Vernal Branch
Patient Advocate

Vernal Branch was diagnosed in 1995 with stage two breast cancer at 45 years of age. While in the midst of her treatment she became active with Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organizations & the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC). She then went on to take all of the Project LEAD courses through NBCC, where she then became a reviewer for the Dept. of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program/Ad-Hoc member for the Programmatic Review, reviewer Komen Foundation and
reviewer for the California Breast Research Program.

For the last ten years, Ms. Branch has served at NCI/Director’s Consumer Liaison Group, recruiter for NIEHS/Sister Study, Board of Directors for Breast Cancer Action, Board of Directors for HER2 Support Organizations, Board of Directors for Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, Advisor for Silent Spring, External Advisor Committee for Duke Cancer Institute, Advisor for a Department of Defense (DOD) funded research project at University of Virginia Breast Center, Advisor for a DOD funded project for Duke Cancer Institute, and Advisor for a Health Disparities project at the California Breast Research Program. Presently, Ms. Branch is working as the Public Policy Advisor for the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation.

Four years ago, Ms. Branch was diagnosed with asthma, after having gone through several bouts of pneumonia over a course of five years. She has also been the caregiver for her son who also was diagnosed with asthma as an infant. Her knowledge of health-related issues has included researching the problem and evaluating the right course of treatment. Because of her pre-existing conditions of cancer and asthma, Ms. Branch was asked to speak at the White House and a congressional hearing for the Affordable Care Act.

Michael Foggs, MD
President-Elect
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI)

Michael B. Foggs was elected President-Elect of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) at the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Anaheim on November 13, 2012. Dr. Foggs is Chief of Allergy & Immunology, Advocate Medical Group of Advocate Health Care in Chicago, and Chief Science Officer for Enviro-Room Technologies, LLC, in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Dr. Foggs served two terms as ACAAI Treasurer, as Foundation Board Treasurer, and on the Board of Regents. He is on the Editorial Board of Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, ACAAI’s scientific journal. He represents ACAAI on the Board of Directors of the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (JCAAI) and the American Board of Medical Specialties Workgroup on Asthma. He was honored with the Distinguished Fellow Award, the Stanislaus Jaros Lectureship and the Bela Schick Lectureship.

Dr. Foggs is a member of the FDA Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs Advisory Committee (PADAC) and received its Distinguished Service Award. He serves on the Consensus Panel on Asthma in the African American Community of the National Medical Association, and serves on the Board of Directors of InterAsma Global Asthma Association. Formerly, he served on the Expert Panel 3 of the NHLBI National Asthma Education Prevention Program; on the National Institutes of Health Asthma Outcomes Workshop Quality of Life...
Committee; and on the World Allergy Organization’s Asthma Special Committee.

Jean Ford, MD  
Chair, Department of Medicine  
The Brooklyn Hospital Center  
Jean Ford is Chair of the Department of Medicine at The Brooklyn Hospital Center, in Brooklyn, NY. Previously, he served as the founding Director of the Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities, and Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg of Public Health, with joint appointments in the departments of Medicine and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Prior to moving to Baltimore, Dr. Ford served as Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Harlem Hospital in New York City, with academic appointments in the Department of Medicine and in the School of Public Health at Columbia University. While in Harlem, he developed innovative programs of asthma care, and he established programs of clinical and epidemiologic research on asthma. He also served as Principal Investigator for the New York Center of the NIH Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute’s Asthma Clinical Research Network. He has written extensively on determinants of health care disparities, especially those related to asthma, and cancer.

Elliot Israel, MD  
Director of Clinical Research  
Pulmonary and Critical Care Division  
Brigham & Women’s Hospital  
Elliot Israel is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, and is the Director of Clinical Research for the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) in Boston. Dr. Israel received his medical degree and completed his internship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. After completing his residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and New York Hospital/Cornell Medical College, he did his clinical and research fellowships at BWH and Harvard Medical School in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and in Allergy and Immunology. He is board certified in Allergy and Immunology, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Israel is an internationally recognized leader in asthma clinical/translational research and is Deputy Editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, the highest impact pulmonary subspecialty journal. He has served as a reviewer for the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Guidelines 2007 and as chair of the Pulmonary & Allergy Committee of the US Pharmacopoeia. His major research interests have included mediators of airway reactivity, the role of arachidonic acid metabolites in airway
narrowing, and genetic influences in asthma pharmacotherapeutics, particularly as they relate to responses to beta-agonists. He has authored or coauthored almost 125 original research publications. He is a Principal Investigator (PI) of the NIH AsthmaNet (a multi-PI network assessing best asthma treatment) and PI for the BWH center of the NIH Severe Asthma Program. He has additional federal grants investigating novel therapies for severe asthma. He is currently PI of a multi-center trial, involving more than 1000 patients, to compare the clinical effectiveness of alternative add-on medications in the treatment of asthma in Blacks. This trial is also examining whether genetic differences affect the response to therapy in this population.

Charryse Johnson, Educator, Alief Independent School District
Charryse Johnson grew up having to make frequent hospital trips due to asthma-related issues and she has always been keen on recognizing distress in an individual with asthma due to this experience.

For the past five years, Ms. Johnson has been an educator in the Alief Independent School District where she teaches pre-K, first, and second grade English as a Second Language. Her classroom won recognition for making school attendance a priority each month. She has further partnered with parents to ensure students attend school daily and parents understand the important role they play in their students’ education. Before Ms. Johnson became an educator she directed, produced, and edited a weekly gospel music cable television show to help provide more quality family-friendly programming. She and her husband have been married for 17 years and they have four sons, all athletes, who are currently in kindergarten, fifth, seventh, and 11th grades.

Sandra McKinney, MS, RN, CCM
Board Member
National Black Nurses Association
Sandra McKinney earned a master’s degree in nursing from San Jose State University and hold credentials as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Public Health Nurse, and Certified Case Manager. She is a geriatric consultant for McKinney & Associates, and provides Medical Case Management services for at risk geriatric clients and individuals injured from work related exposures.

Ms. McKinney lends her professional expertise and leadership through health education presentations, workshops, and volunteer services with individuals, churches, and professional and community organizations. Ms. McKinney sits on many professional boards as well as the board of the National Black Nurses Association. She has received many awards and accolades for her tireless efforts to inspire, educate, advocate, and improve the health care status and well-being of her community.
Perry Payne Jr., MD, JD, MPP
Advisor
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Perry W. Payne, Jr., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He also has appointments in the Department of Health Policy and the Department of Integrative Systems Biology. His research focuses on policy and health professional practice factors which impact the translation of research into improved health for communities, with a focus on low income communities.

He is a former recipient of a NIH K12 award focused on identifying unique risk groups for asthma disparities using ancestry informative genetic markers. He also recently served as an advisor to a project focused on improving in home asthma care for young children sponsored by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Nancy Sander
President/Founder
Allergy & Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics

Susan Sommer, MSN, RNC, NP, AC-E
Nurse Case Manager
Children’s Hospital Boston Community Asthma Initiative

Susan Sommer has a BA from the University of Massachusetts-Boston in Spanish and an RN and Masters of Science in Nursing in Women’s Health from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. She is a nurse practitioner, Certified Asthma Educator and Clinical Director of the Boston Children’s Hospital Community Asthma Initiative, a comprehensive asthma home visiting program, which has achieved 80 percent reduction in asthma hospitalizations and 59 percent reduction in ED visits in 12 months for a population of children with asthma that is 92 percent African-American and Latino. Ms. Sommer has worked in community health with vulnerable populations in Boston, primarily African-American and Latino, for over 25 years.

Stanley Szefler, MD
Director, Pediatric Clinical Trials Center,
Head, Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology,
Training Program Director, Allergy and Immunology – Pediatrics,
National Jewish Health

Before joining National Jewish Health in 1982, Stanley Szefler received degrees in pharmacy and medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He then received residency training in pediatrics, and
fellowship training in clinical pharmacology and allergy and immunology at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Dr. Szefler's major contributions are directed toward the appropriate use of long-term control therapy in asthma, including the recognition of variability in response to asthma therapy. He is also a member of the Expert Panel for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program on "Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma."

Dr. Szefler is the Principal Investigator for the Denver site of the NHLBI AsthmaNet-Pediatrics Section and Co-Principal Investigator for the NIAID Inner-City Asthma Consortium (ICAC) II. He is also a Co-Director for the NIEHS/EPA Childhood Environmental Health Center Grant at National Jewish Health. For the past eight years, he has directed a school-based asthma program for the Denver Public School system funded by the Colorado Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease Program, the Caring for Colorado Foundation and the McCormick Foundation. This program seeks to define the prevalence and severity of asthma, identify those most significantly affected, and to direct those children to state of the art asthma care. Dr. Szefler is the Helen Wohlberg and Herman Lambert Chair in Pharmacokinetics, Head of Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology, and Director of the Weinberg Clinical Research Unit/Pediatrics Section at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. He is Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology and Training Program Director for the Allergy and Immunology Program centered in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine.

Lois Wessel, RN, CFNP
Associate Director
Programs Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Lois Wessel is the Associate Director for Programs at the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU), an advocacy organization that promotes the training of the healthcare team to improve the health of underserved populations. Ms. Wessel has designed and delivered training modules for community based clinics in the areas of chronic disease management, health literacy, group medical visits, integration of community health workers in the medical team, medication management for patients with limited English proficiency (LEP), and use of medical interpreters. Additionally, she has produced and pilot testing low literacy patient education materials in English and Spanish. At the ACU, Ms. Wessel focuses on the role of the expanded care team in the Patient Centered Medical Home, and how to make patient portals accessible to populations with low health literacy and limited English proficiency (LEP).

She is the ACU EPA cooperative agreement director for "Building an Asthma Care Home: Engaging Clinicians, Patients and Caregivers in Comprehensive Asthma Management," a professional development program for clinicians which includes a pilot project on integration of the NHLBI guidelines into an EMR
template. This project focuses on integration of low literacy materials and non-written materials into patient care, use of patient portals for culturally and linguistically appropriate materials, clinical decision support tools integrated in electronic health records, integration of community health workers into patient care, and group visits for asthma patients.

Additionally, Ms. Wessel provides clinical care at Community Clinic, Inc. and Celebremos La Vida, is on the faculty of the school of nursing at Georgetown University and is bilingual (English-Spanish). Ms. Wessel holds a BA in political science from Oberlin College, a BSN from Johns Hopkins University, and a MS from Georgetown University. She is the recipient of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Foundation Award to integrate low literacy chronic disease management patient education into care. She also received a faculty research award from the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor from Georgetown University to study day laborer occupational risks based on low healthy literacy and limited English Proficiency.

**PCORI Program Staff**

**Treatment Options for Severe Asthma in African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos**

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