

# 21st Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

## Contributors

Please note that the lists below are not comprehensive and will be updated with additional speaker names and information as the symposium nears.

## Keynote & Workshop Speakers

### **Tammy Collins, PhD**

Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development  
*NIH | NIEHS*

Tammy Collins is the Director of the Office of Fellows' Career Development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In this role, she creates and organizes professional career development and scientific training opportunities for the postdoctoral community, and she also serves in a wide variety of other capacities such as in policy implementation, strategic planning, conflict resolution, etc. She recently led a team to identify the career paths of NIEHS postdoctoral alumni spanning back 15 years, and published a new tool for both classifying and visualizing these careers in Nature Biotechnology. She hopes the new approach will help the broader community 'speak the same language' when reporting outcomes in order to facilitate meaningful institutional cross-comparisons. She also has a desire to learn more about factors that influence career decisions so that she can best advise those navigating into careers, and so that she can craft career programming that best addresses the needs of postdoctoral fellows. Her central mission is to ensure that others are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become successful and independent in their chosen career.

Prior to transitioning into her current role, Tammy received her B.S. in Chemistry from Appalachian State University, and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Duke University. After a brief postdoc at Duke University, she joined NIEHS as a postdoc in 2009 where she developed her passion for working in the scientific career development field.

### **Lori Conlan, PhD**

[conlanlo@mail.nih.gov](mailto:conlanlo@mail.nih.gov)  
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services  
*National Institutes of Health*

Lori M. Conlan is trained as a biochemist, receiving her B.S. in biochemistry from Michigan State University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Texas A&M University. She

worked for several years as a postdoc at the Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health, before transitioning from the lab to focus on career issues for the next generation of scientists. Lori started as the director of the Science Alliance, an international career development program for graduate students and postdocs sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences. She now is at the NIH in the Office of Intramural Training & Education assisting the 4000 NIH postdocs in their personal career choices. Lori is the director of two offices, the Office of Postdoctoral Services and the NIH Career Services Center. She speaks at universities and institutions around the nation on career development topics for young scientists.

### **Peter Harries, PhD**

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Interim Dean, Graduate School  
*NC State University*

Dr. Peter Harries is the Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at NC State. In his current role, he is dedicated to overseeing and improving graduate education by engaging in partnerships with various departments, programs, and offices across the institution. Previously, he was a Professor and Assistant/Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Although currently his efforts are largely focused on graduate student success, in his research life he is an invertebrate paleobiologist whose research focuses on biotic recoveries from mass extinction as well as comparing and contrasting the impact of green- and icehouse- climates on various aspects of the biota. Dr. Harries received his BS from Yale University in Geology and Geophysics and his PhD from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

### **Kay Holt**

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Deputy Director, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research & Development  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

A career federal employee and member of the Senior Executive Service, Ms. Holt entered government service with the Department of Defense (DoD) in February 1988. During her 30-year career with DoD and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), she has held numerous leadership and managerial posts focused on resource management, acquisition strategy, human resources, strategic planning, performance measures and standards, intelligence, and POW/MIA programs. She is currently the Deputy Director, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC. Ms. Holt is the recipient of two Meritorious Civilian Service Awards; and one Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a Federal civil servant, for her efforts within the classified POW/MIA program and for her service on the Congressional Joint Inquiry into the 9-11 Terrorist Attacks. A native of North Carolina, she earned Bachelor of

Arts and Master of Science degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986 and 1987, respectively. In June 1999, she was awarded a Master of Science degree from the U.S. National War College. Ms. Holt currently resides outside of Chapel Hill, NC.

### **Faith Lightfoot, BSE**

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Owner and Image & Style Consultant

*The Well-Dressed Academic*

Faith A. Lightfoot is owner of The Well-Dressed Academic and is an Image and Style Consultant with over twenty-five years in the world of academia as a "dresser" to her academic husband. Faith places an emphasis on sharing her knowledge and experience for the benefit of others so they become the masters of their wardrobe. Additionally, Faith loves to help individuals see how a garment that fits perfectly, regardless of price, always trumps an expensive poorly fitting garment. In her world, proper fit sets the stage for developing a personal well-fitting style and wardrobe.

### **J. Timothy Lightfoot, PhD, FACSM, ACSM-RCEP, ACSM-CES**

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Omar Smith Endowed Professor of Kinesiology and the Director of the Sydney and JL Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance

*Texas A&M University*

Dr. J. Timothy Lightfoot is currently the Omar Smith Endowed Professor of Kinesiology and the Director of the Sydney and JL Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance at Texas A&M University. Dr. Lightfoot received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from University of Louisiana Monroe and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He completed a research consultantship with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at Kennedy Space Center in the Biomedical Laboratory and then a three-year National Institute of Health postdoctoral research fellowship in the Division of Physiology at Johns Hopkins University. He was an Assistant and Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University for 6 years (two years as Department Chair), and a Professor at the University of North Carolina Charlotte for 14 years, 9 years of which he was Chair of the department. Dr. Lightfoot has published over 70 scientific, peer-reviewed articles on the genetics of daily physical activity and exercise endurance, as well as the physiological response to high-G exposure and hemorrhage and thus far has had ~ \$3 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and Department of Defense to conduct research on the genetics of physical activity. His lab also has a unique interest in the physiological responses of athletes in a variety of non-traditional venues such as auto racing and in musicians. He is the lead editor on an upcoming reference handbook on Exercise and Sports Genetics from Routledge Publishing, and author of an upcoming book series called "Living and Prospering in Academia", the first book of which "Finding the Best Faculty Job for You: Living and Prospering in Academia Book 1"

is now available. His research has been featured in numerous general media outlets including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Time.com, National Public Radio, the Rush Limbaugh show, CNN, the NBC Today Show, MSNBC, Revista Epoca (a Brazilian weekly magazine), and on Australian National Radio.

Dr. Lightfoot is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, an ACSM Certified Exercise Physiologist, a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, a Past-President of the Southeast Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, and a past member of the Board of Trustees for the American College of Sports Medicine. He has been named Teacher of the Year at three different Universities (Florida Atlantic University, University of North Carolina Charlotte, and at Texas A&M University), was awarded the Henry Montoye Research Scholar Award by the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine in 2010. He was named Alumnus of the Year of the University of Louisiana Monroe in Kinesiology in 2010 and at the University of Tennessee in 2016, gave the keynote lecture at the 2013 Performing Arts Medical Association meeting, the President's Keynote Lecture at the 2014 national American College of Sports Medicine meeting, the Keynote Speaker at the 2018 Southeast American College of Sports Medicine meeting, and was recently named the Pease Family Scholar Speaker at Iowa State University. He was nominated as the University Graduate Student Mentor of the Year and Texas A&M in 2018 and he will be awarded the national ACSM Citation Award – the second highest award in Exercise Physiology - in May 2018. He is a native Texan and married to a brilliant and beautiful woman (Faith), used to race automobiles for fun, and has a passion for playing the bass guitar, which he does in live settings with a variety of bands. As if they don't have enough to do, the Lightfoots have recently founded a new company called "Academic Career Development" which you can find at [AcademicCareerDevelopment.com](http://AcademicCareerDevelopment.com).

### **Christopher Long, MPA**

Associate Director for Management/Executive Officer  
*National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*

Chris is the Associate Director for Management (Executive Officer) for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program. In this role, he is responsible for providing a full spectrum of administrative services to the Institute, serving 1,400 people and Institute programs funded at \$750+ million per year. He directs the NIEHS Office of Management, a \$40 million annual operation staffed by 100 federal employees and 200 contractors. Chris has served in this role since 2015, following his tenure as Deputy Executive Officer starting in 2007. Previously, Chris spent 22 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. From 1992 to 2007, he directed Facilities Development, as well as Health, Safety, and Sustainable Development, for EPA at Research Triangle Park, N.C. He led the program to design, construct, and occupy EPA's largest research facility and he launched EPA's first comprehensive sustainability program. From 1987 to 1992, Chris supervised budgeting, facilities, and general administration programs serving more than 1,500 people at EPA/RTP. He joined the Agency in Washington, D.C. in 1985, working as an analyst for EPA's Superfund and waste programs. Chris began his federal career as a Presidential Management Intern in 1984 working for the U.S.

Department of Justice. He previously served as a District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, 1983 to 1984, and managed housing programs for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1980 to 1983.

Chris received his Master of Public Administration, and B.A. in Communication and Psychology, from UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Denise Saunders, PhD, NCC**

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Career Counselor and Consultant

*National Institutes of Health, Office of Intramural Training and Education*

Denise E. Saunders, Ph.D. serves as Career Counselor and Consultant for the Office of Intramural Training and Education at the NIH providing career and professional development services to trainees at the NIEHS. She is a Licensed Psychologist and National Certified Counselor. She enjoys helping graduate students and early career professionals with their career planning and job search strategies. In addition to her work with OITE, she maintains an independent practice in Chapel Hill, NC where she offers career development, consultation and counseling services to her clientele. Dr. Saunders holds an M.S. in Counseling and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the Florida State University. Her experiences have included work in higher education, independent practice, for-profit business, and government.

**Stacy Schnieber, MHR**

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VP of People and Culture

*Camargo Pharmaceutical Services LLC*

Stacy Schnieber brings more than fifteen years of experience in Human Resources to Camargo Pharmaceutical Services, where she works as Director of Human Resources. In the role, she works with strong interpersonal skills to continuously develop the organization, while strategically planning for long term needs. She draws on diverse industry experiences in both large and small organizations, including Staples, Communicare Health Services, and Trak Group executive search firm. Stacy earned her Bachelor's in Communication at Ohio University, and her Master's Degree in Human Resources at the University of Cincinnati.

**Dara Wilson-Grant , MEd, LPCA**

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Associate Director of Postdoctoral Affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill and owner of Careers in Bloom  
*UNC-Chapel Hill and Careers in Bloom*

Dara Wilson-Grant is the Associate Director of Postdoctoral Affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill and the owner of Careers in Bloom. She received her Master's degree in Counseling from Fordham University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Dara specializes in helping graduate students and postdocs who are at an impasse. Whether it's contemplating a career change or striving to advance to the next level, Dara helps individuals develop the tools and confidence they need to navigate through the uncertainty and formulate a plan for personal and professional success.

## Human Resource Representatives

### **Paul J. Burke III, PHR**

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Senior Human Resources Associate

*KBI Biopharma*

Paul Burke, PHR is a Senior Human Resources Associate at KBI Biopharma, Inc. KBI is a contract development & manufacturing organization serving the biopharmaceutical industry. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina. While at UNC, Paul was a member of UNC's Football team. Paul has lived in the Triangle his entire life. As Sr. Human Resources Associate, he serves KBI as a HR Generalist. Paul also leads KBI's recruiting efforts. Paul has been with KBI since 2013.

### **Laura DiMichele, PhD**

Clinical Strategy Scientist

*Cato Research*

Laura DiMichele is a Senior Clinical Strategy scientist with Cato Research, a full service contract research organization supporting drug, biologic, and device development based in Durham, NC. She received her Ph.D. in cell and molecular pathology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a Fellow at Cato Research before joining the company as clinical strategy scientist in 2009. As a clinical strategy scientist, Laura can serve as a program director, project manager, clinical study manager, or scientist on multidisciplinary project teams providing development support to client companies. Specific responsibilities include project and personnel management; writing and reviewing regulatory, clinical, and scientific documents; overseeing clinical trials, preparing for and attending Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meetings; providing scientific consulting; and assisting with the preparation of business development proposals. Laura's therapeutic area experience includes oncology, nephrology, dermatology (wound healing), infectious disease, hepatology, and hematology. Laura also manages the daily operations of the Cato Research Fellows department. During her time at Cato Research, Laura has gained experience in all aspects of drug and biologic development from pre-IND to post marketing.

## **Molly Lukes, PHR, SHRM-CP**

Director, Human Resources  
*Precision BioSciences, Inc.*

Precision BioSciences is a biotechnology company dedicated to improving life. Our mission is to cure genetic disease, overcome cancer, and feed the planet through innovative scientific solutions and with a focus on genome editing. ARCUS<sup>®</sup>, Precision's unique, therapeutic-grade genome editing system. Based on homing endonucleases, ARCUS nucleases are small, specific, and readily delivered to target sites throughout the genome and across cell types and tissues, enabling our researchers to translate the promise of gene editing into life changing gene therapies, cell therapies, and agricultural products. Precision employees have a sense of purpose and opportunities to train and grow – not to mention plentifully stocked kitchens, an award winning work space in vibrant downtown Durham, NC, and fantastic benefits. At Precision BioSciences, we are excited to lead the next wave of medical and scientific breakthroughs made possible by advanced gene editing technologies.

## **Rachel Middleton**

Human Resources Coordinator  
*Camargo Pharmaceutical Services*

Camargo Pharmaceutical Services is transforming the way commercially viable products are identified. We are the most experienced global strategist providing comprehensive drug development services specialized for the 505(b)(2) approval pathway and global equivalent processes. Camargo leads the largest percentage of 505(b)(2) submissions of any team submitting to the FDA, guiding more than 200 NDA and ANDA approvals. We routinely hold 3-5 pre-IND meetings with the FDA a month and work with clients and regulators across more than 25 countries.

## **Lisa Sanders, PhD, RAC**

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Director of Clinical Strategy, Principal Clinical Strategy Scientist  
*Cato Research*

Dr. Lisa Sanders is a Principal Scientist and the Director of Clinical Strategy with Cato Research, a full service contract research organization supporting drug, biologic, and device development based in Durham, NC. She received her Ph.D. in Genetics from North Carolina State University and was a Fellow at Cato Research before joining the company as drug development scientist in 2006. As a clinical strategy scientist, Lisa plans and oversees clinical and regulatory development programs for clients' products, participates in meetings with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and serves as a senior reviewer for regulatory and scientific documents. Lisa's therapeutic area experience includes oncology, hemophilia, myasthenic

syndromes, dyslipidemias, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, juvenile arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease. During her time with Cato Research, Lisa oversaw the pivotal global clinical program for a recently approved biologic product, has authored and overseen the submission of a number of successful Investigational New Drug applications, and participated in numerous FDA meetings in behalf of client companies. Lisa also oversees the Cato Research Fellows program.

### **Zachary Swan, PhD**

Scientist

*Cato Research*

Dr. Swan has 9 years of experience in the biomedical sciences, with proficiency in immunology, microbial pathogenesis, inflammation, and HIV/AIDS research. As a scientist at Cato Research, Dr. Swan has many responsibilities, including writing and reviewing regulatory, clinical, and scientific documents; assisting with clinical trial management, pharmaceutical development, and project management; providing scientific consulting; and assisting with the preparation of strategic development plans. He has gained project and drug development experience in therapeutic areas such as infectious diseases, gastroenterology, nephrology, and oncology. Dr. Swan earned his Ph.D. in infectious diseases and microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh where he studied innate immunity and HIV pathogenesis.

### **Josh Taylor, PhD, RAC (US)**

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Regulatory Scientist

*Cato Research*

Dr. Taylor started in the Fellows program at Cato Research in 2016, and was promoted to regulatory scientist in 2017 after completing the 1-year program.

### **Michelle Villasmil, PhD, RAC**

Regulatory Scientist

*Cato Research, Ltd.*

As a scientist at Cato Research, Dr. Villasmil has many responsibilities, including writing and reviewing regulatory, clinical, and scientific documents; assisting with clinical trial management, pharmaceutical development, and project management; providing scientific consulting; and assisting with the preparation of strategic development plans.

## Career Forum Panelists

### **Danny Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH**

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Kiser-Arena Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics  
*Duke University*

Dr. Benjamin obtained his medical degree and completed a pediatric residency at the University of Virginia. He then completed a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Duke University and a Masters in Public Health and PhD in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the Faculty Associate Director for the Duke Clinical Research Institute and oversees all clinical trials enrolling <5000 participants. Dr. Benjamin's research group pioneered much of the methods in completing pharmacokinetic and safety trials in premature infants. His group has since expanded to the study of therapeutics in children of all ages and most therapeutic areas as evidenced by >250 publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Benjamin has led and continues to lead, multi-center studies for pediatric labeling and is the PI of multiple federally-sponsored grants and contracts of \$250,000,000 in current federal funding including the NICHD – sponsored Pediatric Trials Network to describe the PK and safety of off-label therapeutics in children; the Trial Innovation Network sponsored by NCAATS, the Environmental Impact on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program sponsored by the Office of the Director of NIH, and Global Pediatric Clinical Trials Network Sponsored by the FDA. Dr. Benjamin mentors high school and college students, fellows and junior faculty through his grants as PI of a T32, a K24, and an R25 to train the next generation of pediatric clinical trials researchers.

### **Robert Brown, PhD**

Scientist  
*Precision Biosciences*

Robert Brown received his PhD from the University of Arizona in Pharmaceutical Sciences where he focused on drug discovery and development and cancer biology. He then did postdoctoral research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Department of Intramural Research (DIR) in Dr. Anton Jetten's Group. Dr. Brown is currently a research scientist at Precision Biosciences developing novel gene therapies for ophthalmic disease.

### **Jessica Brunquell, PhD**

Medical Science Writer/Editor  
*ETSI*

Dr. Brunquell received her BS and PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of South Florida, Tampa. She transitioned directly into the medical writing field after graduation, and has been a Medical Science Writer/Editor for one year at Education and Training Systems International (ETSI). At ETSI, Jessica mostly works on educational deliverables used internally at pharmaceutical companies to educate employees on broad science concepts, as well as the prescribing information associated with new pharmaceuticals. She is responsible for overseeing the completion of many projects, from ebooks to animations, and working with multiple departments throughout the development process.

### **Jacob Carter, PhD**

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Research Scientist

*Union of Concerned Scientists*

Jacob Carter is a research scientist for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In this role, Dr. Carter investigates how science is used in the policy-making process, focusing on issues of scientific integrity across the federal government. Prior to joining UCS, Dr. Carter worked at the Environmental Protection Agency as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Postdoctoral Fellow as well as served as an intern with the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Carter has a BS in biology from the University of Central Arkansas, and an MS in biology from Kansas State University. He earned a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology and a graduate-level certificate in environmental studies from the University of Kansas.

### **Caren Cooper, PhD**

Associate professor

*North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences*

Caren Cooper, PhD, is an Associate professor at North Carolina State University, appointed to the Biodiversity Research Lab on display at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. At NCSU, part of an interdisciplinary team of faculty in the Chancellor's Faculty Excellence Program in Leadership in Public Science. She is author of *Citizen Science: How Ordinary People Are Changing the Face of Discovery*. Cooper serves on the Board of the CSA (2017-2020), the ethics working group, and led the committee to create a new journal, *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*. She was co-editor-in-chief for the CSA's journal (2014-2016) and now associate editor (2017+). She is co-chair of the international CODATA-WDS Task Group on Citizen Science and the Validation, Curation, and Management of Crowdsourced Data.

### **Elena Craft, MS, PhD**

Senior Health Scientist

*Environmental Defense Fund*

Dr. Elena Craft is a Senior Health Scientist at Environmental Defense Fund in the Office of Chief Scientist. For a decade, she has strategized to identify, monitor, and mitigate risk from environmental pollution from the industrial sector as well as from within the transportation sector, most specifically around port areas and freight corridors. In addition, she has facilitated development of demonstration projects for new technologies. Dr. Craft's scientific research focuses on understanding health disparities associated with living in pollution hotspots. She holds a B.S. degree in biology from UNC Chapel Hill, a M.S. degree in toxicology from NC State University, and a Ph.D. from Duke University. She also holds an adjunct assistant professorship at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center and is a Kinder Fellow at Rice University.

**Hunter Freeman, LEED AP, P.E.**

Project Manager  
*WithersRavenel*

Hunter leads sustainable stormwater management projects for WithersRavenel. He specializes in permitting and execution of innovative stormwater strategies and controls including green infrastructure and community planning strategies. Hunter is the stormwater administrator for Chatham Park, a 7,500 acre master planned community in Pittsboro, NC committed to sustainable concepts. In addition to his design work, Hunter is President Elect of the North Carolina APWA Stormwater Division and serves on numerous local and national level stormwater management committees.

**Lakshmi Goyal, PhD**

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Editor and Publishing Director  
*Cell Press*

Dr. Lakshmi Goyal is the Editor of the journal Cell Host & Microbe and a Publishing Director at Cell Press. Dr. Goyal has been at Cell Press since 2001. She started her editorial career as a Senior Editor of Cell. In 2006, she was appointed as the launch Editor of Cell Host & Microbe, a primary research journal from Cell Press that publishes in the areas of host-microbe interactions. In 2007, she became the Executive Editor of the Microbiology portfolio with strategic responsibility for Trends in Microbiology and Trends in Parasitology. In that role, she was also involved in steering the launch of EBiomedicine, a journal conceived in collaboration with The Lancet. More recently, she became a Publishing Director and assumed strategic and managerial responsibility for additional Cell Press journals. Before joining Cell Press, Dr. Goyal was a postdoctoral fellow in the Biology department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge USA. She obtained her PhD in Microbiology and Molecular genetics from Rutgers University, New Jersey USA. Dr. Goyal holds a masters and bachelor's degree from institutions in India.

**Virginia Guidry, PhD, MPH**

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Communications Specialist in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison  
*National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*

Virginia (Ginger) Guidry, PhD, MPH is a communications specialist in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison. She writes articles, press releases, and web content about NIEHS research and helps scientists from NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program strategically engage with members of the media. She began her science communication training as a postdoc, when she completed a Science Communication Fellowship with Environmental Health News. She earned her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), her master's of public health in Maternal and Child Health at UNC-CH, and her BS in Medical Technology at the University of Delaware. She believes strongly in helping the public understand environmental health sciences, and helping scientists communicate clearly about their research. When not at work she loves being outdoors as much as possible with her husband and three young boys.

**Jennifer Hoponick Redmon, MSES, MPA, CHMM**

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Senior Environmental Health Scientist & Chemical Risk Assessment Specialist  
*RTI International*

Jennifer Hoponick Redmon is an expert in environmental health science and chemical risk assessment who leads complex projects involving protection of human health and the environment. Her dual graduate degrees include a multifaceted education in environmental chemistry, toxicology, risk assessment, environmental policy, and natural resource management. Ms. Redmon is also a certified hazardous materials manager. With a background in the scientific and policy areas of environmental science and natural resource management, she offers a blend of practical field expertise, technical knowledge, managerial skills, and a commitment to improving public health. Her strong interdisciplinary background enables her to devise and lead projects covering a variety of technical areas. Redmon is co-project director of the RTI study Clean Water for Carolina Kids, which aims to identify the presence of lead in drinking water at child care centers and schools in North Carolina and to help provide low-cost, feasible recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water for vulnerable populations. She is also co-project director for a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture Grant in partnership with Duke University to characterize the potential human health and crop health risks associated with the use of oilfield-produced water for crop irrigation. Ms. Redmon also is co-leading RTI efforts to identify risk factors associated with chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology in Sri Lanka and globally. Other current projects include environmental technical support for federal agencies to support regulatory rulemaking and guidance development. She is interested in linking chemicals and toxins found in the environment with exposures, supporting risk identification, communication, and mitigation measures that improve environmental health outcomes, and improving global sustainability, food safety, and natural resource management in the food-

energy–water nexus. During her career, Ms. Redmon has effectively managed a broad array of site-specific, regional, national, and international projects with focus areas ranging from environmental health, water quality, site assessment, waste management, chemical food safety, risk assessment, risk management, risk communication and decision support. She understands the potential environmental health impacts associated with chemical contaminants and toxins, and she has a concrete understanding of environmental statutes, regulations, and guidance. Ms. Redmon has specialized experience in water quality evaluations and risk management for drinking water and recreational water supplies. She has subject matter knowledge in risk analysis, including chemical toxicity, hazard assessment, fate and transport, exposure science, the development and use of semiquantitative and quantitative risk tools and models, beneficial use of industrial materials, chemical food safety, and data evaluation. Current and prior clients include private companies, national and international nongovernmental organizations, state and federal government agencies, and academic institutions. A skilled technical communicator, Ms. Redmon can synthesize findings into the right voice for the right audience, and she works effectively with external collaborators, clients, and stakeholders. Ms. Redmon joined RTI in 2011 after working as a project environmental scientist at commercial consulting firms. At these firms, she successfully managed multimillion-dollar projects that involved multimedia environmental investigations and assessment, water resource and wellhead protection evaluations, vapor intrusion and indoor air concerns, limnologic assessments, expert litigation and real estate transactions, combined plume assessment and contaminant trend analysis, site remediation, and risk management for vulnerable populations including school children.

### **Bryan Hubbell, PhD**

Senior Advisor on Social Science

*US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development*

Bryan Hubbell is currently Senior Advisor on Social Science for the US EPA Office of Research and Development. He advises ORD senior management on opportunities for integration of social sciences in environmental research programs, promotes interdisciplinary and translational science methods to address complex environmental public health challenges, and chairs EPA's Social-Environmental Science Exchange. Bryan previously worked for 18 years in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) where he was the Senior Advisor for Science and Policy Analysis in the Health and Environmental Impacts Division. He also previously led OAQPS' Risk and Benefits Group which is responsible for estimating exposures and risks associated with criteria air pollutants and conducting benefits analyses for major air pollution regulations. He has written and presented extensively in the U.S. and internationally on health and environmental impacts of air pollution and economic benefits and costs of air quality regulations, serving as the principal benefits analyst for many of EPA's regulatory analyses, and led the project team that developed the environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP). Bryan has a PhD in economics from NC State University. His current research interests include translational science for environmental public health, understanding how low-cost environmental and health sensors can impact individual and

community health protective behaviors, and improving communication of environmental health risks and interventions to reduce exposures and improve public health.

**Shannon Jones, PhD**

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Director of Biological Instruction

*University of Richmond*

I currently serve as a Director of Biological Instruction at the University of Richmond, where I work closely with undergraduate students, conducting research both in the classroom, and in the research laboratory. I am also the program coordinator for a summer bridge program, entitled URISE, which focuses on the matriculation of students from underrepresented groups. During this summer program, incoming first-year students learn a variety of laboratory skills and techniques while working on summer research projects in the area of cell biology. I, along with several other faculty members, teach a research-intensive interdisciplinary course SMART (Science, Math, and Research Training) which teaches first-year students basic concepts in Biology, Chemistry, and Calculus. I earned a B.S. in Molecular Biology from Winston-Salem State University in 2006. I continued on to earn a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. It was during my time in graduate school that I discovered that my passion was teaching. After earning my degree I continued on as a post-doctoral fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill in the SPIRE program, which combines undergraduate teaching and research. I completed my post-doctoral teaching at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. I've taught a variety of undergraduate course including introductory Biology, Immunology, and Toxicology. My current research interested are understanding the mechanisms by which inhaled pollutants induce inflammation and also whether a variety of naturally occurring compounds can mitigate these inflammatory effects.

**Ginger Krieg Dosier, M.Arch.**

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

*bioMASON*

Ginger Krieg Dosier is Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at bioMASON- a revolutionary new start up utilizing natural biological processes for growing cement construction materials. bioMASON's products include proprietary manufacturing processes and the raw materials used by licensees for manufacturing. The performance of biocement materials is above traditional masonry, and can be used as a sustainable alternative. bioMASON's products make it possible for licensees to manufacture on-site in ambient temperatures, enabling savings in energy costs and a large reduction of carbon emissions. Krieg Dosier has experience in managing large multi-disciplinary teams, and managing large projects with multiple milestones. Her research background includes sustainable material development from prototype to commercialization and environmental architecture. Prior to founding bioMASON, she worked as an assistant professor of architecture at the American University of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates

and North Carolina State University. She received her Masters of Architecture in 2005 from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

### **Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD**

Executive Director

*The Endocrine Disruption Exchange*

Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD is the Executive Director of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado, and North Carolina State University. She leads a team of researchers who evaluate and translate scientific studies of chemicals that affect the endocrine system. TEDX creates interactive online tools, publishes systematic reviews, and hosts webinars and podcasts to communicate science to a broad audience. Her goal is to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals by raising awareness and improving laws that protect public health.

### **Mallikarjuna Metukuri, PhD, RAC**

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Manager

*Syneos Health*

Dr. Metukuri has a diverse background that includes medical management, regulatory affairs and clinical trial conduct. Dr. Metukuri has a PhD in Molecular Toxicology and a Regulatory Affairs Certification (RAC-US) from the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society. He has over 10 years of experience in data analysis and understanding and interpreting the scientific basis of disease. Before joining Syneos Health (previously INC Research/inVentiv Health), he was working as a Research Fellow at NIEHS and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. His research resulted in several peer reviewed publications in international journals. His therapeutic expertise includes CNS disorders, cardiovascular disease, inflammatory disease, and rare diseases. At Syneos Health, Dr. Metukuri is involved in providing medical management support for phase I through phase IV clinical trials. His work involves SOP development, medical monitoring, safety review of clinical data etc.

### **Kirk Pappan, PhD**

Associate Director of Scientific Discovery and Application

*Metabolon*

Kirk Pappan received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Kansas State University working in phospholipid metabolism and signal transduction. He completed postdoctoral training at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis where he conducted research in the areas of pancreatic beta-cell failure and lipotoxicity, type 2 diabetes, and beta-cell regeneration. He has contributed to more than 45 scientific publications. Kirk joined Metabolon

in 2011 as a Study Director for the Research Services division, and currently serves as the Associate Director of Scientific Discovery and Application for Metabolon's Precision Medicine division to help move global metabolomics into the clinical testing laboratory.

**Ibrahim Raphiou, PhD**

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Medical Affairs Scientific Director  
*GlaxoSmithKline*

I graduated from North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC) in Comparative Biomedical Sciences; I was an Intramural Research Trainee at the NIEHS (NIH, DHHS) in the Laboratory of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology (LRDT), in the Gene Regulation Group. Subsequently, I joined a Contract Research Organization (CRO) where I worked as a contractor for the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and contributed to the Report on Carcinogens (RoC). I acquired experience in Clinical Research with CROs and a biotechnology company, and subsequently I joined GlaxoSmithKline in 2006, in Medical Affairs and R&D. I was the Clinical Investigation Lead on two recent global clinical trials with results published in 2016 in the NEJM. I have an interest in reducing and alleviating the global burden of disease.

**Manira Rayamajhi, PhD**

Research Scientist  
*Camargo Pharmaceutical Services*

Dr. Rayamajhi joined Camargo in 2016 as a Research Scientist I. She works on the development of regulatory strategies and the preparation of both scientific and regulatory documents across multiple therapeutic areas for submission to the US Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Rayamajhi received her PhD from the University of Colorado Denver in Immunology in 2011. During this time, she developed extensive expertise in host-pathogen interactions and immune modulation. She established an inhalation anthrax model and showed that anthrax spores interact with B cells in vivo and depleting B cells had significant therapeutic benefits against inhalation anthrax in mice. She also uncovered novel mechanisms underlying a unique cross talk between interferon alpha/beta (IFN $\alpha/\beta$ ) and interferon gamma (IFN $\gamma$ ). It is well known in the field that IFN $\alpha/\beta$  is required to combat viruses while IFN $\gamma$  is critical against bacterial infections. However, prior to this work, it was puzzling why IFN $\alpha/\beta$  receptor deficient animals were resistant to bacterial infections. These opposing effects of IFN $\alpha/\beta$  and IFN $\gamma$  on bacterial infections were due to antagonistic crosstalk between these two cytokines. Dr. Rayamajhi was able to show that IFN $\alpha/\beta$  released by infected phagocytes caused down regulation of IFN $\gamma$  receptor on phagocytic cells making them less responsive to IFN $\gamma$ . This work has major implications for therapeutic use of interferons for the treatment of autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis. Prior to joining Camargo, Dr. Rayamajhi was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in the department of Microbiology and Immunology where she continued her work with human pathogens. As a postdoc, she uncovered a novel

mechanism for the detection of a Salmonella protein by macrophages via inflammasomes. Her work was extended to further understand pathogen detection mechanisms in epithelial cells at mucosal sites such as the intestines, urinary bladder and uterus.

**Erin Romes, PhD**

[erin.romes@grifols.com](mailto:erin.romes@grifols.com)

Process Development Scientist  
*Grifols Therapeutics LLC*

Erin Romes, PhD is a Process Development Scientist at Grifols Therapeutics LLC. Erin provides technical expertise and leadership for the development, scale-up, transfer, and support of cGMP purification processes for plasma derived proteins, especially immunoglobulins. She utilizes her knowledge of protein chromatography, filtration, process trouble-shooting, and protein biophysical property determination to drive method development at lab-scale through commercial manufacturing-scale. She uses her technical writing and editing expertise to prepare protocols, internal reports, and documents for submission to regulatory agencies such as the FDA. Erin is also the Outreach Coordinator for NC Grifols R&D where she coordinates the summer intern program and scientific outreach initiatives. Erin was an NIEHS IRTA Fellow in the lab of Dr. Robin Stanley where she studied the structure and mechanism of early pre-60S ribosome assembly factors. Erin completed her PhD in Biochemistry and Biophysics from UNC under the direction of Dr. Kevin Slep.

**Shehzad Sheikh, MD, PhD**

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Assistant Professor of Medicine  
*UNC School of Medicine*

Dr. Shehzad Sheikh is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at University Of North Carolina School Of Medicine and in his fifth year on faculty (tenure in process). Dr. Sheikh has cross-trained in disciplines that position him to bridge the fields of mucosal immunology, genomics and clinical inflammatory diseases of the gut. After completing his PhD in Microbiology & Immunology at UNC, a clinical sub-specialty fellowship in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (after a residency in Internal Medicine and a sub-specialty gastroenterology fellowship) also at UNC, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship in high throughput genomics at the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences. His research group identifies and functionally characterizes genes implicated in chronic inflammatory disorders of the gut. Dr. Sheikh also holds secondary appointments in UNC's Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Program and the Genetics and Molecular Biology Program (GMB). He is currently mentoring three graduate students and three postdoctoral fellows, and he serves on study sections at the NIDDK and various foundations.

**Janie Shelton, MPH, PhD**

Scientist II  
*23andMe*

Dr. Janie F. Shelton is an Epidemiologist in the San Francisco Bay Area with expertise in environmental exposure assessment, neurodevelopmental impacts of environmental chemicals, and prevalence estimation. She now works as a Scientist II in Data Collection at 23andMe in Mountain View, CA. At 23andMe, Dr. Shelton works to maintain high-quality data collection made possible by the 80% of customers who participate in research through web-based surveys on health conditions, wellness, preferences and behaviors. Her skills in study design, survey methods, and biostatistics have enabled her to contribute effectively to a wide range of projects including program evaluation for Doctors without Borders, national surveys for the United Nations, and genetic discovery research. Dr. Shelton holds a PhD in Epidemiology from University of California, Davis, an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of California, and a BS in Biology from Antioch College.

**Jessica Sorrentino, PhD**

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Senior Scientist  
*G1 Therapeutics*

Dr. Sorrentino is currently a Senior Scientist at G1 Therapeutics, a clinical stage oncology company. Dr. Sorrentino received her BS in Molecular Genetics from the University of Rochester in 2008. She then completed her Doctorate at the University of North Carolina in 2013 under the direction of Dr. Norman Sharpless where she evaluated the effects of chronic toxicant exposure on murine aging. She joined G1 in 2014 as a post doctorate to characterize the effects of CDK4/6 inhibition on murine and human hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell proliferation. More recently, Dr. Sorrentino has been integral in leading preclinical murine models to support the clinical development of G1's portfolio. Additionally, she is responsible for the design and execution of pharmacodynamic assays for each of G1's clinical programs.

**Misty Thomas, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Biology  
*North Carolina A&T State University*

Dr. Thomas received her BS from the College Universitaire de St. Boniface in Canada (2005), and her PhD in Microbiology at the University of Manitoba (2010) with Dr. Brian Mark. She was an NIEHS postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Traci Hall (2010-2014) and joined North Carolina A&T State University (NCAT) in 2014. Her research areas include understanding the molecular mechanisms of metal resistance in bacteria, education, and scientific workforce development. She is an active member of the American Society of Microbiology, NCAT Institutional Biosafety Committee, seminar committee chair, curriculum development committee and was recently awarded an ADVANCE-IT (NSF funded) 2018 fellowship for the advancement of women in

STEM. In 2016, she became a partner instructor with the Small World Initiative which integrates authentic research experiences into the undergraduate curriculum with implementation into General Microbiology at NCAT.

### **Staton Wade, PhD**

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Study Manager, Companion Diagnostics

*Covance*

Dr. Wade received her PhD from the University of Virginia at the end of 2009. Her graduate work was in a yeast genetics lab studying genetic determinants of their response to UV irradiation and their function in DNA repair and cross talk with metabolic signaling pathways. After graduate school, she became an NIEHS postdoc and studied chromatin remodeling in embryonic stem cells. After four years, she decided to forgo a career in academia and transitioned into a Study Manager position at the small genomics company, ILS Genomics. There she learned about working in a regulated environment developing genomic and genetic assays and managing GLP and GMP studies. ILS Genomics was purchased about a year later by LabCorp/Covance, and she transitioned to an expanded role in the Covance Companion Diagnostics division. She currently leads development of companion diagnostics assays for pharmaceutical clients. The assays they develop are highly regulated as medical devices and support testing required for treatment with targeted oncology therapeutics. This role allows her to bridge knowledge of the diagnostic and therapeutic industries as well as project leadership and technical skills to make contributions in the area of precision medicine.

### **Pamitha Weerasinghe , JD**

Professional Staff

*Environment Subcommittee of the Democratic Staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*

Pamitha is Professional Staff on the Environment Subcommittee of the Democratic Staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. He is primarily responsible for the legislative activities related to the Committee's jurisdiction over the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NASA earth sciences. He has worked on several pieces of legislation, including the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act, which became law in 2017. He also works on issues related to the regulatory process and scientific conduct at the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as serving as the primary point of policy guidance for Members on issues relating to the Subcommittee jurisdiction. He also contributes to the Committee's oversight efforts to address waste, fraud, and abuse, across his subcommittee portfolio. Pamitha has been with the Committee for nearly 6 years after completing a four month internship. He has served as a Staff Assistant and Deputy Communications Director prior to holding his current position. Before coming to the Hill, Pamitha briefly worked as a sports journalist and in the field

of Higher Education. He is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

### **Chi Zhang, PhD**

Senior Scientist/Team Leader

*KBI Biopharma*

Dr. Zhang is a broadly-trained biologist with extensive academic research experience in molecular biology, cell biology, protein biochemistry, genomics, and epigenetics. Dr. Zhang also has drug discovery experience in start-up biotech companies as well as cell line development and process development experience in a CDMO company for therapeutic antibody and recombinant protein manufacturing and production. Dr. Zhang has a strong publication record in top scientific journals and has delivered presentations in major scientific conferences. Dr. Zhang received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology in 2005 from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She received her Master of Science in Human Nutrition in 1998 from Michigan State University, and her Bachelor of Medicine (MBBS) in Basic Medical Sciences in 1995 from Peking University Health Science Center (Beijing, P.R. China).

## **CV/Resume/LinkedIn Reviewers**

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### **Janice Allen, PhD**

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Scientific Review Officer

*NIEHS*

Janice Benson Allen received her undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill in Chemistry/Biology and her PhD at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Cell Biology and Biotechnology. Her research area concentrated on the pathogenesis of inflammation, with a focus in in vitro/in vivo models of acute and chronic inflammation, cytokines and growth factors, oxidative stress, and transcriptional factors/regulation of gene expression. Dr. Allen worked at the NIDDK and NIDCR in Bethesda, MD as an intramural chemist prior to serving as a faculty member at the NCSU-CVM, where she received funding from the NIH (NEI), NRC, NSF, NC Biotechnology Center, Veterinary Equine Research Center, Morris Animal Foundation, Blue Ridge Pharmaceuticals and state funds of North Carolina. Dr. Allen mentored several undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows while at the NIH and NCSU-CVM. She has been a Scientific Review Officer for the NIEHS since 2002. In this position she is responsible for the initial administrative, scientific and technical review of research grant and fellowship applications and contracts assigned to the NIEHS before forwarding them to outside consultants for detailed peer review. She recruits scientists from academia and industry with specific expertise for each grant application. She assures that a uniform interpretation of NIH grant/contract policies and

procedures is given both to applicants and review consultants, and prepares summary statements of review committee findings and recommendations. Dr. Allen has published over 75 research articles in scientific journals and has presented several abstracts at national/international meetings, in addition to 2 patents.

**Sibby Anderson-Thompkins, PhD**

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Special Asst. to the Vice Chancellor for Research/Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs  
*UNC Chapel Hill*

Sibby serves as the director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and the Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity. She brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education administration. Her expertise is in advancing diversity and inclusion in the research workforce, and supporting the success of all students and postdoctoral scholars. Previously, Sibby served as assistant dean of students and assistant dean in the Office of Student Academic Counseling here at Carolina. In addition, she served as an associate dean of student affairs at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Prior to her return to Carolina, she served as a clinical faculty member in education and dean of advising at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. She has been an active member of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) serving as the NPA's Diversity Officer for two terms. She served on the Advisory Group for the NPA's NSF Paid ADVANCE Grant and contributed to a book that resulted from the project, *From PhD to Professoriate: The role of institutions in fostering the advancement of postdoc women*. Most recently, she served on the Urban Serving Universities/Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (USU/APLU) Action Group on Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce that authored the 2016 report, *Increasing diversity in the biomedical research workforce: Actions for improving evidence*. She also served the Science, Engineering and Public Policy Committee of the National Academies that issued the 2014 report, *State of the postdoctoral experience for scientists and engineers revisited*.

**Melissa Bostrom, PhD**

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Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Professional Development  
*Duke University*

As Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development at Duke University, Melissa provides strategic direction and leadership for graduate student professional development, and her charge includes assembling a comprehensive program that addresses broad and discipline-specific professional development opportunities designed to help graduate students in diverse fields prepare for professional life beyond the graduate degree. She directs the Professional Development Series and Emerging Leaders Institute, manages the Professional Development Grant, and co-founded Duke's professional development blog. She is co-PI on the Duke OPTIONS project, funded by a grant from the Council of Graduate Schools CGS/ETS Award for

Innovation in Graduate Education. Working at Duke has allowed Melissa to complete her circuit of Triangle-area ACC institutions. She previously served as Director of Graduate Academic and Professional Development in the Graduate School at NC State University, taught management and corporate communication at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School, and taught in the English departments at NC State and UNC. She received her master's and Ph.D. in English from UNC, and her bachelor's in English (writing) and psychology from Denison University.  
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### **Patrick Brandt, PhD**

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Director of Career Development  
*UNC*

Patrick brings a sincere desire to help all graduate students take control of their future professions and succeed in whatever path they choose. He directs career awareness and professional skills development programming through TIBBS, and is co-PI on the Immersion Program to Advance Career Training (ImPACT). Patrick also directs the Certificate Program in Translational Medicine, which started as an HHMI funded program in 2006. Patrick has a track record of grant writing success and was instrumental in securing \$5.4 million in grant funding from HHMI, NIH, BWF, and NCBC to fund career development, outreach, and training initiatives. Patrick grew up in Upstate NY. He attended 2 community colleges, and lived in Central America for 2 years before figuring out exactly what he wanted to do with his life. He transferred his credits to Brigham Young University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. He earned his PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Rochester School of Medicine where he studied the enzymes involved in lagging strand DNA replication and a related DNA repair pathway. After a short postdoc at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Patrick joined the Office of Graduate Education in 2008. In his spare time Patrick loves spending time in the outdoors and has been known to commute to UNC on his mountain unicycle.

### **Paul J. Burke III, PHR**

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Senior Human Resources Associate  
*KBI Biopharma*

Paul Burke, PHR is a Senior Human Resources Associate at KBI Biopharma, Inc. KBI is a contract development & manufacturing organization serving the biopharmaceutical industry. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina. While at UNC, Paul was a member of UNC's Football team. Paul has lived in the Triangle his entire life. As Sr. Human Resources Associate, he serves KBI as a HR Generalist. Paul also leads KBI's recruiting efforts. Paul has been with KBI since 2013.

### **Jacob Carter, PhD**

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Research Scientist

*Union of Concerned Scientists*

Jacob Carter is a research scientist for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In this role, Dr. Carter investigates how science is used in the policy-making process, focusing on issues of scientific integrity across the federal government. Prior to joining UCS, Dr. Carter worked at the Environmental Protection Agency as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Postdoctoral Fellow as well as served as an intern with the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Carter has a BS in biology from the University of Central Arkansas, and an MS in biology from Kansas State University. He earned a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology and a graduate-level certificate in environmental studies from the University of Kansas.

### **Tammy Collins, PhD**

Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development

*NIH | NIEHS*

Tammy Collins is the Director of the Office of Fellows' Career Development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In this role, she creates and organizes professional career development and scientific training opportunities for the postdoctoral community, and she also serves in a wide variety of other capacities such as in policy implementation, strategic planning, conflict resolution, etc. She recently led a team to identify the career paths of NIEHS postdoctoral alumni spanning back 15 years, and published a new tool for both classifying and visualizing these careers in Nature Biotechnology. She hopes the new approach will help the broader community 'speak the same language' when reporting outcomes in order to facilitate meaningful institutional cross-comparisons. She also has a desire to learn more about factors that influence career decisions so that she can best advise those navigating into careers, and so that she can craft career programming that best addresses the needs of postdoctoral fellows. Her central mission is to ensure that others are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become successful and independent in their chosen career. Prior to transitioning into her current role, Tammy received her B.S. in Chemistry from Appalachian State University, and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Duke University. After a brief postdoc at Duke University, she joined NIEHS as a postdoc in 2009 where she developed her passion for working in the scientific career development field.

### **Lori Conlan, PhD**

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Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services

*National Institutes of Health*

Lori M. Conlan is trained as a biochemist, receiving her B.S. in biochemistry from Michigan State University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Texas A&M University. She worked for several years as a postdoc at the Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health, before transitioning from the lab to focus on career issues for the next generation of scientists. Lori started as the director of the Science Alliance, an international career development program for graduate students and postdocs sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences. She now is at the NIH in the Office of Intramural Training & Education assisting the 4000 NIH postdocs in their personal career choices. Lori is the director of two offices, the Office of Postdoctoral Services and the NIH Career Services Center. She speaks at universities and institutions around the nation on career development topics for young scientists.

### **Elena Craft, MS, PhD**

Senior Health Scientist  
*Environmental Defense Fund*

Dr. Elena Craft is a Senior Health Scientist at Environmental Defense Fund in the Office of Chief Scientist. For a decade, she has strategized to identify, monitor, and mitigate risk from environmental pollution from the industrial sector as well as from within the transportation sector, most specifically around port areas and freight corridors. In addition, she has facilitated development of demonstration projects for new technologies. Dr. Craft's scientific research focuses on understanding health disparities associated with living in pollution hotspots. She holds a B.S. degree in biology from UNC Chapel Hill, a M.S. degree in toxicology from NC State University, and a Ph.D. from Duke University. She also holds an adjunct assistant professorship at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center and is a Kinder Fellow at Rice University.

### **Laura DiMichele, PhD**

Clinical Strategy Scientist  
*Cato Research*

Laura DiMichele is a Senior Clinical Strategy scientist with Cato Research, a full service contract research organization supporting drug, biologic, and device development based in Durham, NC. She received her Ph.D. in cell and molecular pathology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a Fellow at Cato Research before joining the company as clinical strategy scientist in 2009. As a clinical strategy scientist, Laura can serve as a program director, project manager, clinical study manager, or scientist on multidisciplinary project teams providing development support to client companies. Specific responsibilities include project and personnel management; writing and reviewing regulatory, clinical, and scientific documents; overseeing clinical trials, preparing for and attending Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meetings; providing scientific consulting; and assisting with the preparation of business development proposals. Laura's therapeutic area experience includes oncology, nephrology, dermatology (wound healing), infectious disease, hepatology, and hematology. Laura also manages the daily operations of the Cato Research Fellows department. During her time at

Cato Research, Laura has gained experience in all aspects of drug and biologic development from pre-IND to post marketing.

### **Ken Elstein, MBA**

Organizational Development Specialist  
*US EPA*

After 18 years as a widely published bench scientist, Mr. Elstein obtained his MBA, and subsequently pursued a career in organizational improvement during which he became a certified professional coach, certified facilitator, certified administrator of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, and Distinguished Toastmaster. Since 2004, he has served as an Organizational Development Specialist for the EPA's Office of Research and Development, providing meeting design & facilitation, coaching, training, consulting, and conflict-management services with the goal of helping employees at all levels become more effective and influential. His areas of specialization include career development, job applications/resume writing, interviewing and networking, influencing others, public speaking/giving briefings, negotiation, strategic planning, and stress/time management.

### **Stephen Ferguson**

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Chemist  
*NIEHS/NIH*

Stephen Ferguson is a scientist in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). His primary role is to lead efforts within the NTP to develop physiologically-relevant in vitro models and high dimensional assay approaches to unravel the dynamics of cellular responses to chemical exposure, and their quantitative translation to humans. Prior to joining the NTP, Steve led the ADME/Tox R&D program of Life Technologies developing in vitro liver models and assay approaches for prediction of drug metabolism, transport, toxicity, and drug-drug interaction research. He also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Curriculum of Toxicology.

### **Erica Forrest, MEd, SHRM-CP**

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Human Resources Generalist  
*Camargo Pharmaceutical Services*

Erica Forrest brings thirteen years of HR experience in industry and academia and currently serves as the Human Resources Generalist for Camargo Pharmaceutical Services. In her role, she provides broad active support for general HR functions and always seeks to improve processes, communication, and culture. Prior to Camargo, Erica worked at the University of

Cincinnati with an HR emphasis on recruiting and wellness. Erica earned her Bachelor's in Communication from the University of South Florida and her Master's in Education from Xavier University. Erica also holds a Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati and the SHRM-CP certification from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

### **Shayne Gad, PhD**

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Principal

*Gad Consulting Services*

Shayne C. Gad, B.S. (Whittier College, Chemistry and Biology, 1971) and after active duty service in U.S. Navy, Ph.D. in Pharmacology/Toxicology (Texas, 1977) DABT, Principal of Gad Consulting Services, a twenty-four year old consulting firm with nine employees and more than 500 clients worldwide in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Past President of the American College of Toxicology, the Roundtable of Toxicology Consultants and three of SOT's specialty sections, and recipient of the American College of Toxicology Lifetime Contribution Award in 2008. Served on Council, Membership, Program, and Animals in Research committees for ACT, multiple committees in SOT, and currently on the regulatory opinions committee of the Society of Toxicologic Pathologists. Previously at CMIR Chemical Hygiene Fellowship, Allied Chemical, Searle, Becton Dickinson and Synergen. He has authored or edited 49 published books and more than 350 chapters, articles and abstracts in the fields of toxicology, statistics, pharmacology, drug and device development and safety assessment. He has more than 39 years of broad based experience in regulatory toxicology, drug and device development, statistics and risk assessment, and has specific expertise in neurotoxicology, in vitro methods, cardiovascular toxicology, inhalation toxicology, immunotoxicology, risk assessment and genotoxicology. Grant reviewer for EPA, CAAT, NIH, and Canadian Health. He has direct involvement in the preparation of INDs (111 successfully to date), NDA, PLA, ANDA, 510(k), IDE, CTD, clinical data bases for phase 1 and 2 studies, and PMAs. Served as the COO of two pharmaceutical companies while a consultant.

### **Joshua Hall, PhD**

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Director of UNC PREP and Science Outreach

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Joshua Hall is Director of Science Outreach and the Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) at UNC School of Medicine. In addition, he serves as Science, Training, and Diversity Team Leader in the Office of Graduate Education. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from UNC Chapel Hill and was a SPIRE postdoctoral fellow also at UNC. As Director of Science Outreach, he oversees North Carolina DNA Day, an annual event that sends over 150 scientists to high school classrooms across North Carolina. In recent years,

he has helped to expand DNA Day into other states including Kansas, Massachusetts, Florida, and Michigan. Josh is actively involved in research on factors that contribute to success and productivity in biomedical graduate school. In addition, he is the creator and host of the podcast, Hello Ph.D., which explores the human side of science and life in the lab!

### **Jean Harry, PhD**

Group Leader  
*NIEHS*

### **Jonathan Hollander, PhD**

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Health Scientist Administrator  
*NIEHS*

Jonathan Hollander, Ph.D., is a program director in the Genes, Environment, and Health Branch at NIEHS. Jonathan received his doctorate from the Behavioral Neuroscience Program (formerly Biological Program) in the Psychology department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. Prior to joining the Division of Extramural Research and Training of the NIEHS, he was a Staff Scientist in the Molecular Therapeutics and Neuroscience Departments at The Scripps Research Institute – Florida. His research background includes the use of genetic, behavioral, electrophysiological and pharmacological methods to study drug addiction, neurodevelopmental toxicology and obesity. During his tenure at UNC-Chapel Hill and Scripps Florida he was successful in obtaining NIH fellowship and early career awards, and played a key role in developing and implementing new research programs in the aforementioned areas. In his current position at NIEHS Jonathan is responsible for managing basic mechanistic grants that focus on neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental diseases.

### **Andrew Hotchkiss**

Supervisory Biologist  
*US Environmental Protection Agency*

Dr. Andrew Hotchkiss has a degree in in Biology from Davidson College and a Ph.D. in Zoology from North Carolina State University. Dr. Hotchkiss received additional postdoctoral training at The Ohio State University (psychobiology/behavioral endocrinology), North Carolina State University (environmental toxicology) and the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory at EPA (reproductive toxicology). He currently holds the position of acting Branch Chief for the Environmental Media Assessment Group (EMAG) in the National Center for Environmental Assessment at EPA. Members of the EMAG branch oversee the development of the influential Integrated Science Assessments (ISAs) for major air pollutants in support of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards decision-making. Branch members are also active in numerous EPA scientific workgroups, provide scientific support for other EPA offices, are

engaged in human health and ecological risk assessment research, and publish peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters.

### **Bryan Hubbell, PhD**

Senior Advisor on Social Science

*US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development*

Bryan Hubbell is currently Senior Advisor on Social Science for the US EPA Office of Research and Development. He advises ORD senior management on opportunities for integration of social sciences in environmental research programs, promotes interdisciplinary and translational science methods to address complex environmental public health challenges, and chairs EPA's Social-Environmental Science Exchange. Bryan previously worked for 18 years in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) where he was the Senior Advisor for Science and Policy Analysis in the Health and Environmental Impacts Division. He also previously led OAQPS' Risk and Benefits Group which is responsible for estimating exposures and risks associated with criteria air pollutants and conducting benefits analyses for major air pollution regulations. He has written and presented extensively in the U.S. and internationally on health and environmental impacts of air pollution and economic benefits and costs of air quality regulations, serving as the principal benefits analyst for many of EPA's regulatory analyses, and led the project team that developed the environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP). Bryan has a PhD in economics from NC State University. His current research interests include translational science for environmental public health, understanding how low-cost environmental and health sensors can impact individual and community health protective behaviors, and improving communication of environmental health risks and interventions to reduce exposures and improve public health.

### **Shannon Jones, PhD**

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Director of Biological Instruction

*University of Richmond*

I currently serve as a Director of Biological Instruction at the University of Richmond, where I work closely with undergraduate students, conducting research both in the classroom, and in the research laboratory. I am also the program coordinator for a summer bridge program, entitled URISE, which focuses on the matriculation of students from underrepresented groups. During this summer program, incoming first-year students learn a variety of laboratory skills and techniques while working on summer research projects in the area of cell biology. I, along with several other faculty members, teach a research-intensive interdisciplinary course SMART (Science, Math, and Research Training) which teaches first-year students basic concepts in Biology, Chemistry, and Calculus. I earned a B.S. in Molecular Biology from Winston-Salem State University in 2006. I continued on to earn a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. It was during my time in graduate school that I discovered that

my passion was teaching. After earning my degree I continued on as a post-doctoral fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill in the SPIRE program, which combines undergraduate teaching and research. I completed my post-doctoral teaching at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. I've taught a variety of undergraduate course including introductory Biology, Immunology, and Toxicology. My current research interested are understanding the mechanisms by which inhaled pollutants induce inflammation and also whether a variety of naturally occurring compounds can mitigate these inflammatory effects.

### **Susan Lankford, PhD**

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Director, Science and Technology Development  
*NC Biotechnology Center*

Susan M. Lankford, Ph.D. is a Director of Science and Technology Development at NCBiotech. In this role, she evaluates research proposals submitted to the Center's research grant funding programs that are designed to support infrastructure, encourage collaboration and drive innovation toward real world solutions at North Carolina academic and not-for-profit institutions. She also coordinates the NCBiotech Jobs Network, which supports life science professionals in transition. She earned an undergraduate degree in zoology from Eastern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in comparative biomedical science from NCSU.

### **Rebekah Layton, PhD**

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Program Director  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Rebekah Layton, PhD, is the Program Director for Training Initiatives for Biological and Biomedical Sciences (TIBBS) in the Office of Graduate Education at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Rebekah is passionate about coaching trainees in search of career and professional development guidance, working with doctoral and postdoctoral trainees. She firmly believes that exciting career options await each trainee, and helps individuals to identify and capitalize on their strengths to prepare for the next steps toward career success that are right for them. Rebekah also enjoys using her statistical background to evaluate and improve professional development opportunities for and within graduate education. She received her PhD (Social & Personality Psychology) and MA (Psychology) from the University at Albany, State University of New York, and her BA (Psychology; History & Sociology of Science) from the University of Pennsylvania. Rebekah is particularly interested in applying lessons-learned from self-regulatory research and positive psychology, while using a coaching philosophy, to improve people's lives and help them to reach their goals to attain career success and satisfaction.

### **Faith Lightfoot, BSE**

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Owner and Image & Style Consultant

*The Well-Dressed Academic*

Faith A. Lightfoot is owner of The Well-Dressed Academic and is an Image and Style Consultant with over twenty-five years in the world of academia as a "dresser" to her academic husband. Faith places an emphasis on sharing her knowledge and experience for the benefit of others so they become the masters of their wardrobe. Additionally, Faith loves to help individuals see how a garment that fits perfectly, regardless of price, always trumps an expensive poorly fitting garment. In her world, proper fit sets the stage for developing a personal well-fitting style and wardrobe.

### **J. Timothy Lightfoot, PhD, FACSM, ACSM-RCEP, ACSM-CES**

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Omar Smith Endowed Professor of Kinesiology and the Director of the Sydney and JL Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance

*Texas A&M University*

Dr. J. Timothy Lightfoot is currently the Omar Smith Endowed Professor of Kinesiology and the Director of the Sydney and JL Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance at Texas A&M University. Dr. Lightfoot received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from University of Louisiana Monroe and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He completed a research consultantship with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at Kennedy Space Center in the Biomedical Laboratory and then a three-year National Institute of Health postdoctoral research fellowship in the Division of Physiology at Johns Hopkins University. He was an Assistant and Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University for 6 years (two years as Department Chair), and a Professor at the University of North Carolina Charlotte for 14 years, 9 years of which he was Chair of the department. Dr. Lightfoot has published over 70 scientific, peer-reviewed articles on the genetics of daily physical activity and exercise endurance, as well as the physiological response to high-G exposure and hemorrhage and thus far has had  $\approx$  \$3 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and Department of Defense to conduct research on the genetics of physical activity. His lab also has a unique interest in the physiological responses of athletes in a variety of non-traditional venues such as auto racing and in musicians. He is the lead editor on an upcoming reference handbook on Exercise and Sports Genetics from Routledge Publishing, and author of an upcoming book series called "Living and Prospering in Academia", the first book of which "Finding the Best Faculty Job for You: Living and Prospering in Academia Book 1" is now available. His research has been featured in numerous general media outlets including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Time.com, National Public Radio, the Rush Limbaugh show, CNN, the NBC Today Show, MSNBC, Revista Epoca (a Brazilian weekly magazine), and on Australian National Radio. Dr. Lightfoot is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, an ACSM Certified Exercise Physiologist, a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, a Past-President of the Southeast Regional Chapter of the American College of

Sports Medicine, and a past member of the Board of Trustees for the American College of Sports Medicine. He has been named Teacher of the Year at three different Universities (Florida Atlantic University, University of North Carolina Charlotte, and at Texas A&M University), was awarded the Henry Montoye Research Scholar Award by the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine in 2010. He was named Alumnus of the Year of the University of Louisiana Monroe in Kinesiology in 2010 and at the University of Tennessee in 2016, gave the keynote lecture at the 2013 Performing Arts Medical Association meeting, the President's Keynote Lecture at the 2014 national American College of Sports Medicine meeting, the Keynote Speaker at the 2018 Southeast American College of Sports Medicine meeting, and was recently named the Pease Family Scholar Speaker at Iowa State University. He was nominated as the University Graduate Student Mentor of the Year and Texas A&M in 2018 and he will be awarded the national ACSM Citation Award – the second highest award in Exercise Physiology - in May 2018. He is a native Texan and married to a brilliant and beautiful woman (Faith), used to race automobiles for fun, and has a passion for playing the bass guitar, which he does in live settings with a variety of bands. As if they don't have enough to do, the Lightfoots have recently founded a new company called "Academic Career Development" which you can find at [AcademicCareerDevelopment.com](http://AcademicCareerDevelopment.com).

### **Ibrahim Raphiou, PhD**

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Medical Affairs Scientific Director  
*GlaxoSmithKline*

I graduated from North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC) in Comparative Biomedical Sciences; I was an Intramural Research Trainee at the NIEHS (NIH, DHHS) in the Laboratory of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology (LRDT), in the Gene Regulation Group. Subsequently, I joined a Contract Research Organization (CRO) where I worked as a contractor for the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and contributed to the Report on Carcinogens (RoC). I acquired experience in Clinical Research with CROs and a biotechnology company, and subsequently I joined GlaxoSmithKline in 2006, in Medical Affairs and R&D. I was the Clinical Investigation Lead on two recent global clinical trials with results published in 2016 in the NEJM. I have an interest in reducing and alleviating the global burden of disease.

### **Amy Rawls, PhD, PHR**

HR Director  
*Research Square*

Amy Rawls, Ph.D., PHR Human Resources Research Square Amy earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics at Washington University in St. Louis studying pattern formation in the Drosophila retina. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship, also at Wash U, focused on developing a mouse model of a congenital bone marrow failure syndrome, she took some time away from bench science. During that time, Amy started editing and writing scientific content as a

freelancer. In 2010, she joined Research Square (then, American Journal Experts) as a Managing Editor. After some time in a manager role, Amy found a way to apply her strengths and interests in the HR realm, first in recruitment and talent development and now as HR Director. She enjoys the puzzle of helping trained scientists find new ways to apply their own strengths, interests, and knowledge to a new field when that's the right path for them.

**Jennifer Richmond-Bryant, PhD**

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Senior Physical Scientist

*EPA*

Dr. Jen Richmond-Bryant specializes in human exposure to air pollution. This includes studying the transport and dispersion mechanisms leading to spatiotemporal variability in concentrations of particulate matter (PM) and gaseous air pollutants and how such variability influences estimates of human exposure. Her work has been published more than thirty times in several high impact journals, such as Environmental Health Perspectives, Environmental Science and Technology, Atmospheric Environment, and Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology. Jen has served as an exposure assessment subject matter expert for the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) for nearly ten years. In this capacity, she has authored sections and managed chapters of the Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) on exposure assessment and/or atmospheric science for PM, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur, and lead. Jen also holds a part-time position as Teaching Assistant Professor in Environmental Technology at North Carolina State University, where she teaches courses on air quality and advises students. Prior to joining the EPA in 2008, Jen served as an Assistant Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) Urban Public Health program.

**Donita Robinson, PhD**

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Associate Professor

*UNC Chapel Hill*

Dr. Donita Robinson is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Texas at Austin and was a postdoctoral fellow at the UNC in the Department of Chemistry. As an Associate Professor, her scientific expertise lies in neural dynamics of corticostriatal circuits during drug exposure and action selection in animal models. She specializes in measurements of real-time neural activity, such as dopamine release and neuronal firing patterns, during animal behavior. Currently, a major focus of her lab is to investigate the long-term consequences of adolescent binge alcohol on neural mechanisms of reward bias and behavioral flexibility.

**Lisa Sanders, PhD, RAC**

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Director of Clinical Strategy, Principal Clinical Strategy Scientist  
*Cato Research*

Dr. Lisa Sanders is a Principal Scientist and the Director of Clinical Strategy with Cato Research, a full service contract research organization supporting drug, biologic, and device development based in Durham, NC. She received her Ph.D. in Genetics from North Carolina State University and was a Fellow at Cato Research before joining the company as drug development scientist in 2006. As a clinical strategy scientist, Lisa plans and oversees clinical and regulatory development programs for clients' products, participates in meetings with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and serves as a senior reviewer for regulatory and scientific documents. Lisa's therapeutic area experience includes oncology, hemophilia, myasthenic syndromes, dyslipidemias, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, juvenile arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease. During her time with Cato Research, Lisa oversaw the pivotal global clinical program for a recently approved biologic product, has authored and overseen the submission of a number of successful Investigational New Drug applications, and participated in numerous FDA meetings in behalf of client companies. Lisa also oversees the Cato Research Fellows program.

**Denise Saunders, PhD, NCC**

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Career Counselor and Consultant  
*National Institutes of Health, Office of Intramural Training and Education*

Denise E. Saunders, Ph.D. serves as Career Counselor and Consultant for the Office of Intramural Training and Education at the NIH providing career and professional development services to trainees at the NIEHS. She is a Licensed Psychologist and National Certified Counselor. She enjoys helping graduate students and early career professionals with their career planning and job search strategies. In addition to her work with OITE, she maintains an independent practice in Chapel Hill, NC where she offers career development, consultation and counseling services to her clientele. Dr. Saunders holds an M.S. in Counseling and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the Florida State University. Her experiences have included work in higher education, independent practice, for-profit business, and government.

**Paul Schlosser, PhD**

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Environmental Health Scientist  
*U.S. EPA, NCEA*

Paul Schlosser received his Bachelors of Science (1982) and PhD (1988) from the University of Rochester, with a Masters of Applied Science (1984) from the University of Toronto, all in Chemical Engineering. He then conducted three years of postdoctoral research in Biochemical

Engineering at the California Institute of Technology, developing methods to identify limiting factors in biochemical pathways used in industrial fermentation and cell cultures. In 1991 Paul joined the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology (later the CIIT Centers for Health Research), and conducted research on the modeling of xenobiotic metabolism and dosimetry, with applications in risk assessment. Dr. Schlosser came to the U.S. EPA, National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in 2004 as an Environmental Health Scientist, where he now co-chairs NCEA's Pharmacokinetic Workgroup (PKWG), tasked with evaluating and guiding or conducting the application of PBPK and PK models in risk assessment.

### **Janie Shelton, MPH, PhD**

Scientist II  
*23andMe*

Dr. Janie F. Shelton is an Epidemiologist in the San Francisco Bay Area with expertise in environmental exposure assessment, neurodevelopmental impacts of environmental chemicals, and prevalence estimation. She now works as a Scientist II in Data Collection at 23andMe in Mountain View, CA. At 23andMe, Dr. Shelton works to maintain high-quality data collection made possible by the 80% of customers who participate in research through web-based surveys on health conditions, wellness, preferences and behaviors. Her skills in study design, survey methods, and biostatistics have enabled her to contribute effectively to a wide range of projects including program evaluation for Doctors without Borders, national surveys for the United Nations, and genetic discovery research. Dr. Shelton holds a PhD in Epidemiology from University of California, Davis, an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of California, and a BS in Biology from Antioch College.

### **Jessica Sorrentino, PhD**

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Senior Scientist  
*G1 Therapeutics*

Dr. Sorrentino is currently a Senior Scientist at G1 Therapeutics, a clinical stage oncology company. Dr. Sorrentino received her BS in Molecular Genetics from the University of Rochester in 2008. She then completed her Doctorate at the University of North Carolina in 2013 under the direction of Dr. Norman Sharpless where she evaluated the effects of chronic toxicant exposure on murine aging. She joined G1 in 2014 as a post doctorate to characterize the effects of CDK4/6 inhibition on murine and human hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell proliferation. More recently, Dr. Sorrentino has been integral in leading preclinical murine models to support the clinical development of G1's portfolio. Additionally, she is responsible for the design and execution of pharmacodynamic assays for each of G1's clinical programs.

### **Molly Starback, MSLS**

Director

*Duke Office of Postdoctoral Services*

Molly Starback, MSLS, is the founding Director of the Duke Office of Postdoctoral Services. Opened in 2006, Duke Postdoctoral Services is the central resource for over 600 postdocs, serving Arts and Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering appointees. Duke Postdoctoral Services promotes postdocs as a key part of the Duke research enterprise and strives to integrate postdocs into University life. As Director, Molly oversees postdoctoral policy and serves as the career advisor for postdoctoral appointees in the life sciences, natural sciences, engineering, humanities, and social sciences. Molly develops and oversees programs including the annual day-long Postdoctoral Responsible Conduct of Research Orientation and career seminars on topics including the Academic Job Search, Careers Beyond Academia, Lab Management, and Grantsmanship. In 2006 Molly created Postdoctoberfest, a yearly appreciation event at which awards are presented to Duke's Outstanding Postdoc and Outstanding Postdoc Mentor. She also established annual professional development awards and helped create the Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars for Diversity Program. In addition to working with postdocs, Molly is an academic adviser for first- and second-year Duke undergraduates. She is a member of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Advisory Council. Previously, she served as Co-Chair of the NPA Resource Development Committee, and member of the AAMC GREAT Group Postdoctorate Leaders Steering Committee, NPA Membership Committee, and NPA Website Taskforce. In 2008 Molly received the Duke Meritorious Service Presidential Award in recognition of her work on behalf of postdocs.

### **Staton Wade, PhD**

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Study Manager, Companion Diagnostics

*Covance*

Dr. Wade received her PhD from the University of Virginia at the end of 2009. Her graduate work was in a yeast genetics lab studying genetic determinants of their response to UV irradiation and their function in DNA repair and cross talk with metabolic signaling pathways. After graduate school, she became an NIEHS postdoc and studied chromatin remodeling in embryonic stem cells. After four years, she decided to forgo a career in academia and transitioned into a Study Manager position at the small genomics company, ILS Genomics. There she learned about working in a regulated environment developing genomic and genetic assays and managing GLP and GMP studies. ILS Genomics was purchased about a year later by LabCorp/Covance, and she transitioned to an expanded role in the Covance Companion Diagnostics division. She currently leads development of companion diagnostics assays for pharmaceutical clients. The assays they develop are highly regulated as medical devices and support testing required for treatment with targeted oncology therapeutics. This role allows her to bridge knowledge of the diagnostic and therapeutic industries as well as project leadership and technical skills to make contributions in the area of precision medicine.

## **Pamitha Weerasinghe , JD**

Professional Staff

*Environment Subcommittee of the Democratic Staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*

Pamitha is Professional Staff on the Environment Subcommittee of the Democratic Staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. He is primarily responsible for the legislative activities related to the Committee's jurisdiction over the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NASA earth sciences. He has worked on several pieces of legislation, including the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act, which became law in 2017. He also works on issues related to the regulatory process and scientific conduct at the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as serving as the primary point of policy guidance for Members on issues relating to the Subcommittee jurisdiction. He also contributes to the Committee's oversight efforts to address waste, fraud, and abuse, across his subcommittee portfolio. Pamitha has been with the Committee for nearly 6 years after completing a four month internship. He has served as a Staff Assistant and Deputy Communications Director prior to holding his current position. Before coming to the Hill, Pamitha briefly worked as a sports journalist and in the field of Higher Education. He is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

## **Tracey du Laney, PhD**

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Director, Science and Technology  
*NC Biotechnology Center*

Tracey du Laney is a Director, Science and Technology Development at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, a private, non-profit corporation created by the State of North Carolina in 1984 and supported by the General Assembly. The Biotechnology Center's mission is to provide long-term economic and societal benefits to North Carolina by supporting biotechnology research and business statewide. Dr. du Laney received her Ph.D. in biochemical engineering from Duke University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. As Director, she is responsible for managing and administering research grants to NC universities. Prior to joining the NC Biotech Center, Dr. du Laney was a partner and co-founder of the independent life sciences consulting firm, Bioscience Information Partners, specializing in life sciences start-up company formation, entrepreneurship, grant writing, business plan review, investor due diligence, and life sciences markets and competitor analysis.