
Oncology Task Force

July 27-28, 2011
Graves 601 Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Speaker Biographies

Laurie Fenton Ambrose
President & Chief Executive Officer
Lung Cancer Alliance

Laurie Fenton Ambrose, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA), is responsible for managing the overall mission and strategic direction of the organization. Hired as LCA's first President in 2004, Ms. Ambrose has managed LCA's relocation, restructuring, and realignment from a west coast-based operation to its current headquarters in Washington, DC. Today, LCA is nationally and internationally recognized as the premier non-profit dedicated solely to patient support and advocacy for those living with or at risk for lung cancer.

Deborah Arrindell
Vice President, Health Policy
American Social Health Association

Deborah Arrindell is Vice President of Health Policy for the American Social Health Association (ASHA) and heads ASHA's Washington, DC office. Since 1914 ASHA has sought to eliminate sexually transmitted infections and their harmful consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Ms. Arrindell has more than 25 years of experience in social policy, including work for women's economic justice, reproductive and sexual health, and employment and training. Prior to joining ASHA, Ms. Arrindell held numerous positions in health and social policy, including serving as Executive Director of the Home Care Aide Association of America, Director of Governmental Affairs for the American Nurses Association, Director of Social Policy for the League of Women Voters, and Director of Public Policy for Wider Opportunities for Women. She currently serves on the boards of Advocates for Youth, the Partnership to End Cervical Cancer, the Center for Health and Gender Equity, and the Global Campaign for Microbicides. Previously, she had leadership roles with the Global Campaign for Microbicides, the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, National Organizations Responding to AIDS Board, and the National STD Prevention Partnership. She is a member of the Trojan Sexual Health Advisory Council and served on the sexual health editorial board of *CosmoGirll* magazine. In 2008 she received the Mentor of the Year -- Sharing the Legacy Award from Choice USA. In 2008 she received an award for Outstanding Leadership in Cervical Cancer Prevention from Women In Government.

Arin Assero
Director of Advocacy
International Myeloma Foundation

Arin Assero was working in the hospitality industry when a close family member was stricken with cancer. The life-altering experience of caring for a loved one suffering from a debilitating disease prompted Ms. Assero to modify her career path and seek out work in the non-profit sector. She began working with the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) in 2007, utilizing her experience working in communications and management to spearhead a national campaign to raise awareness of myeloma through the Myeloma Mobile – a cross-country effort to raise the visibility of the foundation, educate the general public, and empower myeloma patients and their families. Her experiences aboard the Myeloma Mobile gave Ms. Assero the opportunity to meet and speak with many of the families across the country that were having difficulties in dealing with some of the hardships brought on by inconsistencies in healthcare coverage. Empowered with their stories, she launched the IMF's biggest advocacy initiative to date, based on the IMF's *Cancer Patient Statement of Principles*, which focus on prevention, innovation, access, and approvals. In two years, the IMF's advocacy program has grown to include a dedicated team focused on educating and empowering patients, clinicians, and the community to advocate for critical health issues that affect the cancer community. Ms. Assero is responsible for launching the IMF's legislative action center as well as the patient advocate training program. She has also led many of the foundation's advocates to Washington, DC and their state legislatures to support legislation critical to the myeloma and cancer community. To broaden the foundation's reach and raise visibility on Capitol Hill for the issue of patient access, Ms. Assero and her team spearheaded the formation of the *Patients Equal Access Coalition (PEAC)*. PEAC is a patient focused coalition of organizations representing patients, healthcare professionals, care centers, and industry to ensure that cancer patients have equality of access (and insurance coverage) to all approved anti-cancer regimens regardless of their method of delivery. Today, Ms. Assero travels extensively to Washington, DC and draws upon her experiences not only working with myeloma patients and their families, but also from her own personal experience as a caregiver for inspiration.

Representative Patti Bellock
Midwestern Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors
Illinois State Legislature

State Representative Patti Bellock entered the Illinois State Legislature in January 1999. Now in her sixth term, Representative Bellock's assignments include the Financial Institutions Committee, the Labor Committee on Government and Fiscal Accountability, the Human Services Appropriations Committee, and the Mass Transit Committee. She was honored by being chosen to be one of only 21 members of the General Assembly to serve on the Impeachment Committee and one of only three Republicans appointed to be chairman of a standing committee. She has been chairman of the Medicaid Reform Committee and spokesperson for the Human Service Committee. For many years she has been a community activist in education, juvenile justice, healthcare, developmental disabilities, and mental health issues. She is an advocate of tougher laws on domestic violence, terrorism, drug trafficking, and sexual predators on the Internet. Her landmark legislation - bills requiring mental health parity, MRSA infection control, improving the Amber Alert system, and strengthening child support in Illinois - has been recognized on the national level. She was named to the Center for Policy Alternatives' Flemming Fellows and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellows, two national leadership institutes that study and make recommendations on state and national public policy. She was appointed to the National Health Care Committees of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in Washington, DC. She was named Legislator of the Year by twelve associations including the Illinois Psychological Association and the Illinois Health Care Association for her long-standing commitment to improving long term care, healthcare, and mental health in Illinois. Her focus on women's issues earned her the honor of "Illinois Women Making a Difference" from the State Treasurer's Office.

Kathryn Guccione Chandra, MA
Assistant Director, State Policy
American Academy of Dermatology Association

Kathryn Guccione Chandra serves as the Assistant Director of State Policy for the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA). In this role, Ms. Chandra directs state legislative and regulatory initiatives, focused on advancing the specialty of dermatology, educating policymakers on issues of importance, and lobbying on behalf of the AADA. Ms. Chandra monitors state legislative and regulatory activities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and collaborates closely with state dermatological and medical societies. She frequently lectures at state dermatological society meetings and has authored several articles and publications.

Amy Chen, MD, MPH, FACS

**Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
Emory University School of Medicine**

Amy Chen, MD, MPH, FACS, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery and in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at The Emory University School of Medicine. Her expertise is in upper aerodigestive tract cancers, parotid, and thyroid tumors. She has a joint appointment at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health and serves as Director of Health Services Research in the Department of Surveillance and Health Policy Research of the American Cancer Society. Dr. Chen has been instrumental in developing a team approach to patient care. She developed and continues to lead the multi-disciplinary head and neck tumor board as well as the thyroid tumor board. Her primary focus of research is in measuring outcomes of oncology treatment as well as measuring determinants of successful outcomes of care. Dr. Chen's research agenda is to create a multi-disciplinary, multi-site center dedicated to health services research, outcomes, and quality of care. Her secondary focus of research is directed toward translational research of upper aerodigestive tract malignancies. Dr. Chen joined the Emory faculty in 2001 after a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Prior to that fellowship she was a resident in Otolaryngology and General Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, also in Houston. She is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Chen has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Percy Memorial Research Award, the Rande Lazar Health Services Research Award, the American Head and Neck Society Scholarship Award, and The Women's Fund for Health, Education and Research Grant.

Mark Einstein, MD, MS

Associate Professor

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University

Mark Einstein, MD, MS, is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health and Director of Clinical Research for Women's Health and Gynecologic Oncology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Einstein's primary research interests focus on the pathogenesis, therapy, and prevention of cervical cancer, and he has developed and lead numerous multi-institutional clinical trials in targeting HPV and cervical cancer, as well as cervical cancer prevention. He is active in clinical trial cooperative groups as Co-Chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Group Vaccine Committee and sits on the GOG Cervix Committee. He is on the HPV working group of the NCI Aids Malignancy Consortium. He is active in policy-making regarding cervical cancer prevention participating in the development of the American Cancer Society recommendations for HPV vaccines and is on the working group for the 2011 NCI/ACS cervical cancer screening update. He also was part of the working group for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology's (SGO) HPV vaccine recommendations as well. He also is Chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Foundation's (GCF) National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign and sits on their Board of Directors. He is also Board member of the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, the organization that leads most of the US cervical cancer screening recommendations. Dr. Einstein is also a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) and has developed their modules on the immunologic basis of HPV vaccines for global use. He has received funding for cervical cancer-related translational research by the NIH, GCF, ACOG and the Berlex Foundation. He has been funded by and named an American Cancer Society Research Scholar. Dr. Einstein is a Fellow of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Marc Inciardi, MD
Assistant Professor of Radiology
University of Kansas Medical Center

Dr. Inciardi is an Assistant Professor of Radiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and has many years of experience. He attended medical school at University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and graduated in 1979. He had additional radiology training at Los Angeles County, University of Southern California Medical Center, as well as at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, and he completed his residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Fellowship.

Toni Kay Mangskau
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
ACT Lead for Minnesota's First Congressional District & Patient Advocate

Toni Kay Mangskau graduated from Winona State University with a degree in Social Work. She has worked at Mayo Clinic for the past 24 years where she oversees the clinical trials referral office for the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center's three sites in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota. In this position she provides clinical trial information and resources to internal and external patients, family members, and referring healthcare providers. Previously, Ms. Mangskau worked in the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Research Program, various community mental health and corrections programs and as a state legislative analyst and a volunteer caseworker for a local immigrant and refugee agency. Nationally, Ms. Mangskau has served as a steering committee member for the Summit Series on Cancer Clinical Trials, and was co-chair of the infrastructure/ funding subcommittee to develop a nationwide training program for research staff and communicating with patients about clinical trials. An active volunteer with the American Cancer Society, Ms. Mangskau is one of the two lead advocates in Minnesota's 1st Congressional District. She has met with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels of government as a representative of the American Cancer Society, advocating for public policy changes which will aid in the fight against cancer. She has advocated for increased funding for cancer research on Capitol Hill and for protecting Minnesota's smoke free law at the state level. Ms. Mangskau has also been an invaluable ambassador by building relationships with key community partners in the area of breast cancer prevention and representing the Society in coalitions with other patient advocacy organizations.

Deborah Morosini, MD, MSW
Principal Pathologist
AstraZeneca

Sister of the late Dana Reeve, Deborah Morosini, MD, earned a bachelor's of art from Mount Holyoke College and her masters in social work from the New York University School of Social Work. Pre-medical studies at Columbia University were followed by her 1990 matriculation at Boston University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in pathology at Boston Medical Center, where she was chief resident. Currently, Dr. Morosini is the Principal Pathologist for AstraZeneca in the research and development area of oncology discovery medicine. Following her sister Dana's death from lung cancer in 2006, Dr. Morosini was called to action as a lung cancer advocate. As a board member of the Lung Cancer Alliance, she has met with key national legislators to further lung cancer research and treatment. She is a board member of The Bonnie J. Adarrio Lung Cancer Foundation, and can be heard nationally on public service announcements promoting lung cancer awareness. In November 2007, she received the Simply the Best Award for her lung cancer advocacy efforts.

JoAnn Pushkin

**Director, Government Relations
Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.**

JoAnn Pushkin was brought to the breast density awareness movement in 2005 when she first learned of her own breast density after being diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than necessary, as density interfered with the effectiveness of her mammogram. She is Director of Government Relations for Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.[™], which supports advocacy efforts on both the state and federal level for Mandatory Breast Density Disclosure laws. Ms. Pushkin is also Co-founder of Density Education National Survivors' Effort (D.E.N.S.E.[™]), a national grassroots effort to raise awareness about breast density and its inherent cancer risk, and Founder of its New York arm, D.E.N.S.E. NY.

Jennifer Smith, PhD, MPH

**Director, Cervical Cancer-Free America
Associate Professor, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill**

Jennifer Smith, PhD, MPH, is an Associate Professor (Research) in the Department of Epidemiology with appointments in the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Center for AIDS Research, and Center for Women's Health Research. Dr. Smith is an expert in the epidemiology of HPV and cervical cancer, and has conducted research on this topic since 1995. Her current research focuses on epidemiological studies of HPV and cervical cancer worldwide (primarily in North Carolina, China, and Kenya), with a focus on prevention via screening and prophylactic vaccines. Dr. Smith is particularly interested in cervical cancer prevention among women with limited access to preventative public health services. Dr. Smith has published over 115 articles in international peer-reviewed journal on HPV and HPV-associated cancer. She is an Associate Editor of *Sexually Transmitted Infections* and on the editorial board of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*.

Beth Virnig, PhD, MPH

**Co-Director, Cancer Outcomes & Survivorship Research Program
University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center**

Beth Virnig, PhD, MPH, a Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, also co-directs the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center's Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship Program. Dr. Virnig is nationally known for her scholarly work related to cancer care effectiveness and quality including end of life care. Her current work focuses on comparing cancer care and outcomes and extending knowledge of factors and consequences associated with optimal and suboptimal patterns of care. She has a broad network of collaborators around the United States and in Canada. She was lead author of the recently published AHRQ-commissioned study on the incidence, staging, treatment, and outcomes of Ductal Carcinoma In Situ of the breast. She has over 100 peer-reviewed publications.