

BIOSKETCHES

Aaron Blair

National Cancer Institute



Aaron Blair joined the NCI as a Staff Fellow in 1976. He was appointed to head the Occupational Studies Section in 1978 and became Chief of the group when it became a branch in 1996. He retired from the NCI in 2007. Since then he has had a Scientist Emeritus appointment at NCI and he served as the Interim Director of the new Occupational Cancer Research Centre in Toronto in 2009 and 2010. He has served on many IARC Monograph Working Groups, the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Toxicology Program, Advisory Board for Jacksonville State Study of Environmental Pollution, and Independent Fact Finding Panel into the Use of 2,4,5-T Herbicide in Ontario in the 1950 through 1980s, among others. Dr. Blair has authored more than 400 publications on occupational and environmental causes of cancer.

Samuel Cohen

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Samuel Cohen's research involves several aspects of carcinogenesis, with an emphasis on urinary bladder as a model system in rodents and extrapolation between rodent models and human diseases. His research team has postulated that agents increase cancer risk by either directly interacting with DNA or increasing cell proliferation in appropriate target cells, allowing for more opportunity for spontaneous mutations to occur during DNA replication. Genotoxic chemicals, such as aromatic amines, nitrofurans, and nitrosamines, require metabolic activation, DNA adduct formation, and mutagenesis. Numerous nongenotoxic chemicals have been identified, enhancing carcinogenesis by increasing urothelial cell proliferation, including arsenic, sodium salts, amino acids, calculus-forming chemicals, and phenolic chemicals. Increased proliferation occurs either by direct mitogenesis, such as by high doses of Propoxur, or by cellular toxicity and consequent regenerative hyperplasia, such as occurs with formation of calculi by chemicals like uracil, or by processes involving chemical cytotoxicity, such as following high doses of pulegone or arsenic. They successfully demonstrated the mode of action of sodium saccharin and related sodium salts. Based on their investigations, it is a rat specific phenomenon and unlikely that these pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans. These findings led to the delisting of saccharin from the National Toxicology Program's List of Carcinogens.



Jim Collins
Dow Chemical Company



Jim Collins is currently the Director of Epidemiology at the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan. His major research interest is the impact of occupational and environmental exposures on health including exposures from dioxins, benzene, acrylonitrile, acrylamide, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, and radiation. He also teaches epidemiology courses at Saginaw Valley State University and serves on several science advisory committees on health and environmental exposures.

Glinda Cooper
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Glinda Cooper is a Senior Epidemiologist with the National Center for Environmental Assessment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She received a doctoral degree from the Department of Epidemiology of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1993, and also has a master's degree in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health. Prior to joining EPA in 2006, she was a Senior Investigator in the Epidemiology Branch of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Dr. Cooper has 20 years of experience conducting epidemiologic research concerning environmental influences on autoimmune and other chronic diseases. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers based on her research at NIEHS and EPA, and has been an invited speaker and workshop organizer at international and national meetings of epidemiology and rheumatology organizations. Dr. Cooper is an associate editor of the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and served on the editorial board of *Epidemiology* from 2003-2007.



David Krauth
University of California – San Francisco



David Krauth is a member of Lisa Bero's research group that is currently supporting an NIEHS-funded project measuring bias in animal research. He has significant experience assessing both design and funding bias in preclinical drug and animal toxicology studies. His research includes methods for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, as well as the critical appraisal of a variety of types of studies. His ongoing work aims to improve the translation of scientific research into effective science policy.

Juleen Lam
Environmental Defense Fund



Juleen Lam currently serves as a Science Advisor to the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. as well as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Lam received her Ph.D. in Environmental Public Health and a concurrent MHS degree in Biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins University in 2011, and an MS degree in Environmental Engineering Management from the George Washington University in 2006. Dr. Lam's past working experience includes the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Policy where she contributed to efforts reviewing the IRIS process and also to developing and applying the Navigation Guide approach to systematic review and evidence integration of toxicology and epidemiological data. Her current research interests focus on the development and application of methods to improve the risk assessment process and incorporation of scientific evidence in policy- and decision-making.

Colleen Lanier-Christensen
Environmental Defense Fund

Since joining Environmental Defense Fund in June 2013 as a research fellow, Colleen Lanier-Christensen has focused on analyzing methods of systematic review for environmental health and is completing a forthcoming white paper on this subject. She also assisted in developing EDF's comments on the National Toxicology Program's Draft OHAT Approach. Colleen is a graduate student at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, earning an MPH in Sociomedical Sciences and Environmental Health Policy. Her graduate work focuses on science-policy issues surrounding chemical safety.



Ruth Lunn
National Toxicology Program



Ruth Lunn is the director of the Office of the Report on Carcinogens. The RoC is a congressionally mandated document, prepared on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services that lists and discusses substances that cause or are anticipated to cause cancer. Preparation of the RoC follows a formal, multi-step process that includes scientific review and opportunity for public comment. Lunn provides scientific expertise needed for the overall evaluation of substances for their potential to cause cancer in humans and is responsible for preparing the final draft of the RoC. She has worked with the RoC since 2000, initially as a staff scientist, and more recently as director. During this time, she has contributed to the preparation of numerous scientific background documents that are used in the scientific review process. Prior to joining the RoC, Lunn's more recent research interests were molecular epidemiology studies evaluating carcinogenicity and genetic susceptibility.

Bette Meek
University of Ottawa



Bette Meek is currently the Associate Director of Chemical Risk Assessment at the McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment, University of Ottawa, where she has recently completed an interchange assignment from Health Canada. She has extensive experience in the conduct and management of chemical risk assessments within the Government of Canada, having managed most recently, the program of health assessments of Existing Substances under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) and previously, those related to contaminants in drinking water and air. She has contributed to or led initiatives to increase transparency and efficiency in chemical risk assessment, having convened and participated in initiatives in this area for numerous organizations including the International Programme on Chemical Safety and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Areas of contribution have included the development of frameworks for weight of evidence analysis including mode of action, chemical specific adjustment factors, physiologically based pharmacokinetic modeling, combined exposures and predictive modeling.

Lorenz Rhomberg
Gradient

Lorenz Rhomberg is a Principal at the consulting firm Gradient. He received his doctorate from Stony Brook University in 1981, was a postdoctoral fellow at McMaster University, and from 1984-1994 was at the US EPA. He was on the faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health from 1994-1999. His focus has been on science policy issues in regulatory risk assessment, with special interest in cross-species extrapolation, dose-response modeling, and weight-of-evidence methodology. Dr. Rhomberg has served on seven National Academy of Sciences committees. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and was named the 2009 Outstanding Practitioner by the Society for Risk Analysis. Dr. Rhomberg has served as a Councilor of the Society for Risk Analysis, as President of the SRA New England chapter, and as councilor for the Risk Assessment Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology.



Mary Ross
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Mary Ross has served as Branch Chief for the Environmental Media Assessment Group in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment since 2006. This group prepares Integrated Science Assessments (ISA) that serve as the scientific foundation for decisions on the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). She worked in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards from 1997-2006, where she provided epidemiologic expertise for numerous projects, and one of her primary responsibilities was serving as Team Leader for the review of the NAAQS for particulate matter. Previous employment history includes teaching high school biology and chemistry, and working in the underground injection control program at the EPA Regional Office in Chicago.

Ivan Rusyn

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill



The research focus of Ivan Rusyn's laboratory is to apply genomics approaches to understand the molecular mechanisms of chemical-induced carcinogenesis. Specifically, his laboratory is interested in nuclear receptor-mediated pathways, DNA damage and repair, and the role of diet in cancer. Through a combination of in vivo animal studies and experiments that utilize cellular and molecular models we aim to better understand why certain chemicals cause cancer in rodents and whether humans are at risk from similar exposures.

Jonathan Samet

University of Southern California

Jonathan Samet, a pulmonary physician and epidemiologist, is currently Professor and Flora L. Thornton Chair for the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and Director, USC Institute for Global Health. Dr. Samet has investigated diverse health issues using epidemiological approaches. His research has focused on the health risks of inhaled pollutants—particles and ozone in outdoor air and indoor pollutants including secondhand smoke and radon. He has also investigated the occurrence and causes of cancer and respiratory diseases, emphasizing the risks of active and passive smoking. He has chaired the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of the U.S. EPA and presently chairs the FDA's Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1997.



Matthew Strickland

Emory University



Matthew Strickland is Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and the Department of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. He has taught a variety of in-person and distance education courses on Epidemiologic Modeling, Fundamentals of Epidemiology, and Environmental Epidemiology. His ongoing work includes investigations of both short-term and longer-term effects of urban air pollutants on health as well as a population-based study on the health effects of the Colorado wildfires. He is part of the Southeastern Center for Air Pollution Epidemiology currently funded by EPA and has additional grant support from NIEHS, NASA, and others.

Kristina Thayer
National Toxicology Program



Kristina Thayer is the director of the newly named Office of Health Assessment and Translation (OHAT) in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) (EHP editorial, May 2011). OHAT conducts evaluations to assess the evidence that environmental chemicals, physical substances, or mixtures (collectively referred to as "substances") cause adverse health effects and provides opinions on whether these substances may be of concern given what is known about current human exposure levels. OHAT assessments are published as NTP Monographs. OHAT also organizes workshops or state-of-the-science evaluations to address issues of importance in environmental health sciences. Under Thayer's leadership, OHAT has begun using systematic review methods to carry out these evaluations.

Tracey Woodruff
University of California – San Francisco

Tracey Woodruff is Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences and Philip R Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco and the Director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment. She has done extensive research and policy development on environmental health issues, with a particular emphasis on early-life development. Her research areas include evaluating prenatal exposures to environmental chemicals and related adverse pregnancy outcomes, and characterizing developmental risks. She has authored numerous scientific publications and book chapters, and has been quoted widely in the press, including USAToday, the San Francisco Chronicle, and WebMD. She was previously at the US EPA, where she was a senior scientist and policy advisor in the Office of Policy, and author of numerous government documents. She is an Associate Editor of Environmental Health Perspectives. She was appointed by the governor of California in 2012 to the Science Advisory Board of the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant (DART) Identification Committee.

