

Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force Meeting Speakers

April 6, 2016

Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH serves as the Section Chief for the Chronic Disease and Injury Section at the NC Division of Public Health.

Dr. Petersen has served as Section Chief since 2009. She oversees programs related to the prevention of asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and injury as well as the areas of physical activity, nutrition, tobacco prevention and control and forensic tests for alcohol.

Dr. Petersen brings a passion for addressing health burden at a population level through statewide, data-driven approaches while using a visionary and collaborative approach to address critical health issues. She has worked in a variety of health and public health settings in health departments in New York and North Carolina and has served as faculty at UNC in the School of Public Health and in the Ob/Gyn Department at the School of Medicine. Dr. Petersen received her MD and MPH from UNC.

Jen Sohl-Marion, MPH, RD, LDN serves as the Healthy Eating and Communications Coordinator for the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH) Branch at the NC Division of Public Health.

Ms. Sohl-Marion coordinates nutrition projects, oversees the management of the Branch's ten websites and manages CCCPH communications projects. She taught anatomy and biology to high school students where she spent more than ten years working in the public school system. Ms. Sohl-Marion earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Secondary Education from The College of New Jersey. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her Master of Public Health degree in Nutrition and Registered Dietitian credentials.

Samuel Cykert, MD is a Professor of Medicine at UNC Chapel-Hill, Clinical Director of the NC Regional Extension Center for Health Information Technology (REC) and has been appointed the Director for the UNC School of Medicine Program on Health and Clinical Informatics. He is Associate Director for Medical Education with NC Area Health Education Centers and an adjunct Professor of Health Policy at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

The REC program focuses on primary care practices not only reaching meaningful use of electronic health records but engaging in workflow redesign efforts that lead to better health outcomes across the state. Dr. Cykert's research portfolio includes projects that use informatics systems to improve chronic disease and cancer care overall and narrow racial and ethnic disparities. He began his career as a solo practitioner in Alamance County and therefore is very familiar with the challenges of small, independent practices. His newest effort is focused as the principal investigator on a recently awarded Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality grant, Heart Health Now. This project is designed to partner with 300 small primary care practices across North Carolina to implement the latest evidence for cardiovascular risk reduction for their 900,000 adult patients using principles of population management and value-based care.

Nidu Menon, PhD is *Director of Integrated Health Management (IHM) for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.*

Dr. Menon oversees the management, development and enhancement of all aspects of the State Health Plan's Population Health Management initiatives. Her responsibilities include strategic planning and implementation of the Plan's healthy living initiative, NC HealthSmart; oversight of service utilization and evaluation of progress towards established program goals; communicating the Plan's population management agenda with a variety of audiences including the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly, the media and other partners; and the development and management of the IHM budget. Dr. Menon previously worked with Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) on the Federal Dual Medicare-Medicaid Integration Demonstration. In addition she has held various public health positions in both North Carolina and Massachusetts. She completed her Master's degree from Colorado State University and her doctoral work at Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

Sanga Krupakar, MBBS, MSPH serves as the *Hypertension Prevention Specialist for the Health Systems Unit with the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch at the NC Division of Public Health.*

Dr. Krupakar's primary role is to work with health care systems on hypertension-related initiatives. Prior to her work with the Division of Public Health she worked with the Center for Healthy North Carolina on the Healthy NC 2020 activities. She graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Deccan College of Medical Sciences in India where she also practiced medicine prior to moving to the United States. She received her Master of Science degree in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Linda King, MPA is the *Director of Multi-Cultural Health Initiatives for the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.*

Ms. King oversees implementation of American Heart Association programs in multicultural communities in the Triangle, specifically assisting populations in building sustainable cultures of health. She previously served as a Diabetes Community Health Integrator/Public Health Educator at the Durham County Department of Public Health and worked as an Associate Director/Project Officer for the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund's Health Disparities Initiatives from 2006-2011. During her graduate studies, she received the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. Ms. King holds a Master of Public Administration degree.

Peg O'Connell, JD is a *Senior Advisor of Government and Legislative Affairs for Fuquay solutions in Raleigh.*

Ms. O'Connell has over 25 years of experience in legislative, public, regulatory and governmental affairs, healthcare, media and grassroots advocacy at the state and federal levels. She previously served as the manager of external affairs for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. She is a two-time recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Ms. O'Connell graduated magna cum laude from Marietta College with a BA in history and political science and received her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law.