

Health Watch USAsm 2019 Patient Safety Conference

Patient Advocacy: Drug Resistant Bacteria & Strengthening Drug and Device Oversight

Speaker Bios:

Joycelyn Elders, MD



A native of Schaal, AR., Dr. Elders is the oldest of eight children. Now a Professor Emeritus of pediatric endocrinology, at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science. Dr. Elders never saw a physician prior to her first year in college. At the age of 15 she received a scholarship from the United Methodist Church to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. Upon graduation at age 18, she entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and received training as a physical therapist.

Dr. Elders attended the University of Arkansas Medical School (UAMS) on the G.I. Bill. After graduation in 1960, she was an intern at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis and did a pediatric residency and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock and she ascended the academic ladder to full professorship after her fellowship and board certification in 1976. She also holds a Master of Science degree in biochemistry.

Dr. Elders joined the faculty at UAMS as a professor of pediatrics and received board certification as a pediatric endocrinologist in 1978. Based on her studies of growth in children and the treatment of hormone-related illnesses, she has written many articles for medical research publications. She was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health in October of 1987. While serving as director, she was elected President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Dr. Elders was nominated as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service by President Clinton on July 1st, 1993, confirmed by the Senate September 7th, and sworn in on September 8th. Dr. Elders served in this post until January 1995 following which, she returned to the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital until her retirement on June 30th, 1998.

Dr. Elders has been active in civic affairs as a member of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Northside YMCA and Youth Homes. She was listed in 100 Outstanding Women in Arkansas, Personalities of the South and Distinguished Women in America. She has won awards such as the Arkansas Democrat's Woman of the Year, the National Governor's Association Distinguished Service Award, the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award, the De Lee Humanitarian Award, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Candace Award for Health Science. Dr. Elders has also received multiple honorary Doctorate of medical sciences degrees and honorary doctorate of letters degrees.

Dr. Elders says her greatest achievement is that she married Oliver Elders and they have two sons, Eric and Kevin.

Ralph R. Frerichs, DVM, DrPH



Ralph R. Frerichs is Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology at UCLA where he was active as a full-time faculty member in the School of Public Health for 31 years and as the Epidemiology department chair for 13 years. During his long academic career, the author consulted with many international agencies including the Albert Schweitzer Foundation, Population Council, UN, WHO, USAID and CDC on epidemiological- and management-related activities in 16 countries [Colombia, Bolivia, Honduras, Brazil, Kenya, Bangladesh, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Mongolia, Georgia and the Federated States of Micronesia]. He pioneered the use of rapid community-based surveys and epidemiologic simulation models for focused research. The author also evaluated HIV saliva tests to be used for surveys, surveillance and screening purposes, and helped institute nationwide HIV sentinel surveillance strategies. In his spare time, he created and still manages the popular John Snow website, honoring the historical father of epidemiology, known for his insightful research on cholera.

Honors include the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, the American Epidemiological Society (an honorary society of epidemiologists since 1927), UC Berkeley's invitation as Ralph Sachs Visiting Scholar for his work in computer technology in developing countries, outstanding alumnus of Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and the Prestigious Plaque for HIV/AIDS Education from Thailand's Ministry of Public Health and Bangkok's College of Public Health at Chulalongkorn University.

His interest in Haiti began in 2010, following the onset of what would soon become the world's greatest cholera outbreak. Wondering if a modern John Snow might be out there to assist Haiti led to his subsequent friendship with Renaud Piarroux, the French epidemiologist featured in his book, *Deadly River – Cholera and Cover-up in Post-earthquake Haiti* (Cornell University Press/ILR Press, 2016).

The author has two adult children, Peter and Christine. He was married in Florence, Italy to Rita J. Flynn, following the death of wife Marcy M. Frerichs after 34 years of marriage. The couple resides in Southern California at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Jayne O'Donnell



Jayne O'Donnell is USA TODAY's health policy reporter. She is also co-founder of the Urban Health Media Project, which trains high school students in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore to report on health and social issues.

Jayne has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, CNN, MSNBC, NPR and C-Span and been published in Woman's Day, Good Housekeeping and Parents.

At USA TODAY – where she's worked for more than two decades – Jayne covered the implementation of the Affordable Care Act beginning in September 2013. She also focuses on mental health, addiction, patient safety and childhood trauma.

Jayne has won several awards for her work, most notably for her 1996 articles in USA TODAY on the dangers air bags posed to children. That reporting prompted many government actions including the "smart" air bags and warning labels in every new vehicle.

She has spoken at or moderated panels at dozens of conferences, including USA TODAY's own healthcare events as well as those hosted by the Business Roundtable, AARP and the Leapfrog Group.

A graduate of University of Maryland's College of Journalism, Jayne did graduate work at George Washington University's School of Business. She lives in McLean, Va. with her husband and their teenage daughter - when she isn't at college studying public health.

Laura Ungar



Laura Ungar is the St. Louis-based Midwest Editor/Correspondent for Kaiser Health News. She has been a journalist for nearly three decades, including for The (Louisville) Courier Journal, USA TODAY, the Hartford Courant in Connecticut and The News Journal in Delaware. She's covered health for more than half her career, writing about issues from cancer disparities to lead in water to the largest HIV outbreak in rural America. She's won more than 50 national, regional and local journalism awards from organizations such as Investigative Reporters and Editors, the Association of Health Care Journalists, the Society of

Environmental Journalists and National Headliners. She teaches a class at the University of Missouri, editing stories by students from the United States and India that run in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and in various Indian media.

Kraig Humbaugh, MD, MPH

As Commissioner of Health, Kraig E. Humbaugh, MD, MPH, serves as the chief executive officer and medical director for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department. Prior to joining the health department in Lexington in 2016, he was with the Kentucky Department for Public Health for nearly 12 years, first as Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning and later as Senior Deputy Commissioner.

He is a board-certified pediatrician who has practiced medicine for over twenty-five years and has served in clinical, academic and public health roles during his career. Dr. Humbaugh earned his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and received his medical degree from Yale University. He holds a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Lindsay Calderon, PhD, MPH

Lindsay Calderon is currently a tenure track Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. She obtained her Ph.D. in Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology at the University of Kentucky. She has published 10 peer reviewed articles, five of which deal with the molecular mechanisms of smooth muscle regulation and hypertension. Her current research interest centers on the molecular regulation and inhibition of neoplastic growth. Dr. Calderon has also received numerous grants to fund her research and actively involves her students in her laboratory, which she uses not only as a platform for scientific advancement but also as a platform for post-graduate education. Dr. Calderon has won numerous teaching awards at Eastern Kentucky University, including ECU's Critical Thinking Teacher of the Year Award and three Golden Apple Awards.

Dr. Calderon is also active in public health issues and donates her time and research expertise to Health Watch USA, a non-profit organization which promotes patient advocacy and healthcare transparency. She was an integral part of the research team which produced several publications on the importance of MRSA Surveillance, and problems with research integrity and its effects on healthcare policy designed to confront the MRSA epidemic. In addition, she has worked on projects dealing with central line bloodstream infections and investigated the effects of malpractice reform on reducing healthcare expenditures. She was the lead investigator on an analysis of the current methodology of reporting catheter associated urinary tract infections and presented evidence that the current method is not only flawed but may also result in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services penalizing higher performing facilities. Recent work has centered on analyzing potential biases in reports contained in the FDA's MAUDE database.

Steven Roach, MA

Food Safety Program Director and senior analyst for keep antibiotics working

Since 2001 Steve has led our Food Safety Program and is also a Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working, a coalition of health, consumer, and environmental advocacy organizations that have joined forces to combat the inappropriate use of antibiotics in food animals. He represents Consumers International at the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food and was the Consumers International delegate at the Codex Ad hoc Task force on Antimicrobial Resistance. In July 2015, he was appointed to the World Health Organization Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance. He has an undergraduate degree in physics and philosophy, and a MA in anthropology.

Suzanne Robotti

Suzanne Robotti leads both MedShadow Foundation as founder and president and DES Action USA as executive director. Suzanne was harmed as a fetus by the drug DES (diethylstilbestrol) leaving her infertile. DES was given to more than 5,000,000 pregnant women from the 1940s to 1971. DES Action was founded 41 years ago to identify, educate, empower and advocate on behalf of those exposed to the drug.

Because of her personal experience of side effects from medicines, Suzanne launched MedShadow Foundation in 2015 as an independent, nonprofit health journalism site focused on the side effects of medicines. The goal is to protect quality of life by ensuring every person has access to the risks, benefits and alternatives to taking medicines to manage healthcare. MedShadow reaches more than 1.5 million unique people annually

In 2016-8 Robotti co-hosted MedShadow TV on YouTube. In 2017, Suzanne was named to the FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee as the Consumer Representative. In addition, Robotti serves as a Trustee of Springfield College; as co-chair of the Transportation Committee of NYC Community Board 7 Manhattan; on the Advisory Board of Pace University Masters in Publishing program. Prior to founding MedShadow Foundation, she had a successful publishing industry career as founder first of Cradle Publishing and, later, Baby Publishing LLC, which she later sold to Gruner+Jahr Bertelsmann.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Maryland at College Park. Robotti has been honored for her extensive contributions to community service from The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Patient Advocates

-- Lisa Middleton, PhD

Dr. Middleton is a mother of two children with diabetes and is an activate advocate for patients and affordable healthcare.

-- Melissa Clarkson, PhD

Dr Clarkson is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. After the death of her father following a series of medical errors, she became an advocate for full disclosure of medical harm, patient safety, and patient rights.