



## Speaker Biographies

### **Coleen A. Boyle, PhD, MSHyg**

#### **Director, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Coleen Boyle joined the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities in 1988, first as Section Chief and later as Branch Chief and Division Director. In 2001, Dr. Boyle was named the Associate Director for Science and Public Health for CDC's newly created National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). In October 2004, she was appointed the Director of the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Boyle oversees the scientific and administrative operations of the division. The activities of the division are incorporated in three branches each with two teams. Before joining CDC in 1984 to work on the Agent Orange studies, Dr. Boyle was a faculty member in epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts, Program in Public Health. As part of the Agent Orange staff, Dr. Boyle served as the principal investigator for the Vietnam Experience mortality studies and as senior epidemiologist for a large, multi-centered cancer case-control study. Her interest and expertise is in the epidemiology and prevention of birth defects and developmental disabilities. She is the recipient of the CDC Charles C. Shepard Award for scientific excellence in 1997 and 2004 and has authored or co-authored more than 70 scientific peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Boyle received her MSHyg in biostatistics and PhD in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Public Health, and she completed postdoctoral training in epidemiologic methods at Yale University.

### **Paula C. Durbin-Westby**

#### **Autistic Self Advocacy Network**

Paula C. Durbin-Westby is a member and on the Board of Directors of The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is the leading non-profit organization run by and for autistic people. ASAN seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement in the world of autism. Ms. Durbin-Westby works with ASAN on public policy advocacy, educational issues, media and community outreach. Ms. Durbin-Westby is an autistic community member of the Academic Autistic Partnership In Research and Education (AASPIRE). She is also a graduate of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities' Partners in Policymaking Class of 2009.

Paula has testified at numerous Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) meetings, calling for research into supports and services throughout the lifespan. In November 2008, she gave an invited presentation to the IACC committee on "Ethical Concerns in Autism Research." Most recently she has participated in the IACC Scientific Workshop held September 30-October 1, 2009. Ms. Durbin-Westby received her Bachelor of Music, summa cum laude, from the University of Richmond, and her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Kim Musheno**  
**Director of Legislative Affairs**  
**Association of University Centers on Disabilities**

Kim Musheno is the Director of Legislative Affairs at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). She earned a BA from the University of Wisconsin Madison in political science and has been working in the national disability policy arena for over ten years. Prior to joining AUCD in 2001, she worked on governmental affairs communications at The Arc of the United States and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. Kim specializes in the areas of federal budget and appropriations, long term services and supports, education, and child abuse prevention. She provides national leadership in these areas by co-chairing the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Fiscal Policy, DD, and Long Term Services and Supports Task Forces and participates on the Education, Child Abuse and Health Task Forces. Kim also advocates for a family member with developmental disabilities.

**Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP**  
**Medical Officer, Prevention Research Branch, National Center on Birth Defects and**  
**Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Dr. Georgina Peacock is a Medical Officer Senior Service Fellow with the Prevention Research Branch in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). Dr. Peacock serves as the NCBDDD's liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Children with Disabilities; promotes global awareness of developmental milestones and autism among parents, teachers, and health care professionals in Peru; and continues to publish and present nationally about the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign and autism. Dr. Peacock serves as a mentor for two Research Topics of Interest (RTOI) projects to increase developmental screening by family and general practitioners and two Cooperative Research Agreements related to the dissemination of the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign materials. She serves as a liaison for the Act Early Summits to promote cross agency collaboration in early identification and early intervention through state team planning. Dr. Peacock continues to see patients monthly at the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta.

Dr. Peacock joined the CDC's NCBDDD as an AUCD Fellow in February 2007. Dr. Peacock received her Doctor of Medicine and Master in Public Health from University of Kansas. Prior to coming to the CDC, Dr. Peacock spent three years working with parents, primary care providers, and child care workers to identify and care for children with autism and other special health care needs in Kansas and at the Centro Ann Sullivan in Lima, Peru. She is also a former Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND) trainee who completed her Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship at Developmental Disabilities Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She is the proud mother of 4 young children and has a wonderfully supportive husband.

**Jeff Sell, JD**  
**Vice President of Advocacy and Public Policy**  
**Autism Society**

Jeff is the Vice President of Advocacy & Public Policy for the Autism Society, the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization which exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. He has served as the 1st Vice Chairman of the Autism Society's Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Autism Society's Government Relations Committee and Director of Chapters & Membership. Jeff presently serves on the Professional Advisory Boards of New York Families for Autistic Children (NYFAC) and he is the Vice President of the World Autism Organization (WAO).

Jeff graduated from Lamar University and earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law. In addition to being a member of several professional societies and organizations, Jeff serves on the Board of Directors for the Houston Trial Lawyers Association and was a founding partner of Patterson\*Sell, L.L.P. in Houston, Texas. He is a certified mediator and a co-founder of the Vaccine Injury Alliance and he is presently serving as Public Liaison Counsel on the Petitioner’s Steering Committee for the Autism Omnibus case pending in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC. Jeff Sell has been blessed with four children, Natalie (16), Ben and Joe (15 year-old twins with autism), and Gracie (11).

**Stuart Spielman**  
**Senior Policy Advisor and Council**  
**Autism Speaks**

Stuart Spielman is the Senior Policy Advisor and Council for Autism Speaks, which is the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Recently, Mr. Spielman was a part of creating an “Autism Votes” initiative through his role at Autism Speaks. The Autism Votes initiative provides families and professionals information about national, state and local legislative activities in their area. Mr. Spielman has particular expertise in the area of health insurance coverage for individuals with autism. He frequently testifies to all levels of government on behalf of all children with autism and their families.

**Peter C. van Dyck, MD, MPH**  
**Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration**  
**US Department of Health and Human Services**

Dr. van Dyck directs the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). MCHB promotes and improves the health of mothers, children, and families, particularly those who are poor or lack access to care.

Before joining the federal government in 1992, Dr. van Dyck was director of the Family Health Services Division of the Utah Department of Health and professor of pediatrics at the University of Utah Medical Center. He was president of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Directors from 1978-1980 and chair of the Maternal and Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association from 1989-1990. In 1999, Dr. van Dyck received the Arthur Flemming Award, given to exceptional federal employees by George Washington University and *Government Executive* magazine, for computerizing the Title V MCH Block Grant Services Block Grant application and annual report, and for standardizing MCH performance measures.

Dr. van Dyck earned his medical degree and Master of Science in Physiology from the University of Illinois Medical Center Chicago, and a Master of Public Health degree in maternal and child health from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN**  
**Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration**  
**US Department of Health and Human Services**

Dr. Wakefield was named administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) by President Barack Obama on February 20, 2009. HRSA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services working to fill in the health care gaps for people who live outside the economic and medical mainstream. The agency uses its \$7 billion annual budget (FY 2008) to expand access to quality health care in partnership with health care providers and health professions training programs.

Prior to joining HRSA, Dr. Wakefield was most recently the Associate Dean for Rural Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, a tenured professor, and director of the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota (UND). In the 1990s, she served as chief of staff to two North Dakota senators: Kent Conrad (D) and Quentin Burdick (D). She also has served as director of the Center for Health Policy, Research and Ethics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and worked on site as a consultant to the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Wakefield is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies in 2004. In addition, she has served on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, as chair of the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, as a member of President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, and as a member of the National Advisory Committee to HRSA's Office of Rural Health Policy.

Dr. Wakefield is a native of Devils Lake, N.D. She has a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Mary in Bismarck and master's and doctoral degrees in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin.