AADR Oral Health Effects of Tobacco Products: Science and Regulatory Policy
Friday, September 14, 2018
8:30 a.m.

Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)

Raul Garcia
Raul Garcia is Professor and Chair in the Department of Health Policy & Health Services Research and Director of the Center for Research to Evaluate and Eliminate Dental Disparities (The CREEDD) at the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Mass. In addition his work on oral health disparities, his research interests include the mechanisms of periodontal disease progression, and the role of tobacco products as risk factors for alveolar bone loss and tooth loss. Garcia’s work encompasses the areas of oral epidemiology, health services research and health policy. Garcia is also the Immediate Past President of the American Association for Dental Research.

Mitch Zeller
As director of the Center for Tobacco Products, Mitch Zeller leads the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) efforts to reduce disease and death from tobacco use and bring previously unavailable information about its dangers to light. Zeller has been working on FDA issues for more than 30 years. He began his career as a public interest attorney in 1982 at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). In 1988, Zeller left CSPI to become counsel to the Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Government Operations Committee where he conducted oversight of enforcement of federal health and safety laws. In 1993, Zeller joined the staff of then-FDA Commissioner David Kessler. What began as a two-week assignment by Kessler in 1994 to examine the practices of the tobacco industry led to his serving as associate commissioner and director of FDA’s first Office of Tobacco Programs. Instrumental in crafting the agency’s 1996 tobacco regulations, Zeller also represented FDA before Congress, federal and state agencies. Zeller has also served as an official U.S. delegate to the World Health Organization Working Group for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; executive vice president of the American Legacy Foundation where he created the foundation’s first Office of Policy and Government Relations and senior vice president of Pinney Associates where he provided strategic planning and communications advice on domestic and global public health policy issues involving the treatment of tobacco dependence and the regulation of tobacco products and pharmaceuticals.

Greg Connolly
Greg Connolly is a Professor of Research at Northeastern University Schools of Law and Health Sciences. His research is on enhancing the regulatory science of tobacco products. Previously, he served as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health State Dental Director (1980-2003); Director of the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program (MTCP); Professor of Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and Director of the HSPH International Tobacco Control. In 1986, he led first-in-the-nation state programs and policies to require health warnings on smokeless tobacco (resulting in passage of a federal law nine months later), which was the largest per capita funded comprehensive tobacco control program and held out as a national and international model. He designed, directed and evaluated the MTCP from 1986 -2004 and during this time achieved a 65% reduction in tobacco consumption. He implemented first-in-the-nation state legal requirement for nicotine disclosure from tobacco products. His collaboration with the former Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D Mass.) culminated in passage of the Family Smoking and Prevention Tobacco Control Act of 2009. Connolly is also a former member of the FDA Tobacco Product Scientific Advisory Committee.
Ilona Jaspers

Ilona Jaspers is a Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) in the Department of Pediatrics with joint appointments in the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology as well as Environmental Sciences and Engineering. She received her undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and her Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from New York University. Jaspers came to UNC-CH to conduct her postdoctoral studies in the Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma and Lung Biology in 1997 and has stayed at UNC since then. Jaspers has a long-standing interest in the adverse health effects induced by inhaled toxicants, including tobacco products. As the Deputy Director of the Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma and Lung Biology, Jaspers collaborates extensively with investigators from UNC-CH and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct translational studies related to air pollution health effects. Research in Jaspers’ laboratory focuses on the mechanisms by which exposure to air pollutants such as ozone, wood smoke, cigarette smoke, and e-cigarettes modifies host defense responses in the respiratory tract. Jaspers is also the Director of the Curriculum in Toxicology & Environmental Medicine, overseeing the training and mentoring of graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows.

Scott L. Tomar

Scott Tomar is Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, Gainesville. He also holds affiliate faculty appointments in the College of Public Health and Health Professions’ Department of Epidemiology and the College of Medicine’s Department of Health Outcomes and Policy. Among his major research interests are understanding and eliminating disparities in oral health, tobacco epidemiology and community-based prevention of oral disease. Tomar served as Chair of the Exposure Subgroup for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) 2007 monograph on smokeless tobacco and related nitrosamines, contributed to 6 reports of the U.S. Surgeon General on tobacco and was a lead author on the NCI/CDC report Smokeless Tobacco and Public Health: A Global Perspective. He has more than 100 journal articles and book chapters and serves as a consultant for numerous governmental agencies and professional organizations, including the US Food and Drug Administration and the American Dental Association. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the American Public Health Association’s Oral Health Section and has served as President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) and the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Behavioral, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research Group. Tomar is a former editor of Journal of Public Health Dentistry and Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice. He has received a number of awards, including IADR’s H. Trendley Dean Distinguished Scientist Award and AAPHD’s Distinguished Service Award.

Stephen S. Hecht

Stephen Hecht is the Wallin Professor of Cancer Prevention and American Cancer Society Professor at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Hecht is an internationally recognized expert on carcinogens in tobacco products and their mechanisms of action. He is the co-discoverer of tobacco-specific nitrosamines, important causative agents for tobacco-induced cancer. His laboratory developed the NNAL biomarker of tobacco carcinogen exposure, crucial in establishing secondhand smoke as a lung carcinogen in non-smokers. His current research focuses on the relationship of human carcinogen and toxicant metabolites and DNA adducts to cancer risk. He received the American Association for Cancer Research Award for Excellence in Cancer Prevention Research in 2006, and the Founders Award from the Division of Chemical Toxicology, American Chemical Society in 2009. He was elected an American Chemical Society Fellow in 2009, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2014, and selected as the Editor-in-Chief of Chemical Research in Toxicology in 2012. He has been the recipient of a Merit Award and an Outstanding Investigator Grant from the National Cancer Institute, and an American Cancer Society Research Professorship. He has published over 800 papers in the scientific literature.
Irina Stepanov

Irina Stepanov received her Bachelors of Science (1996) and Ph.D. (2002) degrees in Chemistry from Moldova State University (Republic of Moldova), before coming to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis as a postdoctoral associate. She joined the faculty of the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota in 2011 and is presently Associate Professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences. Stepanov’s research focus is on understanding the mechanisms underlying inter-individual differences in health risks due to tobacco use, encompassing such factors as the chemical composition and characteristics of tobacco products and the biomarker-based assessment of tobacco constituent intake and metabolism in tobacco users. She authored and co-authored over 80 publications, including technical reports to the World Health Organization Study Group on Tobacco product Regulation. Stepanov collaborates with tobacco researchers nationally and internationally, and is currently Principal Investigator on three NIH grants in the field of tobacco regulatory science.

Richard Gregory

Richard Gregory did his undergraduate work at Eastern Illinois University in Medical Technology and Chemistry, Charleston and earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology in 1982 from Southern Illinois University, Alton with Isaac Shechmeister. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Mucosal Immunology with Jerry McGhee, Jiri Mestecky and Suzanne Michalek. Following his postdoctoral training it was time to pursue a real job and he was hired to teach immunology and microbiology at Emory University School of Dentistry. Because of the closure of the Emory University School of Dentistry in 1991 he relocated to Indiana University School of Dentistry where he has remained progressing in 2001 to Professor. He also holds a Professorship in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Indiana University School of Medicine. Currently he serves as Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Director of the Ph.D. Program in the School of Dentistry, teaches immunology to dental and medical students, mentors research students and conducts nicotine-related research on the oral microbiome.

Pamela I. Clark

Pamela Clark earned her Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of South Florida, where she served on the faculty in Internal Medicine (Cardiology). She is currently Research Professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland. She is the Principal Investigator and Director of the UMD Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS), focusing on characterization of combustible and non-combustible, conventional, new and manipulated nicotine/tobacco products and the impact of variations in those products on human behavior and exposure. Clark has been the Principal Investigator or Project Director on numerous funded studies. Clark is experienced in a broad range of study designs, including community interventions, classic epidemiologic (observational) methods, qualitative methods, controlled clinical trials, and laboratory investigations. She is investigating the abuse liability of alternative tobacco/nicotine products (hookah, snus and other smokeless products, e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes) by examining EEG spectral shifts and evoked potentials. She was task leader of a laboratory study to evaluate the effects of menthol cigarettes on smoking topography and biomarkers, and was the Principal Investigator of an investigator-initiated study to determine the physiologic effects of variation in cigarette smoke particle pH, and a study of hookah smoke exposure and emissions. Clark is the co-author of two medical textbooks, has contributed to numerous books, monographs and research reports, and has published more than 120 papers in the medical and public health literature.
Marielle Brinkman

Marielle C. Brinkman is a Senior Research Scientist who recently joined The Ohio State University College of Public Health, Columbus after working 28 years at a contract research organization. Her electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) research interests include the measurement of ‘real-world’ and laboratory puffing behavior, the physical and chemical characterization of mainstream ENDS aerosol using continuous analysis techniques, estimating human exposures to harmful and potentially harmful constituents from non-invasive exhaled breath analyses, and how specific additives to e-liquids affect the direct and indirect harm resulting from ENDS use.

Purnima Kumar

Purnima Kumar is a Professor of Periodontontology at The Ohio State University, Columbus. She received her dental degree from Annamalai University, India and Masters in Periodontontology and Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology from The Ohio State University. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Kumar has practiced and taught periodontology for several years in India, United Arab Emirates and the USA. She maintains an active research laboratory that is funded through the NIH, NCI and industry supported grants. Her main research focus is on host-bacterial interactions in periodontal health and disease. She has several publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and has written book-chapters in molecular microbiology and periodontology. She has also been invited to lecture at several national and international meetings on biomarkers of periodontitis and risk factors for oral and systemic disease.

Deepak Saxena

Deepak Saxena is an Associate Professor in Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology at New York University, College of Dentistry, N.Y. His research is focused investigating the impact of human microbiome on various pathophysiological conditions such as cancer, aging and diabetes. Deepak is currently funded by the NIDCR, NCI, AACR, and Lustgarten foundation, as well as several other sources. In 2017, Deepak co-founded Periomics Care, a research spin-off company that aims to create microbial therapeutic ecosystems as biologic drugs, on a commercial scale. This company partnered with NYU in 2018 to produce a first in class probiotic based drug targeting gut microbial ecosystems to enhance immunotherapy in pancreatic cancer patients. Recently, his group is focused on to determine how e-cigarette aerosol mixtures can modulate oral microenvironment. He has published exciting work in high impact journals including Nature, Nature Biotechnology, Cancer Discovery and Journal of Dental Research. Deepak has trained a number of dental students and postdocs all of whom have received awards and grants and are embarking on great careers.

Jeffrey Kim

Jeffrey Kim is a dentist-scientist with 10 years of clinical research experience at federal government research institutions, universities and non-profit research centers. Kim is a general dentist with an active and unrestricted dental licensure in Maryland and California; established researcher with continuous NIH grant funding since 2005; and a recognized expert in oral cancer epigenetics, stem cell biology, nicotine and alcohol toxicology, pre-clinical and clinical dental material testing standards, and next generation sequencing technologies. Kim is a member of the U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) for International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee (ISO/TC) 106, American Dental Association (ADA) Standards Committee on Dental Products. Kim is a published author and editorial reviewer in leading journals and invited speaker to ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP).
**Judith S. Gordon**

Judith Gordon is Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Nursing. She is a Professor in the Division of Community and Systems Health and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona, Tucson. She received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon. Gordon has over 20 years of experience in the conduct of tobacco use cessation and prevention research. She has conducted seminal work on the role of dentistry in the treatment of tobacco dependence. Gordon's areas of expertise include: digital health for tobacco use/prevention, physical activity, and diet; public health tobacco cessation interventions delivered by healthcare practitioners and quitlines; and the use of guided imagery for behavior change. Gordon has been the PI or Co-Investigator on more than 50 projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private foundations. She has authored or co-authored over 100 books, products, and publications in peer-reviewed journals, and presented widely at national and international scientific conferences. Gordon served on many national committees, and was a founding member of the National Dental Practice Based Research Network Southwest region.

**Tara Aghaloo**

Tara Aghaloo is Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Dentistry. She completed her dental training at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency and M.D. at UCLA. Subsequently, she completed a Ph.D. in Oral Biology at UCLA. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Her research and clinical practice focuses on bone healing, regeneration and remodeling, in both healthy and compromised states. She has been a PI and co-Investigator on over 10 NIH research grants, and is currently the Chair of the DSR NIDCR study section.

**Terry Gordon**

Terry Gordon is a Professor of Environmental Medicine at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine, N.Y., Director of NYU's NIEHS Training Grant, and Deputy Director of NYU's NIEHS-supported Core Center. Gordon received his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge and has a broad research interest in inhalation toxicology with a major focus on the identification and understanding of the role of individual susceptibility and genetic factors in the adverse pulmonary effects produced by inhaled environmental and occupational agents. Current research includes identifying the particle components which contribute to the toxicity of alternative tobacco products in humans and test animals.

**Holger Behrsing**

Holger Behrsing is Principal Scientist at IIVS and Principal Investigator for the Respiratory Toxicology Program. Bringing 20 years of experience in in vitro toxicology and expertise in the use of models for respiratory toxicology, conducts and oversees laboratory studies, as well as teaches and serves as an industry resource for workshops, webinars, and other educational activities. He is the PI for the ongoing respiratory toxicology workshop series that actively reviews current and upcoming technologies that facilitate the use of non-animal models and assays to evaluate the adverse effects and toxicities associated with a wide scope of chemicals and materials. Behrsing attended the University of California, at Santa Barbara for his undergraduate degree, majoring in both Biology and German Studies. Graduating while abroad at the Georg-August University in Goettingen, Germany and having worked at the Max-Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine (Dept. of Molecular Neuroendocrinology), he completed his Doctoral degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology at University of California, Davis. He has spoken at internationally-recognized meetings and has experience with numerous in vitro and ex vivo model systems. Behrsing enjoys combining novel, state of the art technologies to advance the field of in vitro and ex vivo toxicology.