



# NATIONAL FORUM

FOR HEART DISEASE & STROKE PREVENTION

partnership ■ policy ■ action

## 2008–2009 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY





# NATIONAL FORUM

FOR HEART DISEASE & STROKE PREVENTION

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PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND  
ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION AMONG  
ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO  
HEART DISEASE & STROKE PREVENTION



The National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention was established in 2003, and over time has included participants from more than 175 diverse national and international organizations — public and private health care, faith, advocacy, academic, policy and community — working together to implement *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*.

The *Action Plan* provides a comprehensive public health strategy and a framework to guide health practitioners' and policy makers' actions in heart disease and stroke prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials were the lead partners in developing the *Action Plan* and continue to participate in the leadership of the National Forum.

Throughout the year, National Forum participants work in one or more of seven implementation groups: Action Priorities, Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation, Organizational Capacity, Policy Research, Public Health Leadership and Partnership, and Regional and Global Collaboration. Implementation Groups meet monthly via conference calls and in person twice per year to develop new resources and tools, exchange information, and respond to policy impacting heart disease and stroke prevention. The full body of the National Forum meets annually.

### **OUR MISSION:**

To provide leadership and encourage collaboration among organizations committed to heart disease and stroke prevention.

### **VISION:**

Working together for a heart healthy and stroke free society.

### **What does the Coordinating Board do?**

The Coordinating Board of the National Forum manages and directs the business of the National Forum. The Directors of the Coordinating Board consist of:

- At-Large Directors
- Implementation Group Chairs
- Founding Directors
- Immediate Past Chair

### **What do the Implementation Group Vice-Chairs do?**

Implementation Group Vice-Chairs serve as members of one of the seven National Forum implementation Groups and serve as meeting leader in the event of the absence of the chair.

### **What does the staff do?**

National Forum staff are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the National Forum and provide professional, management, logistical and administrative support to National Forum leadership, implementation group and standing and ad hoc committees.

**OFFICERS:**

Mark Alan Schoeberl, MPA – Chair  
Thomas Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD – Chair-Elect  
Darwin R. Labarthe, MD, MPH, PhD – Immediate Past Chair  
Gladys Branic, DSW, MD, MPH – Secretary / Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

James Baranski, CPA  
William Caplan, MD  
Linda Faulkner  
Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC  
Jay Glasser, PhD, MS, FRIPH, FFPH  
David C. Goff, Jr., MD, PhD  
Michael Greenwell  
Michael S. Lauer, MD, FACC, FAHA  
Sharon Moffatt, RN, BSN, MS  
Emmeline Ochiai, MPH  
Elizabeth (Libby) Puckett, PT  
Wayne Rosamond, PhD, MS  
Jennifer Smith, MSHP  
Sylvie Stachenko, MD, MPH

**IMPLEMENTATION GROUP VICE-CHAIRS:**

Brian Bilchik, MD  
Arun Chockalingam, MS, PhD, FACC  
Sara Huston, PhD  
Tim Hutchinson, MSW, MPH  
Viola Vaccarino, MD, PhD  
Joan Ware, RN, MSPH

**STAFF:**

Julie Harvill, MPA, MPH  
Slavomira Lacinova  
Peg O'Connell, JD  
Earl Schurman



## MARK ALAN SCHOEBERL, MPA

Executive Vice President, Advocacy  
 American Heart Association  
 Chair, National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke  
 Prevention

Mark Schoeberl was installed as the Chair of the National Forum in March 2008 and serves as the American Heart Association's delegate to the Forum. As Executive Vice President of Advocacy for AHA, Schoeberl is responsible for the strategic planning and direction of the American Heart Association's public policy program, government affairs activities and community-based advocacy initiatives. This includes managing the AHA's DC-based policy research, grassroots and legislative and regulatory advocacy operations as well as overseeing the technical assistance and support provided to the organization's state and local advocacy staff. Schoeberl previously served as the Association's Vice President for State Advocacy and Public Health. In that role, he led state and local advocacy efforts, cultivated partnerships with public health officials at the federal, state and local levels, and strategically guided the AHA's alliances with government agencies and state-based organizations. Prior to joining the AHA in 2002, Schoeberl was a deputy and executive staff director for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Schoeberl, an Iowa native who now resides in Plano, Texas, received a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science from Simpson College (Indianola, Iowa) and a Master's of Public Administration from Iowa State University.



The National Forum—guided by the recommendations and action steps outlined in *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*—inspires, instigates and sustains the kind of coordination and collaboration necessary to reduce the burden of heart disease and stroke. No one organization or individual can do this alone. We have the opportunity to build on the solid foundation of the National Forum and to expand and grow successful collaborations that can confront and overcome the tremendous challenges we continue to face on our journey toward a heart-healthy and stroke free society.”



**THOMAS A. PEARSON, MD, MPH, PHD**

Albert D. Kaiser Professor; Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research  
University of Rochester  
Chair-Elect, National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Thomas A. Pearson is Albert D. Kaiser Professor in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine and Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. Dr. Pearson is also Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center and directs the Rochester Prevention Research Center. He is Co-Principal Investigator of the Rochester Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Pearson's major research interests are in the epidemiology and prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, with a special interest in the international trends of coronary heart disease and stroke. Pearson was installed as National Forum Chair-Elect in October 2008 and also serves as the Chair of the National Forum's Regional and Global Collaboration Implementation Group.

Pearson received his Doctor of Medicine, Master in Public Health, and Doctor of Philosophy in cardiovascular epidemiology, all from The Johns Hopkins University, where he also completed residencies in preventive medicine and internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology. He is a Fellow of the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, the American College of Preventive Medicine, and the American College of Physicians. Pearson has served as a member and chair of important committees of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Institute of Medicine, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Cardiology. He has lectured and published extensively in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, including research at the patient, health care system, community, and public policy levels.



## DARWIN R. LABARTHE, MD, MPH, PHD

Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention of the Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention  
Immediate Past-Chair, National Forum for Heart  
Disease and Stroke Prevention

Darwin Labarthe is Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US Department of Health and Human Services. Labarthe is the representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the National Forum and is the immediate Past-Chair.

Labarthe received the AB degree in history from Princeton University in 1961, the MD degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, in 1965 and the MPH and PhD degrees in epidemiology from the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 and 1974, respectively. His postgraduate medical training was in internal medicine (Washington University, St. Louis) and general preventive medicine (Berkeley), in which he was certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in 1970.

His professional activities over three decades were based primarily in the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston (1970–1973 and 1977–1999). In January 2000 he joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2000–present). There he has led the development and implementation the long-range public health strategic plan, *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*.

Labarthe's research and teaching activities have been primarily in the area of cardiovascular diseases and their prevention, especially the early development of the cardiovascular risk factors in childhood, adolescence and early adulthood. He was founder and for 25 years directed the US Ten-Day Seminars on the Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases and is Co-Director of the International Ten-Day Teaching Seminars on Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases, now in its 38th year. He has published more than 175 research articles and book chapters and the textbook, *Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases: A Global Challenge* (Aspen Publishers, 1998).



## GLADYS BRANIC, DSW, MD, MPH

Director, Manatee County Health Department –  
Bradenton, Florida  
Secretary / Treasurer, National Forum for Heart  
Disease and Stroke Prevention

Dr. Gladys Branic has served as the Director of the Manatee County Health Department since June of 1989. She sets direction for medical specialty clinics and guides multidisciplinary cross-functional teams to improve the health status of culturally diverse populations. Branic delivers numerous local, national and international presentations on various health and wellness issues including cardiovascular disease and stroke. She represents the National Association of City and County Health Officials on the National Forum and was installed as Secretary/Treasurer in March of 2008. She also serves as a member of the Regional and Global Collaborations Implementation Group.

For twelve years prior to her medical career, she pursued a career in academia and administration. For more than thirty years, she has traveled extensively in more than fifty countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe with involvement in health promotion and disease prevention.

Branic's educational background includes Preventative Medicine Specialist Training at The Johns Hopkins University, an MD degree from The Medical College of Pennsylvania, a doctorate in social work at UCLA, a master's degree in administration from The University of Chicago and an MPH in Epidemiology from The Johns Hopkins University. She has received numerous local, state and national awards including a Humanitarian Award and a Women of Excellence in Medicine Award.



The National Forum provides the opportunity to work with member organizations that address disparities in heart disease and stroke mortality and to develop partnerships with regional, national, and global organizations to mobilize resources in heart disease and stroke prevention. Working together it is my hope that we can impact health policy around heart disease and stroke by promoting preventative measures and communicate to policy makers the urgency and importance of preventing heart disease and stroke.”



## JAMES B. BARANSKI, CPA

Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director,  
National Stroke Association  
Chair, Public Health Leadership and Partnerships  
Implementation Group

As the former managing partner of a certified public accounting and consulting firm in Chicago, James Baranski brings a strong corporate strategic planning process to the National Stroke Association (NSA). The NSA is a national not-for-profit organization focusing 100 percent of its resources as it executes its mission to reduce the incidence and impact of stroke.

Baranski has represented NSA in a variety of expert advisory capacities including the World Stroke Federation, Brain Attack Coalition, Centers for Disease Control Coverdale Stroke Registry, and the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. In addition to partnering on industry and public advisory boards, he has addressed numerous physician and patient advocacy conferences relating to stroke. Baranski currently serves as the chair of the National Forum's Public Health Leadership and Partnership Implementation Group.



As CEO of National Stroke Association, I have had an eye opening experience to the public health challenges we are faced with in this country—Most importantly, the lack of public awareness about how our health system works in general. Now more than ever, health advocates at both the private, state and federal levels must work together to overcome this lack of health knowledge. [My hope is that working together we can] develop a model for strategic partnerships within the National Forum to create a distribution channel for implementation of the *Public Health Action Plan*.”



## **WILLIAM CAPLAN, MD**

Associate Medical Director for Care & Quality Innovation  
University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation  
Chair, Action Priorities Implementation Group

Bill Caplan is Associate Medical Director for Care & Quality Innovation at the University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation and Clinical professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. Prior to joining UW, he was a practicing endocrinologist and primary care physician and Director of Clinical Strategy at Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute, based in Oakland California. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Wisconsin, Madison and took his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis.

Caplan's focus is on care redesign and quality improvement. He is currently providing leadership for several large scale initiatives including primary care redesign including the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants and improving breast cancer screening rates at UW Health. Caplan is the chair of the National Forum's Action Priorities Implementation Group.



## LINDA D. FAULKNER

Section Chief, Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Cardiovascular Health Council Delegate

Linda Faulkner is the NACDD Cardiovascular Health Council Delegate to the National Forum Coordinating Board. She has served as the Section Chief for the Arkansas Department of Health's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Section since 2003. The position directs the overall operation of the section and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of project activities and coordination of activities with partners.

Faulkner is a past Co-Chair and current member of the Capacity Building Committee of the NACDD CVH Council and has served on ad hoc Human Resource Services Administration (HRSA) and Hypertension workgroups. She also represents the CVH Council on the National Forum's Organizational Capacity Implementation Group. Faulkner is past Co-Chair of the Delta State Stroke Consortium's Working Group, "Identification of Stroke Signs and Symptoms" and a current member of the Steering Committee and she facilitates the Arkansas Acute Stroke Care Task Force, set up by the 2005 Arkansas General Assembly to reduce the burden of stroke. She attended Henderson State College and University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



## KEITH C. FERDINAND, MD, FACC

Chief Science Officer, Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.  
 Clinical Professor, Division of Cardiology, Emory University  
 Chair, Policy Research Implementation Group

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC is a clinical cardiologist and serves as the chair of the Nation Forum Policy Research Implementation Group. He is also a member of the National Forum Executive Committee. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, he was Medical Director of Heartbeats Life Center and professor of clinical pharmacology at Xavier University, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He currently serves as Clinical Professor of Medicine, Cardiology Division, Emory University; and Chief Science Officer at the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc (ABC), where he directs the Health Outreach Prevention and Empowerment (HOPE) project.

Ferdinand serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Clinical Hypertension* and *Journal of the Cardiometabolic Syndrome* and has authored or coauthored over 90 articles and book chapters. He is a board member and past Vice-President of the American Society of Hypertension, past-President and current member of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, past-President of the Orleans Division of the AHA Louisiana Affiliate, and past-Chairman of the ABC. Previously, Dr. Ferdinand was a member of the ALLHAT Data Safety and Monitoring Board and chair of Section Four of the Sixth Report of the Joint National Committee.

A Telluride Scholar at Cornell University, Dr. Ferdinand received his BA in Biology from the University of New Orleans and an MD from Howard University College of Medicine. He completed an internship at the New Orleans US Public Health Hospital and a residency and fellowship at LSU Medical Center of New Orleans. He completed his cardiology training at Howard University Hospital. He is board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, a diplomat in the subspecialty of nuclear cardiology, an American Society of Hypertension certified specialist in clinical hypertension, and a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology.



## JAY H GLASSER, PHD, MS, FRIPH, FFPH

President, The Medicine and Public Health Initiative  
 Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health  
 At-Large Member

Jay H. Glasser serves as an at-large member of the National Forum Coordinating Board and also serves as the chair of the Membership Committee. He is committed to promoting population health through voluntary health profession alliances in education, applied research and community programs via his involvement as President of the Medicine and Public Health Initiative (MPHI) and as founding member of the China USA Medicine and Public Health Initiative.

Glasser is a past president of the American Public Health Association (APHA) where he also served on the executive board and as treasurer. He is on the executive board of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM). He has served as a professor at the University of Texas – School of Public Health since 1989 and began teaching there in 1968. Glasser is also Co-Director of the graduate program in health care technology assessment and an adjunct professor of the department of ophthalmology at the University of Texas – School of Medicine. He is an advisor to the Student Health Alliance.

Glasser attended the University of Connecticut and received his BA in Zoology in 1957; received his MA at Columbia University in biostatistics in 1960 and PhD at North Carolina State University in experimental statistics in 1967.



The Forum provides a practical and visionary health market place to stimulate and lead the coordinated inter-sectorial partnerships to prevent and control the major chronic disease barrier to population health, domestically and globally. Through the power of collaboration, now we can grow the participation and membership of the Forum, and realize the vision and specific goals of the Forum’s *Action Plan*. ”



## DAVID C. GOFF, JR., MD, PHD

Co-Director, Center for Health Care Research  
and Quality  
Professor of Public Health Sciences  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
At-Large Member

David C. Goff, Jr., MD, PhD, was one of the original participants in the National Forum. Goff is Co-Director of the Center for Health Care Research and Quality and a Professor of Public Health Sciences (Department of Epidemiology and Prevention) and Internal Medicine (Section on General Medicine) at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He has published numerous manuscripts related to cardiovascular disease (CVD) epidemiology and prevention including health care delivery for CVD and diabetes.

Goff is the Principal Investigator of several NIH- and CDC-funded studies, including the Guideline Adherence for Heart Health (GLAD HEART) trial, the Southeast Clinical Center Network in the Action to Control Cardiovascular Disease in Diabetes (ACCORD) Trial, and the North Carolina Achieving Cardiac Excellence (NC ACE) Project. In addition, he is a coinvestigator for the WFUSM field center for the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), the coordinating center for the Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study (IRAS), the IRAS Family Study, and the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering therapy to prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT). He is the holder of an Established Investigator Grant from the American Heart Association.

Goff served as Chair of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Working Group for the *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*, a member of the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force and Past Chair of the Tri-State Stroke Network (Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina). He directs the Ten-Day Seminar on the Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. He is active in the American Heart Association as Past Chair of the Committee on Statistics, Chair of the Steering Committee for the Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Interdisciplinary Working Group and member of the Leadership Committee for the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention and the Get With the Guidelines Science Advisory Subcommittee.



## MICHAEL GREENWELL

Vice-President for Health Marketing and Communications, Danya International  
Chair, Communications Implementation Group

Michael (Mike) Greenwell serves as a Vice President for Health Marketing and Communications for Danya International, bringing more than 25 years of health communications, public relations, and community relations experience to the position. During his career as a communications professional, Greenwell has built effective communications operations for numerous large health and scientific organizations as well as community services delivery organizations.

Presently, Greenwell heads a thriving health care practice for Danya International. Among his current clients are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he provides strategic communications direction for CDC in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and control, birth defects prevention, and reproductive health. His past experience includes work for pandemic flu preparedness for multiple pharmaceutical companies, and other corporate clients. Prior to coming to Danya International, Mr. Greenwell headed up a health care practice for Fleishman-Hillard International Communications in Atlanta in 2003 until 2008.

Mr. Greenwell served for 14 years as the communications director for two large centers within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Beginning in 1990, Greenwell built a strategic public affairs and community relations function for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Greenwell received a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations from the University of Missouri and serves as the chair of the National Forum Communications Implementation Group and as a member of the Executive Committee.



## MICHAEL S LAUER, MD, FACC, FAHA

Cardiologist, Clinical Epidemiologist  
 Director, Division of Prevention and Population  
 Sciences  
 National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
 At-Large Member

Michael Lauer, MD, FACC, FAHA, joined the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in July 2007 as Director of the Division of Prevention and Population Science. A board certified cardiologist, he received his MD from Albany Medical College in 1985 and underwent post-graduate training within the Harvard University system at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Beth Israel Hospital, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Harvard School of Public Health. After completing specialized research training in Cardiovascular Epidemiology at the Framingham Heart Study, he joined the cardiovascular medicine staff of the Cleveland Clinic in 1993. During 14 years at the Clinic, he established a world-renowned clinical epidemiology research program with primary focus on diagnostic testing and comparative effectiveness. His research led to over 175 publications in major medical journals (including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Lancet*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*), grant support from the American Heart Association and the NIH, and election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation.

Lauer has served as Contributing Editor for *JAMA*, Co-Director of the Cleveland Clinic Coronary Care Unit, Director of Cardiac Clinical Research, and as first Vice-Chair of the Cleveland Clinic IRB. He achieved distinction in medical education, leading the development of an award-winning clinical research curriculum at the newly founded Cleveland Clinic Lerner Medical College at Case Western Reserve University, where he was Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics. In his current position at NHLBI, Lauer is leading a \$300 million per year research division that oversees major programs in cardiovascular epidemiology and prevention. Lauer serves as an at-large member of the National Forum Coordinating Board.



## SHARON MOFFATT, RN, BSN, MS

Chief, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention  
The Association of State and Territorial Health  
Officials  
ASTHO Delegate

Sharon Moffatt is the Chief of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. She represents ASTHO on the National Forum Coordinating Board. ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Prior to joining ASTHO, Moffatt served as Interim Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health and Deputy Commissioner of Health for the state of Vermont. She also served as the State Director of Public Health Nursing and Assistant Director of the Division of Community Public Health for seven years. She worked as a public health nurse for over 25 years in clinics, homes, schools and numerous other community settings. Moffatt was also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont, School of Nursing.

Moffatt has also worked in the areas of environmental health, refugee health, maternal child health, school health, and children's mental health. Throughout her public health career, she has worked with a wide variety of public health and health care professionals and key community partners to systematically improve the health of all Vermonters. Moffatt is an active member of the American Public Health Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and is a past president of the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing.



## EMMELINE J. OCHIAI, MPH

Health Advisor  
USDHHS/Office of Public Health and Science  
Healthy People 2010 Delegate

Emmeline J. Ochiai, MPH, is a public health advisor at the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and represents Healthy People 2010 on the National Forum Coordinating Board. She is also a member of the Executive Committee.

Ochiai is currently lead staff for managing the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020, a federal advisory committee that is advising the Secretary on the development of Healthy People 2020. During her tenure at HHS, she led the production of the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review, an assessment of progress and disparities for the Nation's 467 disease prevention and health promotion objectives, and was the lead for public-private partnerships to implement Healthy People 2010. Ochiai received her training from Harvard University and Bryn Mawr College.



## ELIZABETH M. (LIBBY) PUCKETT, PT

Consultant  
Chair, Organizational Capacity Implementation  
Group

Elizabeth M. (Libby) Puckett is a Physical Therapist who graduated from the University of Cape Town and specialized in Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy. Her many years of clinical experience covered three continents and included cardiac, pulmonary and neurological rehabilitation. She served for 11 years on various Boards of the Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC, including chairing the Strategic Planning Committee. These experiences led to a passion for preventing what is preventable, and for attempting to make a difference more than one patient at a time. Puckett serves as chair of the National Forum's Organizational Capacity Implementation Group and has served on the National Forum Coordinating Board since March of 2008.

In the last 16 years, Puckett has worked in health promotion and disease prevention. She has lived in Durham, NC since 1994 and served as Executive Director of North Carolina's legislatively funded and appointed Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force from 1995–2005. In 1998 she coordinated the writing of NC's successful proposal to the CDC for funding of one of the first two comprehensive state Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (HDSP) programs in the country. Her years as Program Director of NC's HDSP Program also saw development and funding of the Tri-State Stroke Network (NC, SC and GA), and the NC Collaborative Stroke Registry. This work resulted in her being awarded NC's highest civilian award for service to the state – the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

During 2002 Puckett served as chair of one of five Expert Panels working with CDC to develop the *Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*. In 2004–2005, she co-led the Taking Action Task Group of the National Forum working to implement the *Public Health Action Plan*. Since her retirement from the NC Division of Public Health in 2005, she has continued to work with the Justus-Warren Task Force and NC HDSP in a consultant capacity.



## WAYNE D. ROSAMOND, PHD, MS

Professor, Department of Epidemiology  
 Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Chair, Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation  
 Group

Wayne D. Rosamond, PhD, MS, is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and an Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He serves as Chair of the Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Group and represents that group on the National Forum Coordinating Board.

Dr. Rosamond's research interests include community based surveillance studies of coronary heart disease, heart failure and stroke. He is also involved in studies of the etiology of cardiovascular disease including venous thromboembolism. Dr. Rosamond has collaborated on various national and international cardiovascular disease epidemiology studies including the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study, Hispanic Community Health Study, Minnesota Heart Study, WHO-MONICA Project, and the Stroke Registry of the Canadian Stroke Network. He has served as Principal Investigator for the Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry in North Carolina, the Delay in Accessing Stroke Health care study, Stroke 9-1-1 Tapes Study and the Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women across the Nation (WISEWOMAN) study.

He has held leadership positions with American Heart Association (AHA) as Chair of its Executive Database Steering Committee and Statistics Committee. Rosamond was also a member of the National Institutes for Health/AHA Expert Committee on Defining Myocardial Infarction in Epidemiology. Rosamond has taught courses in epidemiology research methods and cardiovascular disease epidemiology both nationally and internationally for over 15 years. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota earning both an MS in Nutrition and Physiology and a PhD in Epidemiology.



## JENNIFER SMITH, MSHP

Manager, Adult Health and Chronic Disease Group  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
Delegate

Jennifer Smith has served in Texas state government for 26 years and is currently the Manager, Adult Health and Chronic Disease Group in the Texas Department of State Health Services. In her current position she manages programs related to cardiovascular disease and stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, Asthma, Arthritis and Comprehensive Cancer. She also participates as a public health advocate in the Texas Public Health Association and Texas Public Health Coalition working to inform policies makers about actions to reduce the burden of chronic diseases and their risk factors.

Smith is a member of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and has served on the Board, Executive Committee and CVH Council of NACDD. She participated in the development of the *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke* and serves as the NACDD delegate on the National Forum Coordinating Board. Smith also serves as vice-chair of the Action Priorities Implementation Group.



The National Forum has the ability to set the standards for prevention of heart disease and stroke and provide national leadership for states in developing a coordinated and comprehensive response that will save lives and improve the quality of care when sudden events do occur. The National Forum can improve coordination and collaboration in implementing proven strategies that will reduce heart disease and stroke.”



## **SYLVIE STACHENKO, MD, MPH**

Deputy Chief Public Health Officer  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
At-Larger Member

Dr. Sylvie Stachenko is currently the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer at the Public Health Agency of Canada and serves as an at-large member of the National Forum Coordinating Board. Stachenko earned a Doctorate in Medicine from McGill University in 1975. She finished her residency in family medicine at the Université de Montréal in 1977 and she earned a Master's degree in Epidemiology and Health Services Administration from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1985.

Stachenko was an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Université de Montréal, where she served as Research Director from 1984 to 1988. In 1988, she joined the federal government of Canada with the Department of Health and Welfare and, in 1989, was appointed Director, Preventive Health Services. From 1997 to 2002, Stachenko served with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe located in Copenhagen, Denmark as their Director of Health Policy and Services. From 2002–2004 she was the Director General in the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Public Health Agency of Canada.



## **BRIAN BILCHIK, MD**

Director of the Lown Cardiovascular Center and ProCor  
Vice-Chair, Communications Implementation Group

Brian Bilchik MD is a Cardiologist and Director of the Lown Cardiovascular Center in Boston, and associate physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical and a research associate at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He is also director of ProCor, a program of the Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation. ProCor is global network and electronic resource, which focuses on the promotion of cardiovascular health in low resource settings.

Bilchik currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Communications Implementation Group of the National Forum.



## ARUN CHOCKALINGAM, MS, PHD, FACC

Professor of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University,  
Vancouver, Canada  
Vice-Chair, Regional and Global Collaboration and  
Implementation Group

Dr. Arun Chockalingam is currently the Professor of Health Sciences and Director of Continuing Public Health Education at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. He is also a Senior International Policy Advisor to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Chockalingam serves as the Vice-Chair for the National Forum's Regional and Global Collaboration and Implementation Group.

After receiving his Masters in Biomedical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, (Madras) Chennai, India, Chockalingam moved to Memorial University of Newfoundland where he completed his PhD and later became a faculty member in the Faculty of Medicine. Chockalingam has focused much of his research on addressing the global issue of hypertension as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Through serving in multiple organizations devoted to combating hypertension, such as Health Canada, the Atlantic Canada Working Group on Hypertension, Blood Pressure Canada and the World Hypertension League, he has worked to promote blood pressure awareness, monitoring and control as a policy to approach the problem of hypertension on a global scale.

He has a commitment for global health particularly on chronic diseases. He has organized a number of international conferences focusing on heart health, hypertension, and preventive cardiology, has published over 100 scientific/medical papers and has received numerous awards to highlight his achievements in these areas. Chockalingam is particularly interested in addressing the growing global burden of non-communicable diseases and cardiovascular diseases in particular. Through interdisciplinary research combining epidemiology, clinical research and community-based interventions, he has contributed significantly to the field of global health and health promotion.

In November 2002, Chockalingam scaled and summited Mount Kilimanjaro (19,630 feet) in Tanzania, Africa.



## SARA L. HUSTON, PHD

Cardiovascular Epidemiologist, Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Branch, North Carolina Division of Public Health  
 Vice-Chair, Monitoring & Evaluation Implementation Group

Sara L. Huston, PhD, is the Cardiovascular Epidemiologist in the North Carolina Division of Public Health. She earned her BA from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA in 1988 and her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in 1993, and was a post-doctoral fellow in Human Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh from 1994–1995. From 1995–1997, Sara was a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer, assigned to the NC Division of Public Health. In 1997, Huston began her current role as Cardiovascular Epidemiologist in North Carolina.

In her current role, Huston provides epidemiologic support to the NC Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Branch, including NC’s legislatively mandated Justus-Warren Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force and Stroke Advisory Council, as well as the CDC-funded NC Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Basic Implementation Program, Tri-State Stroke Network, and NC Stroke Care Collaborative (a Paul Coverdell Stroke Registry). She is also a faculty member in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health, Dept. of Epidemiology. Huston is an active member in the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, particularly in its Epidemiology Workforce Development initiatives, and was recently elected to the Executive Board as the Chronic Disease Committee Chair. She is also active on the Cardiovascular Health (CVH) Council’s Data Workgroup, and is a CVH Council delegate to the National Forum. Chronic disease epidemiology capacity in state health departments is a topic about which Huston is extremely passionate. Huston became Vice-Chair of the National Forum’s Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Group in the Spring of 2008.



## TIM HUTCHINSON, MSW, MPH

Director, Chronic Disease Prevention Division,  
Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention & Control  
The Public Health Agency of Canada  
International Lead, Membership Committee

Tim Hutchinson is the Director of the Chronic Disease Prevention Division, Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Public Health Agency of Canada and serves as the international lead for the National Forum Membership Committee.

His portfolio includes responsibility for the diabetes, cardiovascular disease and evaluation components of the recently launched Canadian Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Strategy, as well as responsibility for the Centre's work in modifiable risk factors such as obesity.

Hutchinson received a graduate education in Public Administration and Social Work and has more than 20 years of health care and social services experience encompassing the tertiary, acute, ambulatory, rehabilitation and long term care sectors. Also, Hutchinson has held Administrative Director positions in surgical, radiation, medical and community oncology programs at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre and The Ottawa Hospital.

Hutchinson's international and voluntary activities include the World Heart Federation, the CDC - *A Public Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*, the University of Ottawa Canada Africa Community Alliance projects in Tanzania, the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada and the Canadian Public Health Association.



## **VIOLA VACCARINO, MD, PHD**

Professora Medicine (Cardiology)  
Emory University school of Medicine  
Vice-Chair, Policy Research Implementation Group

Viola Vaccarino is a Professor of Medicine at the Emory School of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Professor of Epidemiology at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health, and Director of the Emory Program in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research and Epidemiology (EPICORE). She also serves as the Medical Director at the Emory Heart Center Information Services.

Vaccarino graduated summa cum laude from the Milan University School of Medicine and took her doctorate in epidemiology at the Yale University School of Medicine. She has a long association with the American Heart Association, receiving the Established Investigator Award in 2002 and being named a Fellow of the American Heart Association in 2007. Vaccarino has published a number of peer reviewed original research papers and currently serves as the Vice-Chair for the National Forum's Policy Research Implementation Group.



## JOAN L. WARE, RN, MSPH

Program Consultant, National Association of  
Chronic Disease Directors  
Vice-Chair, Organizational Capacity  
Implementation Group

Joan Ware has been active in chronic disease prevention and health promotion for over 30 years. Retired in 2005 from the Utah Department of Health, she served as Director of the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program. She has been active in the National Forum since its inception, including the development of the Organizational Capacity Implementation Group (OCIG) and participation on the annual Forum Meeting planning committee. She is currently the Vice-Chair of the OCIG and represents the NACDD CVH Council. Ware earned a BA in English, a BSN in nursing and a MSPH from the University of Utah.



“The public health heart disease and stroke prevention programs in each state will be critical to the implementation of the national *Action Plan*. My interest is to facilitate the development of the capacities in each state to fulfill this leadership role and promote partnerships among the Forum member organizations. I hope that we can enhance awareness of the state program efforts among the other Forum members to generate resources for states. I hope we can continue to establish the leadership and partnerships needed among the states and Forum partners to reach the national *Action Plan* goals.”



## JULIE A. HARVILL, MPA, MPH

Lead Consultant  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention

Julie A. Harvill is the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) lead consultant for the National Forum. In this capacity, she serves as the lead liaison between the CDC/Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Management and the NACDD. She provides strategic, logistical and administrative support to the Forum's Coordinating Board, Executive Committee, Membership and Resource Committees, supervision and leadership for three team members working to oversee and manage the efforts of the National Forum mission, purposes, and activities.

Harvill, a native of Illinois received a bachelor's in psychology and social service from Bradley University in 1985, a master's in public administration from Sangamon State University in 1993 and a master's in public health from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2001.

She was formerly the administrator of the Illinois Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program. Harvill was President of the Chronic Disease Directors in 2004-2005. She was the Founding Co-chair of the Cardiovascular Health Council in 1998, President of the Illinois Society for Public Health Education in 1995 and Executive Council Member of the Illinois Public Health Association from 1992-1995. She was co-chair of the National Chronic Disease Conference in 2004 and chair of the Great Lakes Regional Cardiovascular Conference in 2003. Harvill received the Community Service Award from the Illinois Department of Public Health in 1997 and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in 2006.



## SLAVOMIRA (CICI) LACINOVA

Program Assistant  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention

Slavomira (Cici) Lacinova joined the NACDD's consulting team for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in June 2007 as Program Assistant. In that capacity she provides administrative and program support for the entire National Forum Team. She also serves as support staff for the Regional and Global Collaborations Implementation Group and is working with RGCIG members to launch the new 'digital library' that will allow those working in heart disease and stroke prevention around the world to have access to the most recent clinical and academic information. In addition to her duties with the National Forum, Lacinova also serves as Program Assistant for Forum partner organization, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

Lacinova, who was born in the Czech Republic, is a graduate of Mercer University in Atlanta where she took her undergraduate degree in Business Administration, magna cum laude. She is currently working on her MBA at Mercer.



## MARY MARGARET (PEG) O'CONNELL, JD

Manager of External Affairs  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention

Peg O'Connell is the Manager of External Affairs for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. She joined the NACDD's consulting team for the National Forum staff in 2007. Her responsibilities include managing the internal and external communications in support of National Forum activities, as well as government affairs and National Forum policy priorities. She currently provides staff support to three of the National Forum's seven implementation groups: Action Priorities, Communications and Policy Research.

An attorney by profession, O'Connell has spent most of her career in government affairs. She graduated magna cum laude from Marietta College, earning a BA in history and political science, and received her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law. She holds the designation of Group Health Associate from the Health Insurance Association of America. O'Connell currently is the chair of the board of directors for North Carolina Prevention Partners and is a board member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. In addition, she serves on the North Carolina Advocacy Committee of the American Heart Association and the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Alliance for Health. Prior to joining the National Forum, O'Connell served as the Chief Communications Officer for The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, the QIO for North and South Carolina, where she was responsible for managing corporate government affairs, public relations, corporate communications, and marketing.

She is a two time recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor; 2000 recipient of the NC Public Health Association Distinguished Service Award; and the first recipient of the NC Prevention Partners Power Award.



## EARL W. SCHURMAN

Program Consultant  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention

Earl Schurman joined NACDD's consulting team for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in August, 2006. He currently provides staff support to three of the National Forum's seven implementation groups: Organizational Capacity, Monitoring and Evaluation (including three Project Teams) and Public Health Leadership and Partnership (including two Project Teams). He has also actively participated in the work of the Resource and Membership Committees.

He graduated from Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland with a BA degree in political science, history and social science, and has spent his professional career in public health program planning and management. Schurman has been responsible for overseeing and administering statewide programs to prevent and control cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes. While serving as Director of Public Education for the Maryland Division of the American Cancer Society, he developed and implemented "Operation Smokeout," a statewide smoking cessation promotion that evolved into the ACS's annual national "Great American Smokeout" campaign.

While employed with the Maryland Affiliate of the American Heart Association, he served as Executive Director of the Maryland High Blood Pressure Coordinating Council. He later served as Director of the Maryland Diabetes Control and Prevention Program for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Schurman has been actively involved in the work of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) since its creation in 1988. He was a founding member of NACDD's Diabetes Council, serving as that group's third Chair, and later served as a member of NACDD's national Board of Directors.

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