



Retail Marijuana Public Health Advisory Committee

Member Roster (2014-2015)

Mike Van Dyke, Ph.D., CIH

CDPHE Retail Marijuana Program Representative, Committee Chair

Dr. Van Dyke is the Chief of the Environmental Epidemiology, Occupational Health, and Toxicology Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Dr. Van Dyke is trained in the evaluation and control of occupational and environmental chemical exposures. He has spent the last 15 years working in public and occupational health focusing on chemical exposures, environmental and occupational epidemiology, and risk communication.

Alvin C. Bronstein, MD

Poison Center Representative

Dr. Bronstein is the Medical Director of the Rocky Mountain Poison Center (RMPC). RMPC, a division of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, serves as the poison center for four states. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is on the Board of the American Association of Poison Control Centers and has been appointed to several CDC panels on biosurveillance. Dr. Bronstein has authored a number of articles, book chapters, and textbooks in the field of medical toxicology. His research interests include creating new methods for delivering poison information

Ashley Brooks-Russell, PhD, MPH

Colorado School of Public Health Representative

Dr. Russell is an assistant professor at the Colorado School of Public Health and a member of the Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research Program. She completed her doctoral training in Health Behavior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Prevention Research Branch at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Dr. Russell's current research focuses on the areas of violence and suicide prevention and promoting safe driving.

Laura Borgelt, PharmD

Pharmacologist/Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Dr. Laura Borgelt is a Professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the Departments of Clinical Pharmacy and Family Medicine. Dr. Borgelt's teaching, practice, and research focus on patient safety and women's health. Her initial interest in educating providers and patients about medical marijuana started about six years ago when she was asked clinical questions about its use in pregnant and lactating women. Since that time, she has investigated the potential effectiveness and risks of marijuana in a comprehensive

manner and has provided evidence-based presentations to medical, nursing, and pharmacy organizations at the state and national level. She has served on five different working groups regarding rulemaking in the state of Colorado involving consumer safety and social issues. Through her training and experience, Dr. Borgelt has extensive knowledge of marijuana with regards to its pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, therapeutic effectiveness, and potential risks. Her evidence-based, balanced approach to identifying marijuana's potential benefits and risks is important to determine its appropriate use.

Russell Bowler, MD, PHD

Pulmonologist

Dr. Bowler is Professor of Medicine at National Jewish Health in Denver and University of Colorado in Aurora, Colorado. He has multiple NIH and foundation grants to study the effects of tobacco and marijuana on lung health. There is a strong emphasis on generation and integration of genetics, genomics, proteomics and metabolomics data. Complementary animal and laboratory exposure models are used to demonstrate proof of concept using discoveries from human Omics work. He runs one of the country's largest clinical databases and biobanks of smokers with over 3000 well-characterized subjects.

Ken Gershman, MD, MPH

CDPHE, Medical Marijuana Representative

Dr. Gershman is Manager of the Medical Marijuana Research Grand Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). He has worked as a public health practitioner at CDPHE for 22 years in the areas of communicable disease control and chronic disease prevention, including managing the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Chronic Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Amendment 35 grant program.

Tista Ghosh, M.D., MPH

CDPHE, Alternate Member

Dr. Ghosh is a physician trained in both internal medicine and preventive medicine, with a master's degree in public health from Yale University. She also has had specialized training in applied epidemiology and public health practice through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service Program. Dr. Ghosh has experience in both communicable and non-communicable disease epidemiology and public health research, as well as over a decade of experience in public health at the local, state, federal and international levels. She serves as both the deputy chief medical officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the director of the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division.

Heath Harmon, MPH

Local Public Health Representative

Mr. Harmon has been working at Boulder County Public Health since July of 2000. He has experience in the communicable disease, environmental health, and community health arenas during this tenure, and now serves as the Director of Health Programs. He received a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of South Florida in May of 2000 and has more than 15 years of public health experience.

Sharon Langendoerfer, MD

Neonatology and Pregnancy

Dr. Langendoerfer is a retired Pediatrician and Neonatologist from Denver Health Medical Center. For many years she has cared for high risk infants and children, including those exposed before birth to alcohol and other drugs. Dr. Langendoerfer is also an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Bruce Mendelson, MPA

Drug Epidemiologist

Mr. Mendelson is the substance abuse epidemiology and data consultant for the Denver Office of Drug Strategy and the Drug Strategy Commission, and for the University of Colorado at Denver (NIDA grant). He has a Bachelors degree in political science from the University of Kansas and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver. Mr. Mendelson spent nearly 29 years with the Colorado Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) as an evaluator, planner and data analyst. For twelve of those years, Mr. Mendelson was ADAD's Directory of Evaluation and Information Services. While at ADAD from 1987 through 2004, Mr. Mendelson was the Colorado representative to the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) Community Epidemiology Workgroup which required the semi-annual preparation of a report on drug use trends in Colorado.

Andrew Monte, MD

Medical Toxicologist

Dr. Monte is an emergency medicine physician and medical toxicologist at University of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. Dr. Monte is an active researcher studying human exposures to a variety of poisons, toxins, and drugs.

Judith Shlay, MD, MSPH

Surveillance Epidemiologist/Local Public Health Representative

Dr. Shlay is the Associate Director of Denver Public Health (DPH). She is the Director of Health Promotion and Performance Improvement, the Medical Director of the DPH Immunization and Travel Clinic and is the local registrar for Denver County. Dr. Shlay is a Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She has been working on various programs at DPH for the past 25 years. Dr. Shlay has been the principal investigator for a number of projects focusing on health promotion and disease prevention, HIV-related

metabolic and neurologic disorders, immunization delivery, reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, teen pregnancy prevention, and tobacco prevention. In addition to her public health work, Dr. Shlay is a primary care provider through Denver Health's Community Health Services Department.

Christian Thurstone, MD

Addiction Psychiatrist

Dr. Thurstone is a child psychiatrist, general psychiatrist, and addiction psychiatrist. He is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado and the Medical Director of Denver Health's adolescent substance treatment program. His research focuses on clinical studies related to adolescent substance use disorders.

George Sam Wang, MD

Pediatrician

Dr. Wang completed his general pediatric residency and pediatric emergency medicine fellowship at Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and his medical toxicology fellowship at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, Denver Health Hospital. Currently, Dr. Wang is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Section of Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children's Hospital Colorado. In addition, Dr. Wang is a volunteer faculty member with the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. A major focus of Dr. Wang's current research is prevention of unintentional marijuana exposures among children.