

About the Presenters...



Dr. James D. Brosseau, M.D., M.P.H., chairs the Department of Community Medicine at UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He is also director of the Diabetes Center at Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks.

Dr. Brosseau is well known for his research and work with diabetes. He is a consultant to the Indian Health Service and the International Diabetes Center. He has authored a number of publications on diabetes and other medical topics.

Dr. Brosseau has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. Most notably, he received the 1988 President's Award for the Association for Persons with Disabilities, which was presented to him in Tampa, Florida, by President George Bush. More recently, he received a Bush Foundation fellowship and the Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians. He served on the Board of Directors of the University of North Dakota Alumni Foundation from 1993 to 2002. He was President of the Board in 2001 and 2002.

Dr. Brosseau received his B.S. from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and his M.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin. He received his MPH in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

Connie Carmack, M.P.H., joined the Chronic Disease Center, Office for Planning, Evaluation, and Legislation in the Office of the Director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in July 2001.

Ms. Carmack began her career at CDC to work on the Legionnaires outbreak in 1978 in the National Center for Infectious Diseases. She also worked in the Respiratory Virology and the Molecular Virology Branches in the Division of Virology. Following the completion of her degree program in public health, Ms. Carmack worked at the National Institutes of Health in the Office of the Director and the National Eye Institute as a program analyst. In 1991, Ms. Carmack returned to CDC to work in the office of the Director to develop and manage the agency's performance plans for both the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control in response to the Government Performance and Results Act.

Ms. Carmack has a master's degree in public health from Emory University and a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology and biochemistry from Auburn University.

Dr. Gerald F. Combs, Jr., Ph.D., has a wide interest in nutrition and health, and is internationally recognized as an expert on trace element nutrition. He has conducted research in the nutritional biochemistry of minerals and vitamins (especially selenium, vitamin E and factors affecting their physiological functions) for over 30 years; this work has ranged from basic biochemical studies to human clinical investigations. His team conducted the first clinical intervention trials demonstrating the efficacy of nutritional supplements of selenium in reducing cancer risk in humans.

Dr. Combs grew up in Maryland and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, in 1969. He did his graduate work at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and received his M.S. (Entomology) and Ph.D. degrees (Nutritional Biochemistry) from that institution in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He held faculty appointments at Auburn University, Auburn, AL (1973-1975) and Cornell University (1975-present) and adjunct appointments on the faculties of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (1982-present) and the University of North Dakota (2002-present). In January 2002, Dr. Combs became the third Center Director of the USDA-ARS Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, Grand Forks, ND.

Dr. Combs has produced some 340 publications, including 110 refereed journal articles, many key research reviews, and two leading text/reference books, *The Role of Selenium in Nutrition* (Academic Press, 1986) and *The Vitamins: Fundamental Aspects in Nutrition and Health* (Academic Press, 1992, 1998). He is a member of the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, the British Nutrition Society, the Society for International Nutrition Research, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans and the Poultry Science Association. Dr. Combs' career has taken him across the US and to 27 other countries, and he has had multi-year research projects in China and Bangladesh. These international experiences have sensitized him to the needs to find better ways of utilizing the inherent power of food systems to enhance human health and well-being.

Dr. Terry Dwelle, M.D., was appointed to the office of state health officer by Governor John Hoeven in October 2001. Previously, Dr. Dwelle served as chief medical officer for the department. Dr. Dwelle earned his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine, graduating cum laude. He later received a master's degree in public health and tropical medicine from Tulane University. A Garrison, ND native, Dr. Dwelle has worked with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Service. In addition, he practiced pediatrics in Bismarck, ND, for many years. Most recently, Dr. Dwelle headed development of the Community Health Evangelism Program in East Africa.

Dick Hedahl is a life long resident of Bismarck. He serves as President and CEO of Hedahls, Inc., a Bismarck-based, regional auto parts distributor with sixteen auto parts stores and 180 employees. He is a past chairperson of the Bismarck-Mandan Area Chamber of Commerce and was the 1999 Chairperson of Greater North Dakota Association (GNDA), the state chamber of commerce. Mr. Hedahl acted as chairperson of the GNDA Health Care Committee and was GNDA's representative on the North Dakota Health Task Force. He also served as a member of the North Dakota State Health Council and served as chairperson of the GNDA Health Task Force.

Dr. Fikry Isaac, M.D., M.P.H., joined Johnson & Johnson in 1989 as Associate Medical Director. He was promoted in 1993 to Corporate Medical Director and in 1994, to Director, Occupational Medicine, and Health & Productivity. Dr. Isaac was recently promoted to Director, Health & Wellness.

In his current role, he oversees all of the Health & Wellness related services (EAP, Wellness, Disability Management and LifeWorks) and their delivery for all Johnson & Johnson Operating Companies in the United States. Such services include, but are not limited to, medical and professional consultation services throughout North America to all Health & Wellness Regional Directors, professionals in the areas of occupational procedures, disability case management, workers' compensation case management, drug testing and Medical Review Officer services. Dr. Isaac is responsible for the research, development and design of all worldwide Johnson & Johnson occupational medicine related programs, policies and procedures.

Dr. Isaac completed his medical training at the Faculty of Medicine, AIN SHAMS University, Cairo, Egypt, and his residency in Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, Brown University, Rhode Island, and at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, New Jersey.

In May 2001, Dr. Isaac received a master of public health in occupational medicine degree from the Medical College in Wisconsin.

Dr. Isaac is a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine (1991-2001) with Board eligibility in Occupational Medicine. He is also the Johnson & Johnson Medical Review Officer and is certified by the Medical Officer's Certification Council.

Dr. Charles E. Kupchella, Ph.D., began his duties as President of the University of North Dakota on July 1, 1999. Prior to coming to UND, he served in several different leadership roles elsewhere including six years as Associate Director of the Cancer Center at the University of Louisville.

Kupchella, who holds the rank of Professor of Biology at UND, has published widely in his field of expertise. He has written three books: *Sights and Sounds: The Very Special Senses* (Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Co., 1976); *Environmental Science: Living Within the System of Nature* (third edition, Prentice-Hall, 1993, with Peggy Hyland); and *Dimensions of Cancer* (Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1987). He also has authored or co-authored 50 published scientific articles in *Cancer*, *Cancer Research*, *American Journal of Medicine*, *Comparative Physiology and Biophysics*, *Journal of Environmental Education*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry*, *Journal of Cancer Education* and other journals. Kupchella also presented at more than 100 national and international scientific meetings.

Kupchella is a past-president of the American Association for Cancer Education. He is affiliated with several scientific societies and was the author and co-author of various grants for projects in science and science education. He has served as a grant reviewer for the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and other agencies. He is a collaborating partner of the National Dialogue on Cancer. The latter group, which is chaired by former President George and Barbara Bush, is giving shape to a renewed National Cancer Program.

Karen Romig Larson is currently serving as the Director of the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in the ND Department of Human Services.

Ms. Larson graduated from Jamestown College with a bachelor of science in Nursing. She has also done graduate work at Northern State College and the University of Minnesota. She worked in the field of Maternal-Child Health Nursing, working at St. Alexius Medical Center as a labor and delivery nurse and childbirth educator. She also worked as a clinical instructor at what is now the University of Mary.

Ms. Larson became the Director of Nursing at the Heartview Foundation in 1979 and left that position in 1987 to become Assistant Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in the Department of Human Services. She served as Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1995, after which she was assigned to merge that division with the Division of Mental Health Services, assuming her current position in 1996.

Throughout her career, Ms. Larson has lectured and provided training on a number of subjects, both in North Dakota and throughout the country. She has served as a group leader in the development of a Treatment Improvement Protocol on Detoxification for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in the US Department of Health and Human Services. She has also served as the secretary of the National Prevention Network. She is a member of the American Nurses Association and the North Dakota Nurses Association.

Dr. James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., grew up in the land of the thigh-high snow near Buffalo, New York, (the Bills, steel mills, etc.). He received his B.A. degree from Williams College, his M.D. from State University of New York at Buffalo, and then headed west to the flower children, earthquakes and cable cars for training in pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco. After his pediatric training, he served two years as an EIS officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assigned to the Ohio Department of Health. He was then selected to be a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at Yale University, where he received his M.P.H. degree and also served as Acting State Epidemiologist for Connecticut. He returned to CDC in 1980 working in the Birth Defects Branch, the Division of Nutrition, and as the Assistant Director for Science for the Center for Health Promotion and Education. He later served as Coordinator for Chronic Disease Activities in the Office of the Director, CDC, and as Deputy Director for Public Health Practice, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP). In 1992, he was selected as Director for the Division of Reproductive Health, a position he held until being named Director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

He has published extensively in the areas of infant and child health, health promotion and chronic disease prevention. He has received an occasional award but really makes his living serving on committees and holding meetings.

Dr. James E. Mitchell, M.D., is currently the NRI/Lee A. Christofferson M.D. Professor and Chair of the Department of Neuroscience at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and President and Scientific Director of the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute. Dr. Mitchell completed his undergraduate education at Indiana University and medical school at Northwestern University. Following an internship in Internal Medicine, he completed his residency in Psychiatry and a Fellowship in Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. After entering academics he focused his activities primarily on research in the area of eating disorders and obesity. He is past President of the Academy for Eating Disorders, the largest organization of eating disorder professionals worldwide, and past President of the Eating Disorders Research Society, the largest organization of researchers in the field. He is on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Eating Disorders and the Eating Disorders Review. He has published more than two hundred articles in the scientific literature, most focusing on the area of eating disorders. He is currently funded by the National Institute of Health for his eating disorders treatment research on bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder in the obese, and genetic studies in individuals with eating disorders.

Dearrell Niemeyer, M.P.H., has over 25 years of experience in planning, implementing, and managing public health education programs at the county health department, state health department and Federal program levels. He is the Executive Director the Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium. The consortium is a national organization located at the Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia. Its mission is to provide technical assistance to build effective tobacco prevention and control programs. He served as Chief of the Program Services Branch for the Office on Smoking and Health from 1994 to 2001. The Branch provides funding and technical support for tobacco control programs in 50 states, the District of Columbia, seven U.S. territories, seven tribal organizations and 15 national organizations. From 1991 to 1994, Mr. Niemeyer was director of the ASSIST Coordinating Center, which provided technical assistance and training to the 17 states funded by the National Cancer Institute to implement tobacco control programs. In 1988, with the passage of a new tobacco tax initiative in California, he became Chief of the California Department of Health Service's Tobacco Control Section, which administered more than \$150 million to implement the nation's first comprehensive effort to prevent and reduce the use of tobacco among the state's population. Mr. Niemeyer received an M.P.H. in health education from the University of Hawaii.

Dennis Renville is the Associate Academic Dean and Department Chair for the Injury Prevention Program at United Tribes Technical College. He is an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe. Mr. Renville retired from Indian Health Service after twenty years of service. Since retirement in 1996, he has been employed at United Tribes Technical College as the executive director for Native Americans in the Injury Prevention Coalition and presently serves as the Department Chair/Instructor for the Injury Prevention Program. Currently, this is the only undergraduate degree program of its kind in the country. The program places emphasis upon motor-vehicle traffic accidents, suicide, homicide, drownings, falls, burns and poisonings.

Dr. Jon Rice, M.D., is a family physician with 16 years of private practice experience. In addition to receiving his medical degree from Texas, he also has a degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Colorado. Dr. Rice has been at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota for nearly five years after serving a four and one-half year term as the State Health Officer in North Dakota.

Dr. Rice has also served in a wide range of professional and community leadership positions.

Dr. Lynn A. Smaha, M.D, Ph.D. of Sayre, PA, is Executive Vice President of Guthrie Clinic Ltd., a multi-special group practice of 240 physicians, 65 mid-level providers and more than 1,000 employees. He is also the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs of Guthrie Health. Dr. Smaha relinquished the post of president and chief executive officer of the clinic in 1998 after being named president-elect of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Smaha received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964 from Iowa State University and a master's degree in 1967 from the University of Iowa. He also earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience in 1970 and his medical degree in 1972 from the University of Iowa. He did his internship and his residency at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre.

He began his career at the University of Iowa where he was involved in basic science research and was a member of the faculty. He also has been a practicing invasive cardiologist for almost two decades. He has been a visiting lecturer at the Sloan School of Health Care Administration at Cornell University. Between his internship and residency, Dr. Smaha served as an Air Force flight surgeon. In 1973 he was honored as "Flight Surgeon of the Year." He flies his own plane to see patients at the Guthrie Clinic's regional sites and to attend American Heart Association meetings. He is also one of the senior aviation medical examiners for the Federal Aviation Administration. He has traveled extensively, including trips to the People's Republic of China, where he assisted in modernizing cardiovascular facilities and equipment.

Dr. Smaha has served the American Heart Association at all levels beginning with the local division. He chaired the organization's Emergency Cardiac Care Business Oversight Committee and produced a detailed strategic business plan for the association's Emergency Cardiac Care activities. He also was a member of the 21st Steering Team that helped to create a strategic driving force, which was determined to be gathering, evaluating, and disseminating information about cardiovascular disease and stroke. As chairperson of the Strategic Planning and Integration task force, he played a leading role in the development of a 10-year goal that places new emphasis for the American Heart Association on reaching people at risk for heart disease and stroke.

Dr. Smaha was president of the Pennsylvania Affiliate in 1989-90 and has served on the American Heart Association's Board of Directors since 1990. He received the Award of Meritorious Achievement in 1996 for "important service in developing American Heart Association programs."

Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H., is currently the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, the first known to hold that position after a career in the Health Department. Zimmerman has been instrumental in shepherding Pennsylvania's plan for using tobacco settlement dollars, working to fulfill the Ridge/Schweiker administration's commitment to dedicate 100% of the \$11.2 billion over 25 years for health-related initiatives. Of particular note is the initiation of major tobacco prevention and cessation and health research programs. He has recently focused on improving public health preparedness and creating the state's first Bio-Terrorism Preparedness and Response Plan.

Since his appointment as Secretary in 1999, Zimmerman has improved quality of care oversight for nursing facilities, hospitals and managed care; developed the state's first minority health and rural health plans that identify health disparities and offers strategies to address them; advanced technology and e-commerce applications; and improved customer relations and public education campaigns.

After a short stint as the Ridge Administration's first Acting Health Secretary, Zimmerman joined the Department of Public Welfare and was later appointed Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs. There, he led the restructuring of the then \$7.8 billion Medicaid program, implementing the HealthChoices managed care program, creating a special needs division, expanding home and community-based care and implementing case-mix reimbursement for long term care.

Governor Thornburgh selected Zimmerman as the Commonwealth's first appointment to the newly created Senior Management System. Under the Thornburgh and Casey Administrations, he overhauled the troubled Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program while doubling its coverage resulting its acclaim as one of the nation's best WIC programs. He also developed the state's first HIV/AIDS programs and started a variety of successful initiatives targeted at increasing primary care practitioners through innovative education, recruitment, loan repayment and retention activities.

Under Governor Shapp, Zimmerman served on and staffed the Governor's Task Force on Hypertension that began the first significant public health campaign to address high blood pressure. He was also responsible for drafting the first State Health Plan. He began his public health career after earning a bachelor's in Sociology from King's College and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Tennessee.