

2012 Symposium

Full Speaker Biographies

David E. Adelman, JD, PhD

Dr. Adelman, Associate Professor of Law, Harry Reasoner Regents Chair in Law, at the School of Law, The University of Texas at Austin. Professor Adelman is an expert in the area of environmental law and policy. In addition to a law degree from Stanford Law School, he holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Stanford University.

From 1998 to 2001, Professor Adelman was a staff attorney and scientist in the nuclear and public health programs of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). There he litigated complex environmental cases, presented congressional testimony, and lobbied, advocating on issues related to regulation of toxic substances (e.g., pesticides) and radioactive wastes, developing a program on agricultural biotechnology, and working with industry to promote environmentally sound practices.

He was appointed to the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Advisory Board, two National Academy of Sciences committees, and a committee advising the Gerber Products Company on biotechnology issues.

Before joining NRDC, he was an associate at Covington and Burling in Washington, DC, where he focused on intellectual property litigation, environmental regulatory compliance matters, and proposed international regulation under the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. Previously, he clerked for the Honorable Samuel Conti of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Professor Adelman has authored numerous legal and scientific articles, including *The Challenge of Abrupt Climate Change for US Environmental Regulation*, *Emory Law Journal* 2008, as well as *Reorienting State Climate Change Policies to Induce Technological Change*, *Arizona Law Review* 2008, and *Adaptive Federalism: The Case Against Reallocating Environmental Regulatory Authority*, *Minnesota Law Review* June 2008, both with CPR Member Scholar Kirsten Engel. Together, they also authored a chapter entitled, "Adaptive Environmental Federalism," in CPR Member Scholar William Buzbee's book, *Preemption Choice: The Theory, Law and Reality of Federalism's Core Question*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Claire L. Barnett, MBA

Mrs. Barnett is founder and Executive Director of the Healthy Schools Network, a national 501c3 not for profit environmental health research, education, and advocacy organization, and the Coordinator of the national Coalition for Healthier Schools, convened by the Network's national advisers. With her leadership, the Network is the nation's leading voice for children's environmental health at school that has since 1995 has challenged the nation to ensure that schools are environmentally responsible to all children, to personnel, and to communities. Among the Network's hallmarks are: advocacy for a comprehensive science-driven policies; fostering state-based coalitions; the Healthy Schools/Healthy Kids Clearinghouse of guides for parents and others, to help them understand and advocate on topics such as molds, indoor air, safer pest control, playgrounds, green cleaning, and school design and inspections; extensive research and advocacy that has launched green purchasing in schools; and developing and coordinating National Healthy Schools Day annually.

Barnett is a frequent adviser to federal agencies and NGOs, from the Clinton, to the Bush, and to the Obama Administrations, and public speaker whose message highlights children's vulnerabilities and practical steps to preventing environmental problems at school. In addition to testifying before Congress, the Network has won several awards and recognitions, including: a National Special Achievement Award from US EPA, a Child Health Recognition Award from US EPA, and a Green Apple Award from the Collaborative for High Performance Schools.

URLs:

www.HealthySchools.org
www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org, and
www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org

Chef Ann Cooper

Chef Ann is a celebrated author, chef, educator, and enduring advocate for better food for all children. In a nation where children are born with shorter estimated life expectancies than their parents because of diet-related illness, Ann is a relentless voice of reform by focusing on the links between food, family, farming and children's health and wellness.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY, Ann has been a chef for more than 30 years including positions with Holland America Cruises, Radisson Hotels, Telluride Ski Resort as well as serving as Executive Chef at the renowned Putney Inn in Vermont. She has been featured in The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Chicago Tribune, Newsweek, and Time Magazine and has appeared on

NPR's 'Living on Earth,' ABC's Nightline, CNN, PBS' To The Contrary and the CBS Morning Show and many other media outlets. Ann has shared her knowledge and experience by speaking at the Smithsonian Institute, the National Restaurant Association, the Heifer Foundation, Chefs Collaborative, the International Association of Culinary Professionals and numerous conferences. She has been honored by SLOW Food USA, selected as a Kellogg Food and Society Policy Fellow, and awarded an honorary doctorate from SUNY Cobleskill for her work on sustainable agriculture.

Ann is the author of four books: [Lunch Lessons: Changing the Way We Feed Our Children \(2006\)](#), [In Mother's Kitchen: Celebrated Women Chefs Share Beloved Family Recipes \(2005\)](#), [Bitter Harvest: A Chef's Perspective on the Hidden Dangers in the Foods We Eat and What You Can do About It \(2000\)](#) and [A Woman's Place is in the Kitchen: The Evolution of Women Chefs \(1998\)](#). She is past president of The American Culinary Federation of Central Vermont, and past president and board member of Women's Chefs and Restaurateurs. She also served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Standards Board, a Congressional appointment, and was an Executive Committee member of Chefs Collaborative - all in an effort to raise awareness about the value of healthful, seasonal, organic, and regional foods.

Ann's research for and writing of [A Bitter Harvest](#) provided a true epiphany for this always curious and proactive chef. No longer could the environmental and health facts be ignored when it came to producing food in this country. Ms Cooper's career shifted from primarily cooking to a path of cooking, writing, and public speaking – all advocacy work for a healthier food system. There is no doubt that Ann is an accomplished chef, however her focus is now on using her skills and background to create a sustainable model for schools nationwide to transition any processed food based K-12 school meal program to a whole foods environment where food is procured regionally and prepared from scratch. In 2009, Ann founded [Food Family Farming Foundation \(F3\)](#) as a nonprofit focusing on solutions to the school food crisis. F3's pivotal project is The Lunch Box - a web portal that provides free and accessible tools, recipes and community connections to support school food reform.

Chef Ann is happily working overtime as a Chef, Nutrition Services Director, Consultant, Author, Public Speaker, and Advocate because she sees a need for change and has the gifts to help. She envisions a time soon when being a chef working to feed children fresh, delicious, and nourishing food will no longer be considered "renegade."

For more information please see:

<http://www.chefann.com>

<http://www.foodfamilyfarming.org>

<http://www.thelunchbox.org>

<http://www.saladbars2schools.org>

Richard L. Corsi, PhD, PE

Dr. Richard L. Corsi is the ECH Bantel Professor of Professional Practice in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He received his B.S. degree in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University in 1983, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from The University of California, Davis in 1985 and 1989, respectively.

Dr. Corsi's research focuses on sources, physics and chemistry of indoor air pollution, and human exposure to and control of indoor air pollutants. He has served as principal investigator on over 70 research projects dealing with issues as wide ranging as pollutant interactions with indoor materials, building disinfection chemistry, decontamination of methamphetamine-challenged homes, toxic chemical formation and releases from dishwashers, and chemical emissions from microcomputers and moth crystals.

Dr. Corsi has served as advisor to over 65 graduate and 45 undergraduate students. His team has published over 250 journal/conference papers, and has been featured on The Nature of Things, National Geographic, The Economist, Business Week, National Wildlife, Prevention, Men's Health, Redbook, National Public Radio's Science Friday, the Academic Minute, and more.

Dr. Corsi has received numerous awards for teaching and commitment to students, including the Senate of College Councils Professor of the Month for the University of Texas at Austin campus. He was President of Indoor Air 2011, an international conference for indoor air researchers that was attended by 1,000 delegates from 47 countries.

Dr. Corsi enjoys working with behaviorally-challenged dogs and writing music for acoustic guitar.

Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH

Dr. Fernando Guerra's professional career reflects a longstanding interest and involvement in pediatric care, public health and health policy. He has been active with local, regional and national forums with responsibilities including research, program and policy development, legislative issues and health planning.

As the former Director of Health of the San Antonio Metro Health District (SAMHD) and its 400 employees Dr. Guerra supported the SAMHD to promote health and prevent disease among residents and visitors in San Antonio and unincorporated areas of Bexar County. He provided oversight for a budget of \$37 million and the operation of more than a dozen health locations throughout the community.

Dr. Guerra is committed to improving access to health care systems for infants, women, children and the elderly. He is an advocate for the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse. He also initiated the organization of important community based efforts for prevention of HIV infection, teen pregnancy, immunization registries, and vaccine preventable diseases. Prior to joining the City in 1987, Dr. Guerra was the founder and medical director of the Barrio Family Health Clinic, and in the practice of Pediatrics.

Dr. Guerra, as a practicing pediatrician, also serves his community as a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), and an adjunct professor in Public Health at the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, and adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Steven H. Kelder, Ph.D., M.P.H

Dr. Kelder serves as Co-Director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and is Professor of Epidemiology and Beth Toby Grossman Distinguished Professor in Spirituality and Healing at the University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus.

Dr. Kelder has over 20 years' experience in design and evaluation of child and adolescent research, particularly interventions directed towards youth, schools, and parents. Recently, his emphasis is on interventions designed for promotion of physical activity and healthy eating, obesity prevention, and substance use prevention. He teaches graduate courses in Obesity and Public Health, Community Nutrition, Introduction to Epidemiology, Social and Behavioral Aspects to Behavior Change, Epidemiology of Child and Adolescent Health, and Epidemiology Proposal Development.

Dr. Kelder is one of the Principal Investigators of CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health), a research-based program that guides elementary schools, families and children in the process of being healthy, reaching over a million Texas children [<http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/catch/>]. CATCH is a key element in an important public health effort – increasing physical activity, improving dietary intake, and ultimately preventing childhood obesity. Dr. Kelder is currently Co-Investigator of the Texas Child Obesity Research Demonstration (Texas CORD) grant together with Baylor College of Medicine's Children's

Nutrition Research Center. The objective of this grant is to develop, implement and evaluate an integrated, systems-oriented obesity prevention and control program for underserved, ethnically diverse children age 2 to 12.

In the summer of 2010, RGK Foundation commissioned Dr. Kelder to review: (1) the demographic profile of middle school children in Texas; (2) middle school physical education programs with demonstrated efficacy in raising levels of physical activity; (3) middle school physical education professional guidelines, recommendations and best practices; and (4) physical education policies intended to increase levels of physical activity among middle school children. Kelder's report, *Stuck in the Middle: The False Choice Between Health and Education in Texas Middle Schools*, was published in October of 2010 and includes recommendations for programs and policies.

Dr. Kelder served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention; the committee published its report in May 2012 in conjunction with *Weight of the Nation*, an HBO documentary special on obesity in America. Dr. Kelder was a Research Fellow with the CDC working to develop the School Health Index [<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/shi/default.aspx>], a school self-assessment tool designed to assist schools to gauge their progress towards meeting the CDC school health guidelines for tobacco, physical activity, dietary intake, unintentional injury, asthma and violence. Dr. Kelder has published chapters in 9 books and more than 120 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Tracy Diggs Lunoff, M.Ed.

Mrs. Lunoff currently is the Supervisor of Comprehensive Health for Austin ISD. Under her direction are the Offices of Student Health Services and Behavioral Health. This Department integrates the whole child, physical and behavioral health support, resources, education, awareness, and services. Additionally, the Office of Comprehensive Health includes; staff wellness and Department of Vision and Hearing. Ms. Lunoff is the district liaison to the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). Tracy is very passionate about the health and wellbeing of children and specifically how health impacts their ability to learn, be academically successful, and enable them to be healthy prosperous adults.

Tracy serves on the Children's/AISD Student Health Services Taskforce, AISD Joint Insurance Committee, Children and Youth Planning Partnership, and the St. David's Foundation Dental Advisory Committee.

In her leisure, Tracy is an avid cyclist, enjoys running, and being a healthy role model for her daughter. Tracy attended and graduated from Texas State University with Bachelors degree in Health and Wellness Promotion and a Masters degree in Health Education. Tracy can be contacted at tracy.lunoff@austinisd.org or phone at 512-414-9778.

Stephen J. Pont, MD, MPH, FAAP

Stephen Pont MD, MPH, FAAP is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern, Austin Programs and an adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Advertising. He earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, attended medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas and completed his pediatric residency training at Arkansas Children's Hospital, in Little Rock, AR. He then completed an academic general pediatrics fellowship and worked as a clinical instructor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN, where he received a Masters of Public Health.

Dr. Pont's interests include underserved populations, school health, and childhood obesity. He previously practiced general pediatrics at two Federally Qualified Community Health Centers in East Austin. He continues to work with the pediatric residency program and practices clinically at the Texas Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity, Dell Children's pediatric weight management clinic.

Dr. Pont also serves as the Medical Director for Austin Independent School District's Student Health Services, including a staff of 120, which provides coordinated health services for Austin ISD's 110 campuses and 87,000 students.

Dr. Pont serves on multiple local, statewide and national committees working to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic, has authored multiple publications addressing childhood obesity, and currently serves as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Provisional Section on Obesity.

Diane Rhodes, BBA, RRT, AE-C, RCP

Diane Rhodes is a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) with a thirty-year career in the healthcare profession. She also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Tech University.

After joining North East Independent School District in 2006, Rhodes developed and implemented an innovative, comprehensive Asthma Awareness Education Program. Innovations included an emergency nebulizer protocol, symptom tracking mechanisms, and case management strategies.

A critical component of the program is the 'Asthma Blow Out' disease management outreach model. This activity has been presented to many students, parents, and patrons of the NEISD community and has been used in several grant-funded public health outreach efforts. The model has recently been recognized by the OneBreath Humanitarian Awards Program (2012) through the American College of Chest Physicians.

The Asthma Program was also the catalyst for the district's award winning Indoor Air Quality Program. Rhodes developed and implemented a set of environmental standards and an assessment tool that was used by the Department of Environmental Health and then Maintenance Department. The district's IAQ program received the Environmental Protection Agency Excellence Award (2008) and the Model for Sustained Excellence Award (2010) for the dedication to providing a healthy school environment. Rhodes was individually recognized by the EPA by receiving the Special Achievement Award (2008).

Highlights from these programs have been published by the American Association of School Administrators, the American Association for Respiratory Care-Times, Allergy and Asthma Today, Environmental Protection Agency, and other publications.

In addition to the Asthma /IAQ programs she was also the co-architect of the innovative NEISD Healthy Lifestyles course and serves as a member of district's recognized wellness program.

Rhodes was invited to testify before the Texas House Committee on Public Education and was also invited to present the asthma program to the Texas House Committee on Public Health.

Rhodes is a frequent speaker and consultant on developing school district best-practices for children's health and has been invited to present the Asthma Awareness Education/IAQ program to other independent school districts, asthma coalitions, and various school nurse, school administration, physical education and respiratory therapy associations as well as the American College of Chest Physicians.

Andrew E. Springer, DrPH

Dr. Springer is an Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the University of Texas School of Public Health-Austin Regional Campus. Dr. Springer's research interests center on the promotion of child and adolescent health in the U.S. and Latin America. His research includes: testing of low-cost strategies to promote elementary school children's physical activity during recess and structured activity break time in Austin, Texas and Pueblo, Colorado; evaluation of state-mandated legislation to promote physical activity in children; implementation and evaluation of the CATCH coordinated school health program in elementary and middle schools; reduction of sedentary behavior in Hispanic children living on the Texas-Mexico border; and health risk behavior surveillance among adolescents in El Salvador.

Dr. Springer maintains an active public health practice focus that has included planning and evaluation of health promotion projects in Latin America via organizations that include Amigos de las Americas, Save the Children- El Salvador, and the United Nations Development Program-Guatemala. Since 2008, Dr. Springer has served as the President of the Austin Chapter of Amigos de las Americas, a nonprofit organization that recruits, trains and fields young leaders in community development projects in Latin America. Other boards and committees that Dr. Springer serves with include: the advisory board of the Children in Nature Collaborative; the Austin Independent School District School Health Advisory Council; and the Health and Quality of Life research group at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali in Cali, Colombia.

Mike Wells, AIA, NCARB

Mike Wells is Principal at William Michael Wells, AIA Architect and serves as the Vice Chair of the CEHI Board of Directors.

Mr. Wells brings the project experience of more than one hundred early education centers for children in 24 states, including more than sixty centers for Bright Horizons. He is a frequent speaker and advocate for child-sensitive design, including workshops presented for the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, the National Head Start Association, and the General Services Administration . He served as guest faculty for the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Child Care Design Institute for three years, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Environmental Health Institute, a not-for-profit child health advocacy organization, and is co-chair of the American Institute of Architects Subcommittee for Early Childhood Learning Environments.

Shale Wong, MD, MSPH

Dr. Wong is a pediatrician and Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, School of Medicine. She is a Senior Program Consultant for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Wong strives to improve children's health through medical education, health policy and clinical care. She co-founded CU LEADS— an innovative curricular program designed to promote leadership, education, advocacy, development, and scholarship for medical students. CU LEADS inspires new leadership in health care, focusing on social determinants of health and developing advocates who are empowered to improve the health of communities through service, collaboration, civic engagement and public policy.

Dr. Wong served as health policy advisor to First Lady Michelle Obama for development and implementation of Let's Move!, a national initiative to prevent childhood obesity. She also assisted in launching "Joining Forces" to improve health and wellness of military families.

Throughout her clinical practice, Dr. Wong has cared for children from underserved and vulnerable populations in safety net hospitals, community health centers, and academic clinical settings. She has received multiple awards and honors, including the Chancellor's Diversity Recognition Award for CU LEADS.

Dr. Wong received her B.A. in modern dance from the University of California, Los Angeles, M.D. from the University of Utah, School of Medicine and M.S.P.H. from the University of Colorado. She was a primary care research fellow and also RWJF health policy fellow with the Institute of Medicine.

Advisory Committee Chairperson Vincent Torres, MSE, PE, MAC

Vincent Torres was elected to the Austin ISD Board of Trustees in May 2006 and re-elected in 2010. He graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1979 with a master of science degree in engineering. A registered professional engineer, Mr. Torres has been employed by The University of Texas at Austin since 1986, where he is the Associate Director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Resources. His research interests include indoor and outdoor air quality, as well as heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems.

He is married to Suzanne Torres, and they have two children who graduated from AISD schools. Mr. Torres and his wife have been active volunteers in their children's schools and on district-wide committees. Mr. Torres was one of the tri-chairs of the Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee

and a co-chair of the Community Bond Oversight Committee for the 2002 Health & Safety Bond. He was one of the tri-chairs of the \$519 million 2004 Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee and the Community Bond Oversight Committee. In 2005, Austin Partners in Education named him District Volunteer of the Year and in 2001 was named Volunteer of the Year by Hill Elementary School.

In addition to his volunteer work with AISD, Mr. Torres has been active in the Austin community serving on the Travis County Grand Jury and on advisory committees for the Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center and the Travis County Community Justice Council. He is a member of the boards of the Children's Environmental Health Institute and Austin-Travis County Integral Care. Mr. Torres has been instrumental in securing state legislation to obtain greater assistance benefits and improved counseling programs for victims of violent crime and established the Crime Victims' Institute at the Office of the Attorney General in 1995. He also served on the faculty of the first three offerings of the Texas Victim Assistance Academy. Mr. Torres worked with the Texas Rangers to obtain legislation that established in 2001 the statewide Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team of the Texas Rangers, which provides unique expertise to law enforcement agencies in the solution of unsolved homicides (cold cases). In 2003, the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers named Mr. Torres their Public Citizen of the Year.