



## U.S. Global Change Research Program

### **Federal Climate Change and Human Health Town Hall** American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting Tuesday November 18, 2014

#### Speaker and Panelist Biographies

##### **Speakers:**

**John Balbus**, M.D., M.P.H., serves as a senior advisor to the Director on public health issues and as Director of the WHO-NIEHS Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Sciences. He leads NIEHS efforts on climate change and global environmental health and serves as HHS principal to the U.S. Global Change Research Program, for which he also co-chairs the Interagency Cross-Cutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health. He has served as an author of the US 3rd National Climate Assessment and a review editor for the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Before joining the NIEHS, Dr. Balbus was Chief Health Scientist for the non-governmental organization Environmental Defense Fund. He served on the faculty of The George Washington University, where he was founding Director of the Center for Risk Science and Public Health, founding co-Director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment, and Acting Chairman of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. He maintains an adjunct faculty appointment at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Allison Crimmins**, M.S., M.P.P., is an environmental scientist in EPA's climate change division in the Office of Air and Radiation. She is helping to coordinate the USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment. In addition to her work on climate change and health, Allison also works on the EPA climate indicators report, mitigation benefits modeling, and other projects focused on the science and impacts of climate change. Allison has a Masters of Science in Paleoceanography and a Masters of Public Policy in International and Global Affairs from the Harvard Kennedy School. Previous to joining the EPA, she worked as a communications manager for MIT's joint program on the science and policy of global change.

**Paul Schramm**, M.S., M.P.H., is a Health Scientist in the Climate and Health Program in the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He has a background in environmental geology and global environmental health, and currently works on human health and climate change adaptation efforts including collaboration with state health departments. He serves as the lead on the assessment workstream of the Federal Government's Climate Change and Human Health Group and was a lead author on the Southeast Chapter of the National Climate Assessment and coordinating lead author of the Human Health Chapter of the Southeast Region Technical Report on Climate Change.

**Mark Shimamoto**, M.P.H.(c), serves as the Health Coordinator for the U.S. Global Change Research Program's National Coordination Office. In this position, Mark oversees the Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) and integrates health across the other program areas. Additionally, Mark is a member of the Steering Committee for the upcoming USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment. Mark earned a B.A. in Social Ecology with a focus in environmental sustainability and health from the University of California, Irvine, and worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at UC Irvine's Medical Center. Currently, Mark is completing a Master's in Public Health (MPH) in Environmental Health Science & Policy from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University.

**Kimberly Thigpen-Tart**, J.D., M.P.H.(c), is an analyst in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Prior to this position, she served as news editor of Environmental Health Perspectives for 15 years. Her current focus areas include climate change and human health, global environmental health, prevention research, and research policy and translation. She represents NIEHS to the NIH Prevention Research Coordinating Committee and as liaison to the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research and Medicine. She is a member of the U.S. Global Change Research Program Interagency Climate Change and Human Health Working Group and co-chair for communications and engagement. She co-chairs the Subcommittee on Climate Change and Children's Health of the President's Task Force on Children's Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. She received her B.A. with Honors in journalism and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she currently is pursuing a Masters in Public Health.

## **Federal Grantee Panelists:**

**Heather Basara**, Ph.D, completed her doctoral program in the College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She applied computational and geospatial technologies to study the spatial and temporal aspects of relationship between determinants of health and patterns of chronic and infectious disease outcomes. Following graduate school, Dr. Basara joined the University of Oklahoma faculty with a joint appointment in the Center for Applied Social Research and the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability. Heather's work incorporates a mixture of data sources ranging from ethnographic account and genetic data to clinical health history and environmental observation, often in big data sets, to learn how social and environmental factors influence the distributions and mechanisms of disease. Dr. Basara recently joined West Virginia University as faculty in the new School of Public Health and as a member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. Heather is currently funded to study the population health risks related to weather and climate change in both Native America and West Africa. She is grateful for support from the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, the Stephenson Cancer Center, and the National Institutes of Health.

**Heidi Hales**, Ph.D., M.A., is the Chief of the Vermont Department of Health's Climate and Health program. Prior to joining the Vermont Department of Health, Heidi was the Planning Section Chief with Vermont's Air Quality and Climate Division. Heidi earned an AB in Biology and an MA in Conservation Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Vermont.

**Meredith Jagger**, M.S., M.P.H.(c), is the Manager of the Florida Department of Health's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Program. While working with local, state, and national partners to implement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's BRACE framework in Florida, Meredith is applying evidence-based public health practice to increase community resiliency to climate-sensitive health outcomes. Her prior public health experience includes HIV and chronic disease epidemiology. She received a Master's of Science (MS) in Environmental Science from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and will complete a Master's in Public Health (MPH) in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief from the University of South Florida in December 2014.

**Meredith C. McCormack**, M.D., M.H.S., is Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins with a joint appointment in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She also serves as the Medical Director of the Johns Hopkins University Pulmonary Function Laboratory and sits on the American Thoracic Society Standards Committee for Pulmonary Function Testing with expertise in pulmonary physiology. She is an environmental epidemiologist and pulmonologist with a research focus on the effects of climate change on human health. She is funded by the

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the effects of extreme heat, air pollution, and dietary exposure on populations with underlying obstructive lung disease, including children with asthma and adults with COPD.