

David Antoon - Resume

Colonel David Antoon served two tours in Vietnam as a US Air Force instructor pilot in the Lockheed C-130 aircraft followed by mid-level and senior management positions in program management, flight test, standardization/evaluation, and aircraft modification retiring after 24 years of service. He was then employed 20 years as an Airline Transport Pilot flying Boeing 727s, 737s, and 747s. Colonel Antoon's aviation career abruptly ended because of a "negative surgical outcome" at a nationally renowned medical institution



His inquiries led to investigations by the Joint Commission, CMS, HHS, insurance companies, state medical boards, and others. All findings were confidential! Through the Freedom of Information Act, he obtained documents associated with nine CMS investigations citing violations for safety, medical records, patient rights, informed consent, credentialing, privileging, unreported operating room fires (Imminent Jeopardy), patients' burns not documented, and other CMS "Condition" and "Standard" level violations. No sanctions or consequences were imposed for repeated serious violations causing patient harm.

Applying the safety culture and discipline learned during four decades in aviation, Colonel Antoon has become a patient safety advocate well-known in the hallways of healthcare regulators across the country. His efforts were recently chronicled as the cover story in Modern Healthcare: "Stonewalling Patient Complaints: Repeat Citations at Cleveland Clinic Reveal Safety System's Shortfalls."

Colonel Antoon is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy (BS), Trinity University (MBA), and The Air Force Institute of Technology (MS). A military veteran, he was awarded many decorations including The Distinguished Flying Cross.

Joleen Chambers - Resume

Four and a half years ago on September 2008, I began handling phone, mail and other correspondence for my brother (Steven Baker, FDA MedWatch #5009052) who experienced early failure of an elbow joint replacement implant. Internet research revealed the medical and legal purgatory of thousands of joint replacement implant patients. Navigating the medical system (for a disabled person prescribed maximum dose painkiller and living 1,000 miles apart-(Steven lives in MN and I live in TX) is challenging but not uncommon situation for many caregivers, I learned. Because the root of the problem was intractable (poor federal public policy) my role transitioned to unpaid full-time advocate. I applied and was selected in September 2010 to attend the FDA Patient Representative workshop, which expanded my advocacy to all patients with failed implanted medical devices.



My goal is to help patients with failed devices access the medical care that they require and to work toward the conclusions of the Institute of Medicine's July 29th, 2011 report. The Institute of Medicine report advised the FDA to stop the use of FDA 510(k) approvals for implanted devices and provide a post-market UDI national registry that would be accessible to patients and their medical providers.

This quest prompted me to join with a number of effective advocacy organizations such as Health Watch USA, The Society for Preventative Medicine, Consumers Union and SpeakerLink. I created a blog (<http://fida-advocate.blogspot.com>) and regularly participate on FaceBook, Twitter (@JjrKCh) and LinkedIn. I have testified twice at FDA/CDRH Town Hall meetings and have traveled from my home in Dallas, TX to MN, Washington DC -4 times-, Kansas City MO, San Francisco CA, Irving, San Antonio & Austin TX in my role as advocate.



Joleen Chambers is also founder and President of FIDA. <http://fida-advocate.blogspot.com>

Cokie Giles, RN

Cokie Giles, who has been a registered nurse for more than 35 years and a leading RN voice in Maine, is a member of CNA/NNOC's Council of Presidents She is also a vice president of National Nurses United, the largest U.S. organization of nurses. She is an endoscopy RN at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Maine.

When she was growing up, Giles said, women did not choose their fields of study, but instead had to pick from the limited list of accepted professions, which included teacher, nurse, secretary, airline stewardess, or housewife. Though Giles always wanted to be a teacher, she chose nursing and in that way, she said, "Got to have the best of both worlds." She graduated with her BSN from the University of Southern Maine. Her father, a truck driver, was a lifelong member of the teamsters, so Giles has always been a strong supporter of unions and collective action. When her two children became more independent, she stepped up her union work with a particular focus on improving the conditions of bedside nurses.

In 2001, Giles helped the Maine State Nurses Association disaffiliate from the ANA to become part of the growing national nurses movement that CNA/NNOC was leading, culminating in the formation of NNU in 2009. Since that time, she has been instrumental in growing the power of Maine nurses, helping them take stronger bargaining positions, negotiate better contracts, and push for safe staffing ratios in the Legislature.

As an RN, Giles believes to her core that all patients equally deserve the best standard of healthcare possible, regardless of ability to pay. "For this whole country, the disparity and the difference in care that exists, should not be," said Giles. "There should be a standard of care that everyone is treated equally." The caring drive apparently runs in her family. Giles' daughter, Jessie Mellott, is also an RN at Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Joycelyn Elders, MD - Resume

A native of Schaal, AR., Dr. Elders is the oldest of eight children. Now a Professor Emeritus of pediatric endocrinology, at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science. Dr. Elders never saw a physician prior to her first year in college. At the age of 15 she received a scholarship from the United Methodist Church to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. Upon graduation at age 18, she entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and received training as a physical therapist.



Dr. Elders attended the University of Arkansas Medical School (UAMS) on the G.I. Bill. After graduation in 1960, she was an intern at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis and did a pediatric residency and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock and she ascended the academic ladder to full professorship after her fellowship and board certification in 1976. She also holds a Master of Science degree in biochemistry.

Dr. Elders joined the faculty at UAMS as a professor of pediatrics and received board certification as a pediatric endocrinologist in 1978. Based on her studies of growth in children and the treatment of hormone-related illnesses, she has written many articles for medical research publications. She was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health in October of 1987. While serving as director, she was elected President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Dr. Elders was nominated as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service by President Clinton on July 1st, 1993, confirmed by the Senate September 7th, and sworn in on September 8th. Dr. Elders served in this post until January 1995 following which, she returned to the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital until her retirement on June 30th, 1998.

Dr. Elders has been active in civic affairs as a member of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Northside YMCA and Youth Homes. She was listed in 100 Outstanding Women in Arkansas, Personalities of the South and Distinguished Women in America. She has won awards such as the Arkansas Democrat's Woman of the Year, the National Governor's Association Distinguished Service Award, the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award, the De Lee Humanitarian Award, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Candace Award for Health Science. Dr. Elders has also received multiple honorary Doctorate of medical sciences degrees and honorary doctorate of letters degrees.

Dr. Elders says her greatest achievement is that she married Oliver Elders and they have two sons, Eric and Kevin.

Peter Eisler – USA Today Investigative Reporter

Peter Eisler has written mainly about health, environment and national security issues. His award-winning work has led to compensation for sick nuclear weapons workers, new fire codes for nursing homes, and stronger safety rules for school lunches. Recent articles have included a series of reports on the spread of deadly bacteria with Medical endoscopes, spread of dangerous MRSA bacteria, abuse of drugs by healthcare professionals and the over use of potent medications by seniors.



Marvin D. Feit, Ph.D., M.S.S.W., MSPH

Marvin Feit is Professor at Norfolk State University Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work. He has taught across the graduate and doctoral graduate curriculum of schools of social work. He has been a Dean/Director of 3 Schools of Social Work covering 18 years, ending in the year 2007 and returning to instruction and doctoral work. He is the co-founder and co-editor of three International and Professional Journals. The Journal of Social Work in Health Care started almost thirty years ago as the Journal of Health and Social Policy and the name changed several years ago when it became part of Taylor and Francis, Inc. The Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment and the Journal of Evidence-Based, soon to be Evidence-Informed Social Work are also published by Taylor and Francis, Inc. and both have been ongoing for well over ten years. He has published many books and articles extensively in the areas of public health, financial management, social work practice, evaluation. He has also been a consultant to many health and social service agencies in the same areas.



Kaci Hickox, RN, MPH - Resume

Healthcare Advocate who treated Ebola patients in Africa and underwent mandatory quarantine, despite being asymptomatic. She won her court battle against home quarantine in Maine.

Kaci, holds a masters of public health and Nursing from John Hopkins University. She served as a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellow from Sept. 2012 to June 2014.



From Sept. 2014 to Oct. 2014. she was the Medical Team Lead at the Ebola Management Center in Bo, Sierra Leone. During that time she was responsible for:

- Managed all medical activities of a 35 bed Ebola Case Management Center (CMC) including 8 international medical staff (nurses, doctors, and epidemiologists) and 45 national staff (nurses, mid-level practitioners, and registers).
- Collaborated with Water and Sanitation Engineer Lead to ensure infection control procedures were intact and continuously working to increase teamwork between medical and hygiene staff.
- Protocol writing and implementation in order to meet process and outcome goals.
- Hired and trained new staff coming to work in the CMC focusing on concepts of rigorous infection control, personal protective equipment, Ebola clinical management, and basic nursing care of the Ebola patient.

Prior to this she served as the Emergency Medical Team Lead in Kitgum, Uganda. Where she was responsible for:

Coordinated 4 expatriates and 35 national staff in yellow fever case management, surveillance, and contact tracing activities.

Synthesized scientific and epidemiological data to create yellow fever protocols and training for Ministry of Health staff (including case definition, case management, and referral process).

Developed and implemented rapid training on yellow fever protocols to medical/paramedical staff at 40 health centers in 10 days through training-of-trainers methodology (trained 4 local doctors to perform training in the local language).

Analyzed data and reported to Ministry of Health identification of districts reporting highest rates of yellow fever cases to advocate for targeted vaccination campaign.

Additional overseas experience include: Emergency Team Medical Coordinator, Sokoto, Kebbie, Zamfara and Niger states, Nigeria, 02/2010–04/2010; Medical Team Lead, Khartoum, Sudan, 07/2009–11/2009; Primary Health Care Manager, Northern Rakhine State; Maungdaw, Myanmar, 05/2007–03/2009

Kraig Humbaugh, MD, MPH - Director Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, Kentucky Department of Public Health

Dr. Kraig Humbaugh currently serves as the Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Trained as a pediatrician.

A pediatrician by training, Kraig Humbaugh, MD, MPH, currently serves as director of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) Division of Epidemiology and Planning, which oversees what are often referred to internally as “the three Ds”—diseases (communicable disease outbreaks, as well as STDs and HIV), disasters (public health preparedness), and data (the office of Vital Records). He is well known throughout the KDPH and within the state



and local health communities for not only doing his job exceptionally, but for the value he places on earning and maintaining the public trust while doing so.

In the year 2012 alone, Humbaugh has been a key coordinator of state public health responses and a key spokesperson on issues ranging from outbreaks of TB and pertussis, a large-scale Salmonella outbreak caused by cantaloupe, a potential rabies exposure involving more than 200 individuals, and the health response following destructive tornadoes in Eastern Kentucky, and many more.

In addition to serving in academic and public health roles. Dr. Humbaugh earned an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Otago in New Zealand, received his medical degree from Yale University, and received a Master of Public Health degree from The Johns Hopkins University.

Rice Leach, MD, MPH

Commissioner of Health, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department

Rice C. Leach was born in Lexington, Kentucky and grew up there and in Louisville. He attended Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts and received his medical degree from the University of Kentucky in 1966. He did his rotating internship as an officer of the United States Public Health Service and remained on active duty until 1993. During his Public Health Service career he was medical director of hospital staffs, hospital commander, community health physician, director of a multi-state program in the Indian Health Service and served as chief of staff to the Surgeon General. He has had international health experience in Guatemala, Bolivia, and Panama and was a consultant to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

He served as Kentucky's Commissioner of Public Health from 1992 until 2004 during which time he worked to implement several public health initiatives ordered by the Kentucky General Assembly. He chaired the Attorney General's Task Force on Controlled Substance Abuse and participated in emergency responses and environmental clean up activities. From 2004 until 2010 he was medical director and executive director of the primary care center at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department. He was professor and preventive residency program associate director at the University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health until he became commissioner of health for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department in March 2011.

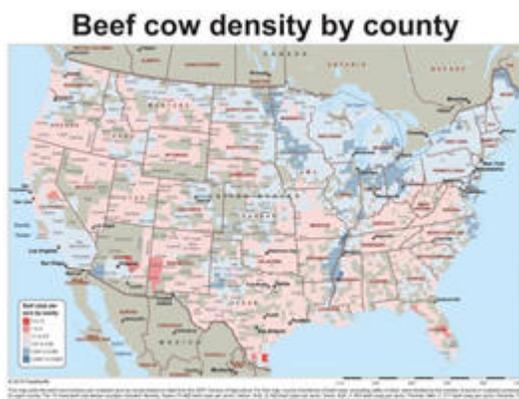
He obtained his Master of Health Services Administration degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, is certified by American Board of Preventive Medicine, and a fellow of the American College of Physician Executives. He has received numerous awards and has served on several state, local, and national committees during his career.

Mara Rice, RN

Mara Rice is a critical care registered nurse who works at the University of Kentucky and is currently enrolled in pre-med at Eastern Kentucky University. She was part of the research team who analyzed the accuracy of the measurement system used to track catheter associated urinary tract infections.

Daniel Saman - Resume

[Dr. Daniel Saman](#) is a recent graduate of the doctor of public health program in epidemiology from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. He loves the field of epidemiology and is devoted to performing multidisciplinary and diverse research aimed at improving population health. His interest for research developed during his undergraduate years, when he [coauthored a book chapter](#) on mapping Guinea savannah ecology in Sierra Leone utilizing geographic information systems. Since then, Dr. Saman has authored eleven peer-reviewed publications ranging from topics including [the illustration of oral health disparities in Kentucky using cartograms](#) to [occupational exposure to trichloethylene](#) and more recently on [healthcare acquired infections, suicide clusters, and tractor overturns](#). He has also been active in writing editorials for the [Centers for Disease Dynamics, Economics, & Policy \(CDDEP\)](#), the [Lexington Herald Leader](#), and [The Louisville Courier Journal](#). In a recent [editorial for the CDDEP](#), Dr. Saman along with Dr. Kevin Kavanagh discussed the need for a healthcare acquired infection map by juxtaposing the presence of a [beef cow density map](#).



Dr. Saman has also championed the implementation of standards and protocols for MRSA surveillance, the creation of a mid-level dental provider, [reduced sugar consumption](#), and the benefits of [moderate alcohol consumption](#). In 2008, he was awarded by APHA the [Anthony Westwater Jong Community Dental Public Health Post-Professional Award](#) for his work on the application of geographic information systems in assessing the dental workforce distribution across rural, urban, and Appalachian Kentucky. This year he was [awarded as the author of the best paper](#) on the subject of head and neck oncology published in the journal *Head & Neck Oncology* for his review of the [epidemiology of oral and pharyngeal cancers](#).

Dr. Saman serves as chief epidemiologist at Health Watch USA and is currently employed as a research scientist at the Essentia Institute of Rural Health in Duluth, MN, where his focus is on reducing health disparities among rural Americans. As he was raised in a rural Kentucky community, Dr. Saman is acutely aware of the health inequities in rural areas and is motivated to reduce those inequities through epidemiological research, community empowerment, and political action.

Steven Tower, MD - Resume

Stephen Tower has practiced general orthopedics and arthroprosthetic surgery in Anchorage Alaska since 1992. He graduated from University of Washington – University of Alaska School of Medicine in 1983 and completed Orthopedic Surgery Residency at Oregon Health Sciences in 1992 after a prior career as a General Medical Officer in the Indian Health Service, Alaska division.

He is an Affiliated Professor of Medicine at the University of Alaska's Anchorage WWAMI medical school campus and has a research interest in the failure modes of Total Hip Arthroplasty and the epidemiology of trauma and orthopedic conditions in Alaska.1-10

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