

Chris Aiello

Chris Aiello is the Secretary of the National Family Council on Sepsis which is run by Anne Ceschin and Orlaith Staunton. His family experienced the most tragic loss of our daughter Emily in May of 2015. Emily went in for Spinal Stenosis Surgery and she developed Sepsis and died due to a delay in diagnosis and recognition of the signs of sepsis. Emily was only 14 years old when she died. Although I know we cannot bring her back, the reason why I am an Advocate today is to prevent this from happening to another family and to educate medical professionals on the signs and dangers of sepsis.

Said Abusalem

Dr. Abusalem is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Louisville, and a nurse scientist at the University of Louisville Hospital. Dr. Abusalem received his PhD in Nursing from the University of Kentucky in 2006. He received a Fulbright scholarship for his master's degree at Old Dominion University. Currently he is involved with several research projects to assess resident safety cultures and communication in nursing homes. His research interests include quality of care and patient safety in healthcare. Dr. Abusalem publishes articles about care errors, patient safety, and ways to evaluate quality of care based on health outcomes.

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Robert Bridges

Robert Bridges, MD is a dual boarded Diagnostic Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician who presently practices in Anchorage, AK area. Prior to entering private practice, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of California- Irvine School of Medicine. He holds patents with the University of California. He has been practicing for 37 years and is a graduate for the University of Washington School of Medicine. He has been on the speakers bureau for Siemens Medical for PET imaging, is published and has presented at international conferences on PET imaging. Present research is focused on neuro-metabolic changes which occur with iatrogenic cobalt poisoning associated with chromium/cobalt metal implants.

Joycelyn Elders

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.

Kevin T. Kavanagh

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh is currently Board Chairman of Health Watch USAsm, a Kentucky based patient advocacy and research organization. Health Watch USAsm is a member of the National Quality Forum and has been designated as a “Community Leader” for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Kavanagh is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Patient Safety. On Aug. 20, 2014 Dr. Kavanagh became a CDC & ATSDR Honor Award Nominee. He has served on the 2014 and 2015 Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services’ Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program Technical Expert Panel (TEP) along with the AHRQ Standing Working Group for Quality Indicators for 2016 to 2017. He has published over 20 peer reviewed manuscripts on healthcare policy and/or healthcare associated infections. In addition, he has published letters in peer reviewed journals including the Journal of the American Medical Association and New England of Medicine. Dr. Kavanagh is also a frequent contributor to the Lexington Herald Leader on Healthcare Issues and was a monthly guest on the Jack Pattie Radio Show on health policy issues for almost 6 years.

Lisa McGiffert

Lisa McGiffert directs Consumers Union’s Safe Patient Project. Consumers Union is the policy and mobilization arm of Consumer Reports . This national project works on state and federal policies to end medical harm, focusing on healthcare-acquired infections, medical device safety, medical errors, and physician accountability. Beginning in 2003, the campaign developed a model law and initiated state laws to publish hospital infection rates and raise public awareness about the problem. Today because of this highly successful campaign, more than 30 states and the federal Medicare program require such reporting of all US hospitals. Recent work has included improving consumer information available about disciplined doctors (including requiring doctors on probation for sexual misconduct, gross negligence and substance abuse – to inform their patients) and antibiotic resistant infections and antibiotic overuse. McGiffert’s leadership includes collaboration with individuals who have personal experiences with medical harm. Collectively they have created a national activist network to make health care safer for patients. A leading national consumer voice on patient safety issues at conferences and with the media, in 2015 she was listed on Modern Healthcare’s 100 Most Influential People in HealthCare and was given the Ben Shimberg Award by the Citizens Advocacy Center for her work on physician accountability. In 2016 and 2017 she was named by Becker’s Hospital Review as one of 50 experts leading the field of patient safety.

Deborah Nelson

Associate Professor of Investigative Journalism. College/University: B.S. Northern Illinois University; J.D. DePaul University College of Law.

Deborah Nelson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who joined the Merrill faculty in 2006 after five years as the Washington investigations editor for The Los Angeles Times. Before that, she reported for the Washington Post, Seattle Times and Chicago Sun-Times.

Nelson co-authored a Pulitzer series in Seattle that exposed widespread problems in the federal government's Indian Housing Program. She co-edited Pulitzer series at the L.A. Times on the deadly accident record of the Marine Harrier, and at the Post on the deaths of more than 200 children under the watch of child protective services. Her science reporting also has received national honors. As a freelance reporter for Reuters, she recently co-authored "The Uncounted," on antibiotic resistance, and "Water's Edge," on the present-day consequences of climate change that won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, National Press Club and National Academies of Sciences.

Her critically acclaimed book, *The War Behind Me* (Basic Books 2008), documents the cover-up of U.S. war crimes in Vietnam and profiles the soldiers who tried to stop the atrocities.

Nelson has a J.D. from DePaul University College of Law and a B.S. in Journalism from Northern Illinois University. She also has a Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies in Multimedia Journalism from Merrill.

Students in her investigative reporting course have produced their own award-winning work. Each spring, they tackle a national issue with local impact. Recent topics include human trafficking, rising seas and working poor. In her media law course, students learn their rights while pursuing freedom of information requests for Capital News Service and professional news outlets.

Ivan Oransky

Ivan Oransky, MD, the editor at large of MedPage Today, has taught medical reporting in the Science, Health, and Environmental Reporting Program since 2002. He is co-founder of Retraction Watch, a site that reports on scientific integrity, fraud, and other issues. The site, now funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, has been called "one of the best innovations in science in recent years" by the former editor in chief of the British Medical Journal.

Ivan previously was executive editor of Reuters Health and held editorial positions at Scientific American and The Scientist. A 2012 TEDMED speaker, he is the recipient of the 2015 John P. McGovern Medal for excellence in biomedical communication from the American Medical Writers Association. Ivan, who holds an appointment at the School of Medicine as a clinical assistant professor of medicine, has also taught at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism and has written for publications from Nature to the New York Times. As of October 2013, he serves as vice president of the Association of Health Care Journalists.

Emily Paterson

Emily Paterson is a patient advocate who has experienced medical harm first hand with the medical care provided to her son. She is an expert communicator and adept at getting patient advocate messages out through social media. She will be telling her story and the utility of social media.

Social media has become a bright light of patient advocacy. Emily along with other harmed families can now learn the oft-hidden ins and outs of healthcare policies, and are becoming increasingly empowered to effect change. That knowledge allowed this family to uncover their harm and make social media even more effective.

Madris Tomes

Ms Madris Tomes is the founder and CEO of Device Events (<http://deviceevents.com/about/>), an organization dedicated to making information regarding patient safety and health outcomes of medical devices accessible to the public. Formally she was the FDA external program manager for Unique Device Identification and the FDA manager for Adverse Events SME for Devices (FAERS/MAUDE). She was a member of the Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet) UDI Think Tank, the MDEpiNet National Medical Device Registry Task Force, and Co-author a UDI Demonstration abstract (cardiac stents) with Mercy, Mayo, Boston Scientific, Duke, Medtronic, Abbott, and the FDA

Steven Tower

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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