

Speaker Bios

Stephanie Schlea is the Senior Water Policy Advisor for the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). Stephanie has more than seven years of experience in water policy and regulation and leads ASDWA's work on PFAS, environmental justice, and infrastructure. Prior to coming to ASDWA, Stephanie worked for the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), which represents large public drinking water systems, as the Director of Regulatory and Scientific Affairs.

Ryan Albert is the manager of the Risk Reduction Branch in EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. The branch is responsible for developing drinking water regulations and policies for PFAS, microbial pathogens, disinfection byproducts, and cyanotoxins. Ryan has been at EPA for more than 18 years, where he has led and contributed to a broad variety of Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulatory and nonregulatory actions, including proposal of EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS.

Jamie DeWitt is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University (ECU). She has B.S. degrees in Environmental Science and Biology from Michigan State University and Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Science and Neural Science from Indiana University-Bloomington. She completed postdoctoral training in ecotoxicology at Indiana University-Bloomington and in immunotoxicology at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and is active within the Society of Toxicology and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Her laboratory's research program focuses on functional effects of environmental chemicals on the immune system and its interactions with the nervous system during development and adulthood.

A major emphasis of Dr. DeWitt's current research program is on effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). She has published numerous primary research articles, commentaries, and review articles, two book chapters, and edited a book on PFAS toxicity and has served as an external reviewer of PFAS documents for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. She also has served and does serve as a plaintiff's expert witness in cases involving PFAS.

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S. is the former Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). After retirement, she was granted scientist emeritus status and still maintains a laboratory. As a board-certified toxicologist, Birnbaum served as a federal scientist for 40 years. Prior to her appointment as NIEHS and NTP Director in 2009, she spent 19 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she directed the largest division focusing on environmental health research.

Birnbaum has received many awards and recognitions. In 2016, she was awarded the North Carolina Award in Science. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. She was also elected to the Collegium Ramazzini, an independent, international academy comprised of internationally renowned experts in the fields of occupational and environmental health and received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Rochester and a Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Illinois. She has also received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Rhode Island, Ben-Gurion University, Israel, and Amity

University, India; the Surgeon General's Medallion 2014; and 14 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards, which reflect the recommendations of EPA's external Science Advisory Board, for specific publications. Dr. Birnbaum recently received the Winslow Award, the highest honor from the Yale School of Public Health, She has also received numerous awards from professional societies and citizen's groups.

Birnbaum is an active member of the scientific community. She was vice president of the International Union of Toxicology, the umbrella organization for toxicology societies in more than 50 countries, and former president of the Society of Toxicology, the largest professional organization of toxicologists in the world. She is the author of more than 1000 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, and reports. Birnbaum's own research focuses on the pharmacokinetic behavior of environmental chemicals, mechanisms of action of toxicants including endocrine disruption, and linking of real-world exposures to health effects. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Queensland in Australia, the School of Public Health of Yale University, the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the Curriculum in Toxicology, and the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as in the Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program at Duke University where she is also a Scholar in Residence.

A native of New Jersey, Birnbaum received her M.S. and Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.