

**Aaron Bernstein, MD, MPH (he/him)**

Director

*National Center for Environmental Health / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Aaron (Ari) Bernstein serves as the Director for the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) where he oversees CDC's efforts to protect people's health from environmental hazards by investigating the relationships between environmental factors and health, developing guidance, and building partnerships to support healthy decision making.

Prior to joining NCEH/ATSDR, Dr. Bernstein led the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Harvard Chan C-CHANGE) and practiced pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Bernstein is an internationally known leader in children's environmental health, having spent his career working to ensure that all children can grow up in environments that enable them to live up to their full potential. His scholarship has explored a broad range of subjects, from toxic exposures to mercury and air pollution, to global environmental changes such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity, and their effects on health and health equity.

Dr. Bernstein has held many leadership and advisory positions. He has served on the steering committee for the National Academy of Medicine's action collaborative on decarbonizing the U.S. healthcare sector, chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health, was an advisor to the Dalio Center for Health Justice at New York-Presbyterian, and was a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors to the CDC's NCEH/ATSDR.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford University, Dr. Bernstein received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health from the University of Chicago and Harvard University, respectively.

He is a recipient of Stanford University's Firestone Medal for Research and a Harvard University Zuckerman Fellowship.

**Mark Miller, MD, MPH (he/him)**

Director Emeritus, *Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit*

Lead, *National PEHSU Childhood Cancer and the Environment Program (Pediatric Oncology Clinician Education Supplement)*

Associate Clinical Professor, *University of California, San Francisco*

Dr. Mark Miller is an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco and Director Emeritus of the Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at UCSF. Since 2022,

Dr. Miller has been the lead for the Childhood Cancer and the Environment Program at the PEHSU network. This project, funded by the CDC/ATSDR, works to educate and activate health professionals to address environmental influences on childhood cancer. He is the Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at the California EPA, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. He was the director of the Community Outreach and Translation Core of the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE) at UC Berkeley, the first group of academic experts to tie the research findings showing environmental exposures increase childhood leukemia risk to discussion about the opportunities for prevention of childhood leukemia.

He completed his MD degree and pediatric residency from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, an MPH in environmental health sciences at U.C. Berkeley, as well as a residency in preventive medicine with the California Department of Health Services. Dr. Miller spent 13 years as a pediatrician in private practice in Chico, California. He is a past president of the International Society for Children's Health and the Environment (ISCHE). Dr. Miller is a primary author of the award winning [Story of Health](#) multi-media eBook series that includes a chapter on childhood cancer and the environment.

**Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH (he/him)**

Director, *Environmental Health Bureau, Maryland Department of Health*

Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell is the Director of the Environmental Health Bureau in the Maryland Department of Health's Prevention and Health Promotion Administration. Dr. Mitchell joined the Health Department in 2006, after 14 years on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He has a Bachelor's degree from Williams College, a Master's of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a medical degree from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. Dr. Mitchell works closely with the Maryland Cancer Registry and the Maryland Department of the Environment to address community concerns about cancer, and has chaired two task forces looking at how unusual patterns of cancer are investigated and managed in the state.

**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH (she/her)**

Executive Director, *Children's Environmental Health Network*

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon serves as the Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), extending partnerships, organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. For the past 24 years, she has served as a key spokesperson for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country.

She is a leader in the field of children's environmental health, serving on the External Science Board for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) NIH Research work. She is a Co-Leader for the Health/Science initiative of the Cancer Free Economy Network and a member of the Steering Committee. She is Co-Chair of the America the Beautiful for All Coalition, Lead Chair for Clean Water for All, Steering Committee member of the National Health Equity Council, and Co-Founder/Leader in the Climate Equity Collaborative. Ms. Witherspoon is also the past Board Chair and current Board Member for the Pesticide Action Network of North America, the Environmental Integrity Project, Healthy Building Network, and serves on the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council.

Ms. Witherspoon has held past appointments on the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency, the NIH Council of Councils, the Science Advisory Board for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Board for the American Public Health Association. She is the past Co-Chair of the National Environmental Health Partnership Council, past member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and the Institute of Medicine's Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable.

Ms. Witherspoon has a variety of publications and has the distinct honor of having one of CEHN's leadership awards, the Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award, named in her honor. She is also the recent recipient of the Rachel's Network Catalyst Award, William R. Reilly Award in Environmental Leadership from the Center for Environmental Policy at American University, the Snowy Egret Award from the Eastern Queens Alliance, and the 950 Alumni Award by The George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services.

Ms. Witherspoon has a BS in Biology Pre Med from Siena College and a MPH in Maternal and Child Health from The George Washington University, School of Public Health and Health Services. She is a proud mom to 4 children!

**Michael E. Scheurer, PhD, MPH, FACE** (he/him)

Sidney L. and Donald F. Faust Chair of Pediatric Cancer Epidemiology, *Texas Children's Cancer Center*  
Professor, *Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine*  
Director, *Center for Epidemiology and Population Health, Texas*  
Associate Director for Excellence in Cancer Equity, *Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Michael Scheurer is a molecular epidemiologist at Texas Children's Cancer Center and in the Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences Program of the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Scheurer's research focuses on viruses and immune function as risk factors for cancer development and progression.

His laboratory looks for novel ways to identify and catalog molecular markers of viral infection, including host-virus interactions, as risk factors for the development of cancer. He is actively involved with two large international research groups focused on two rare tumors: the Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium and the Childhood Leukemia International Consortium.

Dr. Scheurer is currently working with other researchers and clinicians at Texas Children's Cancer Center to develop a state-wide study to examine risk factors for childhood brain tumors. He also currently has a research project examining Human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers, in particular cervical cancer, including the examination of the HPV vaccine and its effects on cancer incidence. He has an increasing program looking at Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) and host immune function in relation to pediatric and adult brain tumors, and he also has an interest in the factors that contribute to the poor prognosis and outcome for brain tumor patients, including neurocognitive decline and other therapy-related toxicities. Dr. Michael Scheurer is a member of the Epidemiology and Population Sciences Program.

**Charlie Smith** (she/her)

Mother of childhood cancer survivor/Advocate, *Trevor's Trek Foundation/Trevor's Law*

Charlie has been an advocate for pediatric cancer issues since 2002 when her son Trevor was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 13. Charlie is a former board member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Idaho and formerly served on the St. Luke's Health Foundation board. Charlie was active on the Childhood Cancer Task Group for the Comprehensive Cancer Alliance for Idaho. Charlie and her son Trevor, along with several other Idaho organizations, helped create the Childhood Cancer Strategic Plan for Idaho 2008-2010. Charlie believes there is a link between toxic exposures and childhood cancer. She played an integral role in drafting language for a national cancer cluster bill entitled Trevor's Law. The bill was signed into law on June 22, 2016. Charlie currently serves on the Advisory Board for Trevor's Trek Foundation.

**Marsha Wills-Karp, PhD** (she/her)

Anna M. Baetjer Professor of Environmental Health  
Chair, *Department of Environmental Health and Engineering*  
*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*  
*Whiting School of Engineering*

Marsha Wills-Karp is the chair of the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Whiting School of Engineering and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Anna M. Baetjer Professor of Environmental Health and Engineering, and a Bloomberg Centennial Professor. A leading immunologist, her research into the role of the cytokine, interleukin-13, opened a new paradigm in asthma studies that has become one of the central tenets of asthma research.

Wills-Karp's research focuses on the environmental and genetic determinants of allergic airway diseases and the immune mechanisms involved in asthma. Her work on how allergens and airborne pollutants activate immune pathways has made significant contributions to the understanding of how altered immune recognition of environmental factors can lead to the development of allergic disease. She has identified several genetic patterns that may increase susceptibility to asthma. Her expertise in the field of asthma has led her to advise pharmaceutical companies in their efforts to create drugs that block interleukin-13 and other asthma-related proteins.

Her current research projects include examining how environmental exposures of pregnant women affect the health of their offspring and working with communities to address their environmental health concerns. More specifically, she studies how pregnant mothers' exposure to ambient air pollution induces intrauterine inflammation and links to childhood obesity. She currently leads a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences P30 Center (CHARMED) which is focused on conducting fundamental research in collaboration with local communities designed to discover the links between environmental exposures and adverse health outcomes, with the ultimate goal of translating these findings into action to improve the health of vulnerable individuals in communities across the Maryland region and beyond. Bi-directional communication with the local Communities guides the research directions of CHARMED and inform public health decision making. She also oversees the educational efforts of the department ensuring that students at all levels (undergraduate, master's and PhD) are well-equipped to address current and future pressing environmental health challenges.

Wills-Karp has published more than 182 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has served as an associate editor of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and as the Deputy Editor of *Mucosal Immunology*. She has also served as a reviewer for many journals including *Science* and *Nature*.

As chair of the Department of Health and Environmental Engineering she encourages cross-divisional and cross-disciplinary inquiry, bringing together financial and intellectual resources to support collaborative research between the engineering, public health sectors, and communities. She served as associate dean for research at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. She was also a tenured professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Immunobiology there from 2000 to 2012.

Wills-Karp received her BS and MS degrees from Southwest Texas State University in 1980 and 1982, respectively. She earned her Ph.D. from the Environmental Stress Institute at University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1986. From 1986-1987, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University, followed by two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University.