Session Presenter Bios

**Dr. Gillian Air**, George Lynn Cross Professor and Vice-Chair
PhD: University of New South Wales, Australia 1971; Postdoctoral: Beit Memorial Fellowship, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England 1970-1973; Scientific Staff: MRC 1973-1976, Australian National University 1976-1981; Associate then full Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham 1982-1996; currently George Lynn Cross Professor & Vice Chair, Dept Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Univ. Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Research on influenza has been funded by National Institute of Health since 1979, more than 150 publications and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Dr. Steve Alexander**, Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri
Dr. Alexander received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in Biology from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. He was a NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, and an Assistant Professor at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California. Since 1987 he has been Professor at the University of Missouri, where he has taught courses on Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Genetics of Human Diseases, and Cancer Biology. Dr. Alexander is the recipient of an American Cancer Society Career Development Award and a Morris Belkin Visiting Professorship at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, and he served on the NIH Cell Biology Study Section. The research in his laboratory centers on understanding the molecular basis of cancer and developing new diagnostic tests and treatments for cancer.

**Ryan Barker**, Health Policy Analyst for Missouri Foundation for Health
Ryan has worked at the Missouri Foundation for Health as a Health Policy Analyst since 2002. Ryan’s work at MFH focuses on topics such as the state’s Medicaid program, health disparities, and policy options to provide health insurance to the uninsured. Before joining MFH, Ryan was with The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati where his work focused on outcome evaluation and policy research. Prior to this, he worked with runaway and street youth at social service agencies in both Cincinnati, Ohio and Portland, Oregon. Ryan obtained a Bachelor in Science from Xavier University, holds a Masters in Social Work from the University of Cincinnati, and received a Masters in Public Policy Administration from the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

**Alice Bloch**, Dance/Movement Educator, Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA)
Alice Bloch has a doctorate in dance history from Temple University and a choreographic MA from UCLA. She has taught Introduction to Dance/Movement Therapy at Washington University, St. Louis, and leads workshops on Creativity and Healing at the Siteman Cancer Center. She presented *Healing and the Sensuous Body*, a dance movement therapy workshop at the National Dance Education Organization conference in 2006. Alice teaches dance to troubled teens at the PAIS Counseling Center. She uses dance to teach peaceful interaction as artist-in-residence in grades K-12.
**Rose Nanyonga Clarke**, Board Member: Board of Directors International Medical and Doctoral Student: Yale University
Currently pursuing doctoral studies at Yale University School of Nursing: Policy and Politics of Health Care; 2005 M.S.N Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing; 2002 B.S.N Arkansas Tech University School of Nursing, Russellville, AR; 1995 Diploma Kuluva School of Nursing, Arua, Uganda. Currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Medical Group and served as Director of Clinical Operations at International Hospital Kampala from 2007-2008.

**Ann Cohen**, State Nutrition Specialist
Cohen is the co-director of the University of Missouri Extension Healthy Lifestyle Initiative, working to develop, deliver and evaluate a holistic and systemic approach to create healthy communities that support the availability of healthy, affordable, locally-produced food and safe, accessible physical activity to impact lifelong health. She leads the MU Extension team providing program coaching to the Missouri Foundation for Health Healthy and Active Communities grantees. Cohen developed and directs *Jump Into Action*, a nutrition and physical activity program that has reached over 35,000 fifth grade students and their parents in 31 Missouri counties. Cohen is active statewide in nutrition and wellness professional organizations, including serving as a current chair of the Missouri Action for Healthy Kids Team and past chair of the Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition. She serves as the vice-president of the PedNet Coalition and directed the Healthy Eating by Design component of their Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Active Living by Design community project. She is a key project team leader with the RWJF Healthy Kids Healthy Communities leading site project in Columbia, Missouri.

**Dr. Jennifer Dowd**, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Hunter College
Faculty Associate, CUNY Institute for Demographic Research
Dr. Dowd’s research focuses on the interaction of social and biological factors over the life course, in particular how stress and immune function may link social factors to later life health outcomes. Dr. Dowd received her Ph.D. from Princeton University, where she specialized in Economics and Demography, with a focus on socioeconomic inequalities in health. From 2006-2008, Jenn was a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, the University of Michigan. She has also worked as a Health Researcher at Mathematica Policy Research in Washington, DC on issues regarding children’s health insurance and Medicaid availability for persons with mental illness. Prior to her graduate work, Jenn received a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from Washington and Lee University and served as a Luce Scholar at the Rural Development Foundation in East Java, Indonesia.

**Mariah Dreisinger**, Program Manager
Mariah Dreisinger, MPH is a graduate of Westminster College (2005) and most recently received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Behavioral Science from Saint Louis University School of Public Health (2008). She currently works within the Washington University Schools of Medicine and Social Work as program manager for an obesity prevention initiative funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health. During her time as a research assistant and student at Saint Louis University she gained significant experience with obesity prevention and physical activity research and practice. Specifically, she has coordinated an Evidence-Based Public Health course designed to provide decision-making skills to the current public health workforce working in chronic disease prevention. This course has been disseminated at the local, state, national, and international levels. Ms. Dreisinger was also awarded an internship in Sao Paulo, Brazil with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in which she assessed whether evidence-based recommendations drawn from the CDC’s *Guide to Community*
Preventive Services were applicable in Brazil. An additional part of her internship included development and dissemination of the review products to communities, institutions, and public health professionals in Brazil.

**Dr. William Folk**, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Missouri-Columbia
PhD Stanford University; Appointed to the faculties of the University of Michigan, the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Missouri (Professor of Biochemistry). Principal Investigator and co-Director of The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies, and Project Director of Maps in Medicine science education program

**Robert E. Hamilton, Ph.D.**, Consultant on African Projects and Programs
Following graduation from Westminster College, Robert E. Hamilton was a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher in Bahar Dar, Ethiopia (1965-67); completed his Ph.D. in African history and anthropology at Northwestern University (1978); has taught at five colleges and universities; and was the outreach director of the Program of African Studies at the University of Florida-Gainesville (1989-92). Since 1977, he has also worked in the U.S. private sector as a director of corporate communications in the coal mining industry; a marketing and sales manager in the trucking industry; as a strategic planner for a large law firm; as a stock broker for nine years; and as a consultant in Africa for an irrigation company and the State of Oregon. More recently, he has directed a nonprofit corporation with programs in India and Africa, and assisted a consortium of medical universities to develop neurosurgical training for African doctors in East Africa. He has lived, worked, or traveled in 12 African countries. He assists, as a volunteer, a variety of Non-Governmental Organizations working in Africa and the U.S. His writings include academic work, market research reports, corporate publications and history, newspaper articles, lesson plans for teachers, short stories, poetry, and one lonely novel awaiting a publisher.

**Tim Harlan**, National Alliance on Mental Illness Missouri, Vice President
1971 graduate of Westminster College, 1974 graduate of University of Missouri School of Law, Missouri House of Representatives member 1995 – 2003, National Alliance on Mental Health President 2005-08.

**Traci Harr**, Coordinator, Columbia Tobacco Prevention Initiative
Traci Harr brings nearly 10 years of experience as a tobacco prevention advocate to the CASE grant team. As a youth in Maryville, Missouri she participated in Tar Wars, Smokebusters and TATU-all statewide prevention programs that helped develop skills to work on smoke-free environments. She currently serves as a full time member of the Wellness Resource Center to promote and provide cessation services as well as see through policy changes in Columbia on the Mizzou, Stephens College, and Columbia College campuses as well as Hickman, Douglass and Rockbridge High Schools.

**Scott Heysell**, Burroughs Wellcome Fund/American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Fellow in Tropical Infectious Disease, University of Virginia
Scott K. Heysell, MD, MPH studied English Literature at Vanderbilt University before earning his medical degree and Master of Public Health from Oregon Health and Sciences University. He continued residency training in internal medicine at Yale University where he was later selected as chief resident. With the Yale/Stanford Johnson&Johnson Global Health Scholars Program he worked in medical education in Hue, Vietnam and Tugela Ferry, South Africa. He was recipient of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene’s postdoctoral fellowship in tropical infectious disease, completing work on rapid diagnostics for drug-resistant TB as well as pediatric TB diagnosis in rural South Africa where he has lived for the past year.
Harold Koenig, M.D., Vice Admiral, Medical Corps, United States Navy, Retired
Admiral Koenig was the 32nd Surgeon General of the United States Navy. He served on active duty for 32 years. His clinical specialty was pediatric hematology-oncology. He has been a member of the board of the Rostropovich – Vishnevskaya Foundation since he retired from the Navy in 1998.

Ryan Krull, Tobacco-Free Community Project Coordinator
Ryan T. Krull, MPH, is a St. Louis, Missouri native, and is currently working as the Tobacco-Free Community Project Coordinator at Westminster College. He received his MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and his BGS in architectural studies, art history, and sociology from the University of Missouri. His professional interest includes mass media health promotion, epidemiology, and the emphasis on evidence based public health practices.

Ann McElroy, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University at Buffalo

Greg Richard, Vice President, Laboratory Corp. of America
Greg Richard has worked in the healthcare arena for 21 years since graduating from Westminster in 1988. He has experience in several sectors in the industry, including Managed Care, Biopharmaceuticals, Clinical Trials, and Laboratory/Diagnostics. He has been a featured speaker at numerous industry conferences and has authored several articles in healthcare related trade journals.

Todd Savitt, PhD, Professor of Medical Humanities (Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University)
Todd L. Savitt earned his PhD (1975) in history from the University of Virginia. After teaching at the University Of Florida College Of Medicine (1976-1982) he joined the Department of Medical Humanities at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine, where he teaches history of medicine, literature and medicine, social and cultural issues in medical practice, and medical ethics. His primary research interest is African-American medical history. He has written or edited six books, including Medicine and Slavery: The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia, Medical Readers’ Theater: A Guide and Scripts, and Race and Medicine in Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth Century America, as well as a number of articles on such topics as the attitude of the AMA towards black physicians, the history of sickle-cell anemia, the use of African Americans for medical experimentation, and the entry of black physicians into the American medical profession. In 1988, Savitt organized and continues to coordinate ECU’s medical readers’ theater program, taking medical student readers into local communities to perform stories about medicine and hold discussions about the stories with the audience. He chaired for many years the History of Medicine Grants Panel for the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health and served as Secretary/Treasurer of the American Association for the History of Medicine for almost ten years.
**Amanda Stevens, M.Ed., R.D., L.D. Health Educator/Registered Dietitian**
Amanda Stevens has been promoting nutrition and wellness professionally for more than 10 years. She has coordinated Westminster College’s HealthTrek wellness program for the past 3 years, which has her working on many health issues on campus and in the community. Her efforts work to inspire change within individuals and groups to create healthier communities and environments. She graduated from the University of Missouri with her Masters in Health Education and Promotion and Bachelors in Nutritional Sciences. Prior to working with Westminster College, Amanda has worked with the Cole and Callaway County Health Departments and the Callaway County YMCA.

**Westminster Peer Health Educators**
Peer Health Educators serve to promote healthy, safe and responsible living on Westminster’s campus and in our community. They are nationally certified through the BACCHUS network and have additional training in tobacco issues.