

Federation Forum on Research Management (FORM)

“Decision-Making: Making Good Decisions Under Conditions of Uncertainty”

11/21/03

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Wendy Nelson, PhD

Dr. Wendy Nelson is a Program Director in the Basic Biobehavioral Research Branch, Behavioral Research Program, at the National Cancer Institute. She received her undergraduate degrees from Smith College and Duke University School of Nursing, her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, and her PhD in clinical psychology from Saint Louis University. Dr. Nelson completed a clinical psychology internship at Harvard University Medical School and a postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University Medical School, where she specialized in consultation-liaison psychiatry and chemical dependence treatment.

Prior to her career in psychology, Dr. Nelson worked in nursing and public health. Her public health career included an Epidemic Intelligence Service fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and several years as an epidemiologist in the Office of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, at the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Nelson was an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University Medical School, where she specialized in health psychology, addiction, and the treatment of HIV-infected women. She subsequently continued her work in HIV/AIDS as a behavioral scientist in the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Nelson joined the NCI in 1999.

Eric Johnson, PhD

Eric Johnson is the Norman Eig Professor of Business, at the Columbia School of Business at Columbia University. His research interests are in consumer and managerial decision-making. Before moving to Columbia, he was David Hauck Professor of Marketing and a Professor of Psychology and Operations and Information Management at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is the current President of the Society for Judgment and Decision-Making.

As part of his work in behavioral decision theory, Professor Johnson has been involved in understanding the nature and origin of preferences. This work includes research on preference reversals, the effect of anchoring on preferences, and work that characterizes preferences as constructive. A major stream has examined the role of default options in choice.

Ronald Myers, PhD

Dr. Ronald E. Myers received a D.S.W. in Social Welfare Policy in 1983 and a PhD in Medical Sociology in 1989 from the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Myers completed postdoctoral training in Behavioral Epidemiology at Fox Chase Cancer Center from 1983 to 1985. Dr. Myers conducted cancer prevention and control research in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia from 1985 to 1994. In 1994, Dr. Myers joined the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University and established a Cancer Prevention and Control Program. In 2001, Dr. Myers was appointed Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Genetic and Preventive Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Myers has conducted cancer prevention, control, and population science research for over 18 years. He has been principal investigator on a number of NIH-funded research grants and has numerous peer-reviewed publications in the field. His areas of expertise include patient adherence to cancer screening, physician follow-up of abnormal cancer screening test results, informed decision making in cancer susceptibility testing and clinical trials participation. Currently, Dr. Myers leads a special populations project funded by the NCI Center for Reducing Cancer Health Disparities. He is also principal investigator on an NCI-funded study of patient adherence to colorectal cancer screening and a CDC-funded project on informed decision making about prostate cancer screening. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications in the field of cancer prevention and control.

Annette M. O'Connor, PhD

Dr. O'Connor is a professor at the University of Ottawa School of Nursing. Over the past 20 years, Dr. O'Connor's research program has focused on understanding and improving the decision making of people facing health care choices and improving the support provided by health professionals who counsel them. She has been involved in over 60 projects and produced over 100 publications, a conceptual framework of decision support; 20 decision aids for patients/practitioners; a widely used evaluation measure of decisional conflict; a systematic review of trials of patient decision aids, and several educational programs and courses on shared decision making.

Marc Schwartz, PhD

Marc Schwartz, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Oncology and a member of the Lombardi Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control and Cancer Genetics Programs at Georgetown University Medical Center. His research focuses on the behavioral aspects of cancer genetics, breast and ovarian cancer surveillance, and medical decision-making. Ongoing National Institutes of Health grants include a study evaluating the impact of genetic testing on breast cancer surgery decisions among newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, and a randomized clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of an interactive decision-aid intervention designed to improve the outcomes of genetic testing for breast-ovarian cancer susceptibility. Additional research projects focus on breast cancer risk counseling for women at moderately increased risk for breast cancer.

Hal R. Arkes, PhD

Hal R. Arkes is a Professor of Psychology and a Senior Scholar in the Center for Health Outcomes, Policy, and Evaluation Studies at Ohio State University. He received his B.A. from Carleton College and his PhD from the University of Michigan. He is a past president of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and he has served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation. His research interests are in the areas of judgment and decision-making, particularly economic and medical decision-making.

Baruch Fischhoff, PhD

Baruch Fischhoff, PhD, is Howard Heinz University Professor, in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences and Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He holds a B.S. in mathematics and psychology from Wayne State University and a MA and Ph.D. in psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and has served on some two-dozen NAS/NRC/IOM committees. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and recipient of its Early Career Awards for Distinguished Scientific Contribution to Psychology and for Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest. He is a Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis and recipient of its Distinguished Achievement Award. Dr. Fischhoff's research includes risk perception and communication, risk management, adolescent decision-making, medical informed consent, and environmental protection.

Paul Slovic, PhD

Paul Slovic is president of Decision Research and a professor of psychology at the University of Oregon. He studies human judgment, decision making, and risk analysis. Dr. Slovic received a B.A. degree from Stanford University, an M.A. and PhD degree from the University of Michigan, and an honorary doctorate from the Stockholm School of Economics. He is past president of the Society for Risk Analysis and in 1991 received its Distinguished Contribution Award. In 1993, Dr. Slovic received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association, and in 1995 he received the Outstanding Contribution to Science Award from the Oregon Academy of Science.

Michael Stefanek, PhD

Michael Stefanek, PhD, has been Chief of the Basic Biobehavioral Research Branch since December 1998. Before coming to NCI, he was Director of Adult Psychology at the University of Maryland Department of Psychiatry, and Coordinator of Psychosocial Services at the Greenebaum Cancer Center at the University of Maryland. Prior to that, Dr. Stefanek was on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine from 1985 -1994, with a full-time appointment with the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. He was Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Breast Surveillance Service, a research focused clinical program of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. He has received funding from the NCI and ACS, served on several NCI and ACS grant review boards, and served on institutional review boards at both Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland Cancer Centers. He was also a recipient of an NCI training grant.

Dr. Stefanek received his MS and PhD in Psychology (1984) from Virginia Polytechnic and State University and his MA in Behavior Therapy and Analysis from Southern Illinois University in 1976. He completed his Pre-doctoral internship at Johns Hopkins in the Division of Medical Psychology. His research has focused on psychosocial and behavioral oncology, and he has published extensively on issues related to women at high risk of developing breast cancer and other psychosocial areas. He is the author of over 40 scientific articles, half as first author.

Ellie Ehrenfeld, PhD

Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld received a B.A. *cum laude* in chemistry from Brandeis University and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Florida. She conducted postdoctoral research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Department of Cell Biology and subsequently served on the faculty there. In 1974, she became Associate Professor in the microbiology and biochemistry departments at the University of Utah College of Medicine, rising to the position of professor of biochemistry and cellular, viral and molecular biology. In 1992, she became Dean of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, where she served until assuming her current post as Director, Center for Scientific Review (formerly Division of Research Grants).

Robert E. O'Connor, PhD

Since 2001 Robert O'Connor has been co-directing the Decision, Risk and Management Sciences Program at the National Science Foundation. In August he retired as Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the Pennsylvania State University to accept a permanent position as DRMS program officer.

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Science Foundation have funded Dr. O'Connor's most recent research into public perceptions of cumulative, uncertain long-term risks, of technologies perceived as risky, and of agency risk communications. His most recent articles have appeared in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Climatic Change*, *Risk Analysis*, and the *Social Science Quarterly*. He chairs the Risk Communication Section of the Society for Risk Analysis. Dr. O'Connor earned his doctorate in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.