

POLLY JACQUELIN HOPPIN, Sc.D.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experience developing information, institutional capacity and leadership for chronic disease prevention, with a particular focus on asthma. Extensive work with scientists, agency and Congressional staff, health care and public health leaders, foundations, non-governmental organizations and university faculty, administrators and students. Skills include designing, raising funds for and implementing research and policy initiatives that lead to policy and on-the-ground changes in public health; supervising and developing staff; guiding strategic planning and stakeholder engagement; chairing not-for-profit Boards and Board committees.

EDUCATION

- Sc.D. Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland: Health Policy and Management; Environmental Health Sciences.
- B.A. Princeton University, *cum laude*: English and American Studies.

EXPERIENCE

- 2004-present ***Research Professor, College of Health Sciences, and Program Director, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts, Lowell.*** Design, raise funds, conduct research, and engage with scientists, stakeholders and decision-makers to improve policy and practice in population health. Priority areas include the role of environmental factors in the onset and management of chronic disease. Supervise and mentor staff and students; strategically engage stakeholders and decision-makers to pursue solutions to environmental health problems. Make presentations to public and private sector decision-makers and at professional meetings; write relevant papers; engage with community and NGO partners.

Selected Projects

Partnership on Expanded Investments for Asthma

Collaboratively designed and implemented a project to better understand how New England health plans and other payers (such as Medicaid) make decisions to cover preventive services, and to support their investments in delivery and financing of a spectrum of interventions to improve asthma control, including home-based environmental assessments and asthma education (in partnership with the Asthma Regional Council of New England). Published three reports establishing an evidence-based “business case” for asthma education and in-home environmental interventions, which have had wide influence among payers, employers, health plans and public health agencies. In partnership with ARC, convened clinicians to develop a consensus statement with recommendations for policy and program changes to reduce the burden of asthma in Massachusetts; organized and sponsored a major conference for clinicians, and two symposia targeting public and private payers.

Boston Asthma Home Visit Collaborative

Ongoing role as senior consultant and facilitator of a stakeholder process to design, implement and evaluate a City-wide system of home visits for asthma to supplement quality medical care.

Advancing Primary Prevention for Asthma

Designed and led an initiative to convene asthma researchers and other leaders to develop a Massachusetts “roadmap” for better understanding the root causes of asthma and advancing interventions to reduce asthma incidence over time. Convened a two-day symposium for scientists, stakeholders and decision-makers. Chair a new primary prevention committee of state asthma coalition. Primary author of the primary prevention components of state strategic plans for asthma, 2009-2014 and 2015-2020.

Pollution from Commercial and Large-Scale Biomass Burning: What it Means for Human Health and What Policy Makers Can Do

Designed and implemented a project to characterize the risks to human health from the burning of wood for heat and power, assess relevant policy constraints and opportunities, and engage stakeholders to elevate health considerations in the policy debate on institution-scale biomass burning. Raised funds for, planned and convened three successful symposia among health professionals, senior agency staff, health scientists and advocates, leading to new policy proposals in several Northeast states. Organized and presented at sessions on relevant science and policy via webinars and at conferences.

Building a Cancer-Free Economy: An Initiative to Reduce Use of Carcinogens and Adopt Safer Alternatives

Leading a major initiative by the Lowell Center and NGO and foundation partners to address the role of chemicals and other environmental factors in the development of cancer, with a focus on those cancer sites and populations where incidence is increasing. Current activities include constructing a “systems map” and identifying strategic leverage points.

2002-2004

Senior Scientist, Sustainable Communities Group, Tellus Institute, Boston, MA.

Responsible for developing a new Environmental Health Program, including designing and conducting program and policy research; building relationships with wide array of professionals and leaders in relevant sectors; securing funding; mentoring and supervising staff; making presentations at professional meetings and writing relevant papers.

1997-2002

US Department of Health and Human Services and Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. and Boston, MA.

Served in senior advisory roles in the Clinton Administration, both in Washington and in New England, promoting and staffing interagency initiatives to expand resources and launch new programs on priority environmental health issues, such as mercury contamination of seafood, childhood asthma, and food safety. Responsible for small grants program in New England. Helped found the New England Asthma Regional Council.

- 1993-1997 ***Director, Agricultural Pollution Prevention Policy, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C.***
Responsible for designing, funding and implementing a new program area for WWF to influence policy and farm practices to reduce pollution from agriculture and promote environmentally and economically sound alternatives to heavy reliance on pesticides.
- 1990-1993 ***Senior Program Officer, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C., Policy Program.***

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Member of the Board of Directors, Center for Whole Communities, Fayston, VT, 2010 to present. Serve on the Board of an organization that strengthens capacity of individuals and groups to work across difference so that they are effective stewards of land and community.

Member of the Board of Directors, Pesticide Action Network, North America (PANNA), 2010 to present. Served as Secretary, Vice President and President of the Board of PANNA, a not-for-profit membership organization which promotes healthy food and reduced reliance on hazardous pesticides.

Member of the Board of Trustees, Park School, Brookline, MA. 2002 to 2008. Served as Board Member; chaired the Educational Policy Committee; served on the Diversity Committee; served on task forces addressing affordability, athletics, Grade IX program.. Developed understanding of issues facing independent and public education, as well as the importance of clear delineation of roles and close collaboration between staff and Board.

Member of the Board of Directors, Clean Water Fund, Washington, D.C., 1997 to 2009. Advised staff in the management, program and transition from founding Executive Director of this 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization specializing in research and projects to improve water quality in the U.S.

Member of the Board of Directors, Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA), 2004 to 2006. Focused on needs/opportunities for MPHA in addressing environmental and community aspects of public health.

Co-Chair, Environmental and Occupational Health Section, Massachusetts Public Health Association, 2004 to 2007. Developed a strategic plan and leadership among MPHA members to enhance Section's contribution to educational, legislative and community activities.

Member of the Founding Board of Directors, Protected Harvest, Sacramento, California, 2001 to 2005. Advised consultants and staff in the start-up of not-for-profit organization dedicated to setting and ensuring compliance with standards for agricultural practices to reduce health and environmental impacts.

Partner, Health and Environment Funders Network, 2000 to 2001. While at EPA, was active participant and sole public sector partner in effort to build relationships and foster collaborative initiatives among health and environment foundations.

Environment Section, American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C., Governing Council, 1999 to 2001; Chair: 1998 to 1999; Program Planner, 1995 to 1996. Responsible for motivating, organizing and being responsive to APHA members who identified their primary or secondary area of interest as environmental health. Priority activities included developing budget and strategic plan for the Section; improving communication among members, Section leaders and APHA staff; organizing and facilitating numerous scientific sessions. As a member of Governing Council, focus was on APHA-wide internal and external policy.

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS: Available on request.