

# The Effect of Lead Exposure on Learning: The Way Forward

## Speakers

### **Stanley Schaffer, MD, MS**

Dr. Schaffer is a primary care pediatrician at Golisano Children's Hospital Pediatric Practice, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at University of Rochester Medical Center, and Director of the Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office. Dr. Schaffer did his undergraduate work in physiology at the University of California at Berkeley, received a master's degree from California State University, Northridge, and got his M.D. degree in Epidemiology & Biostatistics from the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University in Israel. After his pediatric residency in Philadelphia, Dr. Schaffer completed a fellowship in General Academic Pediatrics in Rochester from 1989 to 1991 and subsequently stayed at the University of Rochester as a faculty member. In addition to research involving immunization delivery, Dr. Schaffer has led projects evaluating the effectiveness of lead risk assessment in a variety of settings and has participated in research on lead in dust and on porches. He has published articles in a number of pediatric and public health journals. Dr. Schaffer was also a founding member of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning and has led many of its efforts to increase blood lead testing among children and to educate medical professionals and the general public about the lead poisoning problem.

### **Pat McLaine, DrPH, MPH, RN**

Dr. McLaine is Assistant Professor and Director of the Community/Public Health Nursing Specialty at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She served on the Educational Services for Children Affected by Lead Expert Panel which was convened by the Centers for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning and which produced the 2015 report: *Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead*. Dr. McLaine received her BSN degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1981 and her MPH, with a focus on Occupational Health, from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1987. Her Doctorate in Public Health is from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and her dissertation topic was: *The Association between Elevated Blood Lead Levels and Reading Readiness in Kindergarten Children*. Dr. McLaine is the chair of Maryland's Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission.

### **Peter Simon, MD, MPH**

Dr. Simon retired as the Medical Director of the Division of Community, Family Health and Equity at the Rhode Island Department of Health in 2013. Dr. Simon is a graduate of Cornell University and The State University of NY, Upstate Medical School in Syracuse. He received his MPH from Johns Hopkins University in 1976. He is certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics. While working as a private pediatrician in Pawtucket, RHI, he served as a Consultant Medical Epidemiologist for the state's Immunization and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs from 1977 until 1984 when he joined the RI Department of Health as a full time Medical Epidemiologist. He has had multiple roles with the maternal and child health program at the state and national levels. Dr. Simon has been a national leader in setting standards for the Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning and Newborn Screening in the US. He is a national trainer for all health professionals working with children's environmental health and has been the Medical Director of the RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program since 1977. Since giving up his private practice in 1985, Dr. Simon continues to see pediatric patients at the Providence Community Health Centers. He serves on the Board of CityMatCH and the National Center for Healthy Housing and as a consultant to the CDC Advisory Committee to the Center for Environmental Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program.

## Speakers (continued)

### **Theodore Lidsky, PhD**

Dr. Lidsky is broadly trained in neuroscience and psychology and specializes in behavioral neuroscience and neuropsychology. He recently retired, after 20 years of service, from a position at the NYS Instituted for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities where he served as director of the Center for Trace Element Studies and Environmental Neurotoxicology. He served as a consultant or reviewer for various public health and scientific organizations including the US EPA and the Canadian Nation Government (Health Canada) concerning the neuropsychology and neurotoxicology of childhood lead poisoning and has testified of the City Council of the City of New York concerning proposed revisions in the laws concerning lead hazards in housing. In the past decade he has performed more than 1,000 neuropsychological evaluations of lead poisoning children as well as young adults who had been poisoned as infants.

### **Ralph Spezio, EdD**

Dr. Spezio is a retired Executive Principal for the Rochester City School District (RCSD). In 1970, Dr. Ralph Spezio began his career in RCSD as a teacher...then curriculum specialist, Vice Principal and Principal of School 17 where he received local, state, and national recognition for extensive and innovative community partnerships. Recognized as an Entrepreneurial Leader in a University of Rochester Warner School Kaufmann Foundation study, Dr. Spezio was also a founder of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning which received the EPA's Environmental Justice Achievement Award. Upon his retirement from RCSD in 2002, New York State's Governor declared the Enrico Fermi School a State Neighborhood/Community School Model. Dr. Spezio was then recruited and maintained a faculty appointment in the University of Rochester's Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. After 12 years in retirement as school principal, the superintendent and RCSD Board of Education asked Dr. Spezio in 2013 to again become Principal of School 17 for two years to help lift it out of State Priority School status. That assignment ended in 2015 after his successor worked and trained alongside of Dr. Spezio to ensure leadership sustainability for the school. Dr. Spezio speaks nationally on education and childhood lead poisoning issues and is still very active in the City of Rochester's JOSANA Neighborhood/Community, where School No. 17 is located.

## Panelists

### **Implementing 'Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead' - the CDC's 2015 Expert Panel Recommendations – How Can We Get it Done?**

**Moderator: Dirk Hightower, PhD**, Executive Director, Children's Institute

**Ray Giamartino Jr, EdD**, Chief Accountability Officer, Rochester City School District

**Patricia McLaine, DrPH, MPH, RN** Assistant Professor of Family and Community Health and Director of Community/Public Health Nursing Specialty at University of Maryland School of Nursing

**Wade Norwood**, Member, NYS Board of Regents; Chief Strategy Officer for Common Ground Health

**Peter Simon, MD, MPH**, Medical Director (retired) of the Division of Community, Family Health and Equity of the Rhode Island Dept. of Health; Associate Professor, Practice of Epidemiology, Brown University

### **How Can Schools Address the Needs of Individual Students Affected by Lead?**

**Moderator: Andrew MacGowan III**, Project Administrator, Rochester City School District

**Suzanne Bamonto, PhD**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Rochester Institute of Technology Department of Psychology

**Elizabeth Devaney, MM**, Director of Social Emotional Learning Center, Children's Institute

**Kathleen Graupman, MEd**, Superintendent of Schools, Greece Central School District

**Caterina Leone Mannino**, Principal, Enrico Fermi School No. 17, Rochester, NY