

Speaker and Panelist Biographies



Raimee H. Eck, PhD, MPH, MPAS has over 13 years of public health training and experience, focusing on the epidemiology of alcohol use and harm, environmental interventions to reduce acute and chronic causes of alcohol-related harm, and translating research into effective policy. She is a Past President of the Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA), the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), and currently Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee. She is also the Founder and Principal of Sonrisa Solutions, providing consultancy expertise on topics such as alcohol epidemiology, regulation, and enforcement; public health policy translation; and advocacy in the form of research reports, workshops, webinars, and interactive trainings. Raimee received her Bachelor of Health Science and Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA and later her MPH and PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH). She completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Behavioral Research Program at the National Cancer Institute. She also teaches Media Advocacy in the Department of Health, Behavior & Society and is on faculty for the Center of Public Health Advocacy at JHSPH.



Thomas Gremillion is the Director of Food Policy at the Consumer Federation of America. He oversees the research, analysis, advocacy and media outreach for the group's food policy activities, and monitors food safety activities at USDA, FDA and in Congress, where he advocates for strong food safety protections for consumers. He also coordinates the Safe Food Coalition, a group of consumer, trade union, and foodborne illness victim organizations dedicated to reducing foodborne illness by improving government food inspection programs. Prior to joining CFA in 2015, Gremillion practiced environmental law at Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for Public Representation, where he represented community groups and advocacy organizations in litigation against polluters and government regulators. He also served as an associate attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill, NC, where he specialized in transportation and land use issues. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Gremillion is a member of the D.C. and North Carolina bars. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in mathematics, and served as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Quito, Ecuador, where he received an M.A. in International Relations from La Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar.



Melissa Maitin-Shepard, MPP, Founder and Principal of MMS Health Strategies, LLC, has 15 years of experience in public health policy focused on chronic disease prevention and health promotion. Melissa has particular expertise in policies related to nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco control, and cancer. Melissa works primarily with nonprofit organizations, foundations, and think tanks committed to public health and social justice, including the American Institute for Cancer Research, which is focused on the

Melissa Maitin-Shepard (cont'd) connection between healthy lifestyle and cancer prevention and survivorship. Prior to beginning consulting work in 2018, Melissa held national policy positions at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society; Global Policy Solutions, LLC; the American Heart Association; and Trust for America's Health. Melissa has a Master of Public Policy degree with a health policy concentration and a Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, from the George Washington University. Melissa is an active member of the American Public Health Association, where she serves in an elected leadership position as a councilor to the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs section, the home of more than 1,200 public health professionals working in these fields. She also serves on advisory boards for the NIH-funded Tufts University Food PRICE research project examining dietary policies to prevent cancer and the American College of Sports Medicine's Moving Through Cancer Initiative. Melissa is based in the Washington, DC area, where she enjoys access to the epicenter of federal policymaking and the region's diverse cultural and recreational activities.



Timothy Naimi MD, MPH is currently the Director at the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College, his M.D. degree from the University of Massachusetts, and his M.P.H degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency program at Massachusetts General Hospital, the Epidemic Intelligence Service program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a Preventive Medicine Residency with CDC. He has worked as a physician for the U.S. Indian Health Service, and as a senior epidemiologist with the Alcohol Team at CDC, and a professor in the Boston University Schools of Public Health and Medicine. His research interests include alcohol epidemiology, the health effects of substance use, and the impact of alcohol and cannabis policies.



Cassandra Tourre is the Director of Public Policy at the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA), a trade association representing alcohol regulators. She has 15 years of public health experience related to the regulation, enforcement, and marketing of alcohol. Prior to joining NABCA, Cassie was Faculty Associate at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where she worked on both statewide and national projects implementing and assessing strategies to address excessive alcohol consumption.