



Aruni Bhatnagar, PhD, FAHA

Aruni Bhatnagar, Ph.D., F.A.H.A. received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Kanpur, and completed his postdoctoral research in 1990 at the University of Texas Medical Branch, in Galveston, Texas, where he assumed faculty position and worked until 1998. He is presently a Professor of Medicine and Smith and Lucille Gibson Chair in the Department of Medicine at the University of Louisville. He was elected a Fellow of the American Heart Association in 2005. His research interests include cardiovascular complications of diabetes and environmental cardiology. His recent work has shown how environmental factors affect cardiovascular disease risk. Dr. Bhatnagar's research is supported by several grants from the National Institutes of Health. He is currently the Director of the Diabetes and Obesity Center at the University of Louisville where he leads a large multidisciplinary team of investigators studying how diabetes and obesity affect cardiovascular health and disease. He is also the Co-Director of the American Heart Association Tobacco Addiction and Research Center. He is the Deputy Editor of *Circulation Research*. In 2014, he chaired a panel of

experts who wrote the American Heart Association's Statement on E-cigarettes. He has published 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 25 book chapters and reviews and over 200 abstracts.



Robert Jacobs, PhD

Dr. Jacobs is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and Director of the Masters of Public Health Program. He began to focus on Public Health in the 1970's while teaching basic sciences as a volunteer in Nigeria. There, he encountered a variety of public health problems such as infectious diseases, environmental degradation, and poor sanitation. Dr. Jacobs received his BSc and MSc from Baylor University, and his PhD in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina. As Director of Health and Safety Research for a not-for-profit corporation, he focused much of his work on understanding the etiology and pathogenesis of byssinosis (a lung disease caused by inhalation of cotton, flax or hemp dust). Prior to joining the School of Public Health and Information Sciences at the University of Louisville in August 2005, he held positions as the Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health at Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University, and Professor of

Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Jacobs has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles, 14 book chapters and given over 40 presentations. Dr. Jacobs' research interests include health effects associated with indoor air and exposures to organic dust in agricultural and industrial environments; Inhalation toxicology; International environmental and occupational health practices.



Paul J. Kiser, PhD

BS – Biology, Florida State University

MS, PhD – Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology, University of Louisville School of Medicine

Dr. Kiser received his Masters and subsequently his Doctoral degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology. For nearly two decades he has been involved at the local and state level studying and advocating for health policy initiatives and preventive efforts to reduce the health and economic burdens that the use of tobacco and tobacco-related products place on our society. As a previously certified prevention specialist Dr. Kiser has always placed a strong emphasis on completely understanding the issue, researching effective practices/policies from other locations and advocating for strong policies to improve public health. He has served on numerous local, regional and state executive boards and committees and has

consulted on health policies for numerous private businesses and organizations as well at city council, fiscal court and state legislative levels.

Accompanying this extensive history in public health Dr. Kiser has taught Anatomy and Physiology at Bellarmine University for twelve years. His graduate and post-doctoral research projects in neuroscience focused on genetic studies of visual cortical development and plasticity with specific research in the post-natal regulation of gene expression by visual experience. Since joining the Bellarmine community as a full-time faculty member Dr. Kiser has merged his passion for public health and his research agenda to focus his studies on further understanding the pervasiveness of alternative nicotine delivery systems in our community and the implications of this on the perceptions and use rates by college students in the region.



Monica Mundy, MPH

Monica Mundy is Program Coordinator for FRESH (Freedom from Radon Exposure and Smoking in the Home) Research Study and a Community Advisor for the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy. Monica is a PhD Student in Kinesiology and Health Promotion at the University of Kentucky. Her expertise includes coordinating public health projects, study recruitment, policy development activities and community events involving students, community advocates, and policymakers. Monica received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from University of Kentucky and Master of Public Health from Eastern Kentucky University.



Carol Riker, MSN, RN

Carol Riker, Associate Professor Emeritus, is a faculty associate with BREATHE and the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy. She developed a coalition guidebook, *Growing People: Building and Maintaining Coalitions for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation* and co-authored with Lee, Darville, and Hahn "E-cigarettes: Promise or Peril," (*Nursing Clinics of North America*, March 2012). Riker provided intensive technical assistance when the Madison County Board of Health faced a challenge from e-cigarette proponents who strongly opposed strengthening their smoke-free regulation in 2011. She also provided health content expertise to the attorney who developed the Amicus Briefs submitted to the Kentucky Court of Appeals and the Kentucky Supreme Court while they were considering Bullitt County Board of Health's authority to adopt a smoke-free regulation for all workplaces. Riker received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan and her master's degree from the University of Kentucky. In November 2007, Riker was among the first seven recipients of the University of Kentucky Provost's Distinguished Service Professors Award, which honors faculty for

their consistently high level of achievement in their contributions to their disciplines and the University.