

Speaker Bios

Caroline Smith, PhD

is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health and Exercise Science at Appalachian State University. She is the Director of the Thermal and Microvascular Physiology Laboratory which focuses on human thermoregulation and physiological responses to environmental stressors.

Her current work includes assessments of dermal contaminant absorption, and how thermoregulatory dysfunction contributes to aging and cardiovascular disease. She has studied sweating and heat dissipation methods, including having worked on techniques for producing whole body sweat maps. She is the sole author of one of the only review papers on pediatric thermoregulation, which describes some of the differences in thermoregulation between children and adults.

Robert Huggins, PhD ATC

is the President of Research and Athlete Performance at the Korey Stringer Institute, an exertional heatstroke prevention institute located at the University of Connecticut. He has been a licensed Athletic Trainer since 2007, has experience treating exertional heat stroke at mass medical events, and conducts athlete performance testing in the MISSION Heat lab. Dr. Huggins has served on a number of task forces and committees involved in safety for youth sports.

His research interests include heat illness, hydration, sport performance, improving Athletic Training services at the secondary school level, and emergency best practices in youth athletes. His many publications include first authorship of the 2013 "Inter-Association Task Force for Preventing Sudden Death in Secondary School Athletics Programs: Best Practices Recommendations."

Perry E. Sheffield, MD

is Associate Professor in the Departments of Environmental Medicine and Public Health and Pediatrics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She's co-Director of the New York State Children's Environmental Health Center (NYSCEHC) and the Deputy Director of the Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU), which provides environmental health services to communities in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

Dr. Sheffield's research focuses on climate change and human health, with a particular emphasis on children and workers. She has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed articles or chapters, focused on extreme heat, air pollution, and children's environmental health more broadly. She has spoken internationally and nationally and is an advocate for public policies that protect children's health.

Aaron Bernstein, MD MPH

is the Interim Director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Harvard Chan C-CHANGE), a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital, and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He is also the Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health and Climate Change.

Dr. Bernstein is an author on the Human Health chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, and regularly testifies before Congress on the child health impacts of climate change, drawing from his personal experience as a pediatrician having to treat children with breathing difficulties, vector-borne diseases, and trauma from natural disasters. Dr. Bernstein is passionate about advancing solutions to address climate change to improve the health and wellbeing of children around the world.