

2020 Vaping Summit Speaker Bios

November 5, 2020

Kar-Hai Chu, PhD

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health



Dr. Chu's program of research is at the intersection of computer science, social network analysis, and behavioral health. His funding is primarily in cancer prevention and public health, including tobacco control and HPV vaccinations. Dr. Chu's current projects include a mobile health tobacco cessation study, surveillance of tobacco-related discussions and trends on social media, vaccine disinformation, and interventions to support adolescent e-cigarette prevention.

Ryan Coffman, MPH, CHES, CTT-M

Program Manager, Tobacco Policy and Control Program,
Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Ryan Coffman, MPH, CHES, CTT-M, is the Tobacco Policy and Control Program Manager for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. In this role, he oversees several tobacco control and policy initiatives under the Get Healthy Philly Initiative. These initiatives include the prevention of youth initiation, retail-level tobacco control, promoting tobacco-free environments, mass media campaigns, tobacco control policy, and tobacco treatment services. He is committed to serving vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by the effects of tobacco use.



Previously, Ryan provided inpatient, outpatient, and community tobacco use disorder treatment in hospital, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment settings. He acquired his master's in public health (MPH) degree at Tulane University and has certifications in health education, tobacco use disorder treatment and global tobacco control. Ryan first became committed to tobacco control in 2003 while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya and continues to provide tobacco treatment services Health Center 2 in South Philadelphia.

Niki Knopsnyder

Pennsylvania Advocacy Specialist

American Lung Association



Niki Knopsnyder is the Pennsylvania Advocacy Specialist with the American Lung Association and the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT). Currently, Niki handles the administration and management of various PACT projects including: PACT membership engagement/recruitment, PACT Notes, advocacy trainings, tobacco prevention and control funding sustainability efforts, the Point of Sale initiative, PACT/TRU integration, and other special initiatives.

Molly Pisciotano, MHA

Director of Advocacy, PA & WV

American Lung Association



Molly Pisciotano is the Director of Advocacy for both Pennsylvania and West Virginia with American Lung Association for the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT). Molly leads policy, statewide advocacy strategy, program development and implementation, and continual management of all advocacy projects. Prior to joining PACT, Molly managed Pennsylvania's youth tobacco prevention program, the Tobacco Resistance Unit (TRU). Molly received her Master of Science in Healthcare Administration and Management from Point Park University and her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and French from Washington & Jefferson College.