



Agenda: Ciguatera Research, Fort Myers Town Hall

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: The Collaboratory
2031 Jackson Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Registration 5:15 – 5:30 PM

Welcome and Objectives 5:30 – 5:35 PM
Janel A. Lowman, MHA, Sr. Manager of Outreach, USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute

State of Ciguatera in Florida 5:35 – 6:05 PM
Dr. Michael Parsons, PhD, Professor of Marine Science, Florida Gulf Coast University

Presentation of the Stakeholder Findings 6:05 – 6:20 PM
Dr. Jennifer Young Pierce, MD, MPH, Professor of Gynecologic Cancer, Director of Cancer Control and Prevention, University of South Alabama

Introduction of Panelists: 6:20 - 6:25 PM
Dr. Jennifer Young Pierce

Panel Discussion (Q/A) 6:25 – 7:00 PM
a. Preselected questions
b. Questions from the audience

Panelists:

1. Dr. Mike Parsons, PhD

Dr. Parsons serves as the Director of the Greater Caribbean Center for Ciguatera Research. Parsons has over 25 years of experience in study of harmful algal blooms, with over 30 published papers in the field. He has received over \$20 million in competitive funding for research and has served on several other projects. Parsons has served on two terms on the National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee and was appointed by Florida Governor DeSantis to serve on the state's Blue Green Algal Task Force in May 2019.

2. Andrew Reich, MS, MSPH, RRT

Mr. Reich has a Master of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Alabama in Birmingham as well as a Master's in Medical Science from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a concentration in Intensive Care Medicine. He is also a board registered

respiratory therapist (RRT). Mr. Andrew Reich has over 25 years of experience in public health addressing issues such as water quality, fish advisories, hazardous waste investigations, toxicology consults, environmental contamination, and disease outbreaks. He was the scientific advisor to the Bureau of Environmental Health at Florida Department of Health until September 2020, Andy was also acting chief of the Bureau of Environmental and coordinated the Bureau's response to the Ebola threat. Since his retirement from the State of Florida, Andrew has been providing consulting services to private non-profit entities on water quality impacts from public health including harmful algal blooms such as red tide and cyanobacteria.

3. Mary Beth Saunders, DO, MPH

Dr. Mary Beth Saunders is an infectious disease specialist in Fort Myers, Florida and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Cape Coral Hospital and Lee Memorial Hospital. She received her medical degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

4. Ashley Brandt, MS (joining virtually)

Ashley Brandt has a Bachelors in Environmental Studies and Marine Science from Florida Gulf Coast University. Brandt has earned her Master's in Environmental Science. She currently serves as the southwest Florida liaison for the Community Engagement Core project. Brandt's experience with Ciguatera research began in 2010 with her interest in coral health and algal dynamics.

Moderator

Dr. Jennifer Young Pierce, MD, MPH

Leader of Cancer Control and Prevention; Program Director for the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship; Professor of Interdisciplinary Clinical Oncology at the University of South Alabama. Pierce was recruited to USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she served as GYN Oncology Disease Team Leader at Hollings Cancer Center and Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology. With a degree in medicine from MUSC and degrees in engineering and public health from the University of Virginia – Charlottesville, Dr. Pierce became the first female gynecologic oncologist in South Carolina in 2009. Dr. Pierce serves on the National HPV Roundtable as well as on the cervical cancer and immunotherapy committees for the NRG, the cooperative clinical trials group of the NCI. Dr. Pierce treats patients suffering from gynecologic malignancies, including all medical and surgical aspects.

Adjournment

7:00 PM