



PCORI Virtual Briefing: Suicide Prevention in Youth

Event Date and Time:

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 2:00-3:00 pm ET

Speaker Biographies

Opening Remarks (Recorded)



Nakela Cook, MD, MPH

Executive Director, PCORI

Dr. Nakela L. Cook is Executive Director at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). She is a cardiologist and health services researcher with a distinguished career leading key scientific initiatives engaging patients, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders at one of the nation's largest public health research funders.

Dr. Cook leads PCORI's research, dissemination and implementation, and engagement work as the organization enters its second decade of service to the nation. She also provides strategic and day-to-day oversight of ongoing programs as well as new initiatives designed to create a healthcare system that is more efficient, effective, and patient centered.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Cook served as Senior Scientific Officer and Chief of Staff at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Preceding her position as Chief of Staff, Cook was a Clinical Medical Officer in NHLBI's Division of Cardiovascular Sciences and an attending cardiologist at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

Congressman Jamie Raskin is in his third term representing Maryland's 8th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the Committee on House Administration, the Rules Committee, and the Coronavirus Select Subcommittee. He was also renamed Chair of the Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Chair of the Rules Subcommittee on Expedited Procedures for the 117th Congress.

Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland, where he also served as the Senate Majority Whip. He was also a professor of constitutional law at American University's Washington College of Law for more than 25 years.



Congresswoman Ashley Hinson (R-IA)

Congresswoman Ashley Hinson is in her first term representing Iowa's 1st district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Hinson is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and House Budget Committee. Rep. Hinson previously served in the Iowa state House, representing Iowa's 67th district. Prior to holding public office, she was a reporter for KCRG-TV in Cedar Rapids. She received her B.A. in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Southern California before returning home to Iowa to work and raise a family.

Speakers



Jill Harkavy-Friedman, Ph.D.

Vice President of Research, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Dr. Jill Harkavy-Friedman leads the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's growing research grant program, where she works with over 200 scientific advisors to evaluate progress in the field and chart the next areas of inquiry to yield impactful insights and strategies for suicide prevention. She also works closely with AFSP's Education, Communication, and Public Policy and Advocacy teams. Dr. Harkavy-Friedman previously taught at the Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine as an assistant professor, where she established the Adolescent Depression and Suicide Program, and at Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute, where she was an associate professor of clinical psychology. As a licensed psychologist, she maintains a clinical practice in Manhattan.



Joan Asarnow, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA

Director, UCLA Youth Stress & Mood Program

Dr. Joan Rosenbaum Asarnow is Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and a clinical psychologist. Dr. Asarnow's current work focuses on interventions and service delivery strategies for improving health and mental health in youth, with an emphasis on suicide/suicide attempt prevention and depression. At the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior, Dr. Asarnow directs the Youth Stress and Mood Program, which provides clinical care for youth depression and suicidality, with an emphasis on cognitive-behavioral treatments, work with families, and community-based treatment and service strategies. Dr. Asarnow is the Principal Investigator on the ongoing PCORI-funded research study "[Youth Partners in Care for Suicide Prevention](#)."



Anna Radin, DrPH, MPH

Applied Research Scientist, Applied Research Division, St. Luke's Health System

Dr. Anna Radin is an Applied Research Scientist for St. Luke's Health System, a large non-profit health system in Idaho. She has a Doctor of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and a Master of Public Health degree in Health Behavior and Health Education. Dr. Radin's career to date has been dedicated to ensuring that health programs and policies are data-driven and evidence-based and that they reach populations most in need. Her current position allows her to work with a range of partners within the health system and communities to identify areas of critical need for research, and to partner with health system leadership to ensure that evidence-based policies and programs are put into practice at scale to improve both individual patient outcomes and population health. Dr. Radin is the Principal Investigator on the ongoing PCORI-funded research study "[Comparing Two Ways to Provide Safety Planning Follow-Up Support for Adults and Teens at Risk of Suicide](#)."