“A Conversation About Ebola” Panelist Bios

Christopher Whalen, M.D.
Dr. Christopher Whalen is the Ernest Corn Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. Dr. Whalen is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. His research is on TB and HIV and is based in Uganda where he has worked for more than 20 years.

John Drake, PhD
Dr. John Drake is an Associate Professor in the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia. He serves as the Director of the UGA Population Biology of Infectious Diseases REU Site, a research intensive summer training program. His own research focuses on the development of computer models to understand the ecology and evolution of emerging pathogens. Past studies have focused on West Nile virus and Rift Valley fever in humans, White-nose Syndrome in bats and avian influenza in waterfowl.

Kimberly Tomlinson, M.D.
Dr. Kimberly Tomlinson is an Emergency Medicine Physician at Athens Regional Medical Center. She is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics. Dr. Tomlinson attended the University of Georgia for undergraduate studies and received a Bachelor of Sciences in Microbiology and Psychology and she also attended the Medical College of Georgia for medical school. She completed her residency training at the University of Maryland.

Phaedra Corso, PhD
Dr. Phaedra Corso is UGA Foundation Professor of Human Health and Director of the Economic Evaluation Research Group in the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia and Associate Director of the Owens Institute for Behavioral Research at UGA. Dr. Corso is known both nationally and internationally for her research in economic evaluation and economic impact assessment, primarily in the areas of child maltreatment and substance use prevention. Prior to joining UGA, Dr. Corso conducted health economics research for public health interventions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In January, She rejoined the CDC as a senior policy analyst in the agency’s Policy Research, Analysis, and Development Office (PRADO), which spearheads and coordinates much of the policy efforts conducted at CDC’s Atlanta locations.
Jeff Hogan, PhD
Dr. Jeff Hogan is an Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia. Prior to joining UGA, Dr. Hogan worked at USAMRIID in the Virology Division. While there, he worked on correlates of immunity and vaccines for both Marburg and Ebola viruses in mice and non-human primates. Additionally, Dr. Hogan worked for the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham where he received a grant to study Ebola and how it alters immune responses during vaccination.

Cham Dallas, PhD, moderator
Dr. Cham Dallas has a national and international reputation in toxicology and emergency preparedness and response, including more than 30 years of experience. He directs the College of Public Health’s Institute for Disaster Management and has published scores of peer-reviewed scientific publications regarding public health. For seven years, Dr. Dallas was the Director of one of the largest University toxicology programs in the country at the University of Georgia. Additionally, Dr. Dallas was the Director of the Center of Mass Destruction Defense, a CDC Center in Public Health Preparedness, for which he received $2.6 million in funding.

About the UGA College of Public Health
The UGA College of Public Health was established in 2005 in response to the compelling need to address important health concerns in Georgia. Over the past 10 years, the College has experienced the establishment of a highly productive research culture with extramural funding in excess of $30 million, the continuous creation of new academic programs, and a dramatic increase in enrollment to 900 students.

The College is the largest program located at the UGA Health Sciences Campus (HSC) in terms of enrollment, funding for research and actual space occupied by its faculty and students. It offers degrees in biostatistics, disaster management, environmental health, epidemiology, gerontology, global health, health promotion and behavior, public health, health policy and management, and toxicology. Graduates from the College typically go on to a diverse range of careers, including medicine, health education, emergency management, public health policy, environmental science and social work. For more information, see www.publichealth.uga.edu.

About Athens Regional Medical Center
Athens Regional Health System is one of Northeast Georgia's largest health care systems. Comprised of an acute care facility with 350-plus beds, four urgent care centers, a quality network of physicians and specialists, a health maintenance organization and a home health agency, Athens Regional is a progressive health care system committed to excellence and dedicated to improving the health, wellness and quality of life of our communities. For more information, see www.athenshealth.org.