

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Nancy C. Lee, MD

Dr. Nancy Lee is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health — Women's Health, and Director of the Office on Women's Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, a position she has held since March 2011. Her focus has included the Affordable Care Act and women's preventive services, women's health across the lifespan, and violence against women.

For most of her career, Dr. Lee was employed at the CDC where her research and public health efforts focused on cancer screening, the epidemiology of reproductive system cancers, safety of contraceptive methods, and HIV infection among American women. She has extensive experience in women's health, surveillance systems, and cancer prevention and control, and has published over 100 articles in scientific journals. Dr. Lee has consulted with the National Cancer Institute, the Food and Drug Administration, the American Cancer Society, the Institute of Medicine, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the World Health Organization, and the Agency for International Development. She participated in research projects in Africa, China, Central America, and Southeast Asia. From 1999–2004, Dr. Lee was Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, a division with more than 130 staff and an annual budget of \$280 million. She left that position in 2004 to work as a private consultant.

Dr. Lee received her undergraduate degree in mathematics (*summa cum laude*) from the University of Texas, and her medical degree (*cum laude*) from Baylor College of Medicine. She completed her residency training at the University of Pennsylvania and is board-certified in internal medicine.

Jean Y. Ko, PhD

Dr. Jean Ko is an epidemiologist with the Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. Dr. Ko also is adjunct faculty at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health in the Departments of Epidemiology and Behavioral Sciences and Health Education. Her work at CDC includes research and surveillance focused on maternal mental health and substance use. She served as the CDC's Mental Health Workgroup Communications Chair from November 2013–2015. Dr. Ko's work related to maternal and public health at CDC has taken her to Tanzania, Bangladesh, and the American Territories. She has also participated in CDC's responses to the Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreak in West Africa, and more recently, the Zika virus.

Dr. Ko received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience and behavioral biology from Emory University and her doctoral degree in psychiatric epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. During graduate school, she was funded by the prestigious F31 Ruth Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award from the NIH. Following completion of her doctorate degree, she joined CDC for a two-year post-doctorate fellowship as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer.

Jennifer Payne, MD

Dr. Jennifer Payne is the Director of the Women's Mood Disorders Center at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. In addition to providing outstanding clinical care for women with mood disorders, Dr. Payne conducts research into the genetic, biological, and environmental factors

involved in postpartum depression. She and her colleagues have recently identified epigenetic biomarkers of postpartum depression and are working hard to replicate this work. Dr. Payne also directs the Mood Disorders Clinical Trials group with the goal of developing novel therapeutic treatments for depression and bipolar disorder.

Dr. Payne joined the Johns Hopkins faculty as an Assistant Professor in 2003 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. Since her return to Johns Hopkins, Dr. Payne has developed two programs both aimed at understanding the pathophysiology underlying mood disorders and leading to improved treatments and outcomes for patients with mood disorders. She has been awarded a number of honors, including the Passano Physician-Scientist Award, the NARSAD Young Investigator Award, and has been named a Distinguished Fellow by the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Payne received her undergraduate degree in biology at Davidson College in Davidson, NC, and her medical degree from Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, MO. During medical school, she was the recipient of the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellowship and spent a year at the NIH performing basic laboratory research. She completed her residency in psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she served as chief resident during her last year. Dr. Payne then completed a fellowship in mood disorders through the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Danni Starr

Danni Starr is a national media personality and a mom. While attending a women's college, Ms. Starr realized the importance of raising awareness of women's issues and was proud to speak on behalf of "Go Red for Women," as a national face of awareness for the American Heart Association.

This year, Ms. Starr was beyond proud to join forces with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health and currently serves as an ambassador. As an advocate, most important to her is sharing her survival story of postpartum depression and changing laws to better serve mothers and babies. Besides being the best mom possible to her two daughters, the former Miss Minnesota International 2007 can be seen weekly on the TLC network as host of TLCmenow.

Ms. Starr received her communications degree (*magna cum laude*) from St. Catherine's University in May 2008.