

Meet the Board



Jeremy began his professional career as a Community Engagement Coordinator for the American Lung Association in Massachusetts in 2016 while in Graduate School at Assumption College. After receiving his Master of Business Administration, he began working full-time for the Lung Association in Massachusetts where he worked on signature events such as the Fight For Air Climb Boston and LUNG FORCE Walk Boston. After a few years, Jeremy took the opportunity to relocate to his home state and began working for the Connecticut chapter of the Lung Association to support the community he grew up with. After nearly 5 years with the organization, Jeremy left the Lung Association to pursue his career in technology where he now works as a Large Enterprise Account Executive at Dell Technologies. Jeremy earned his Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from Assumption College (2016) where he continued his graduate education to acquire his Master of Business Administration (2017). He now resides in Clinton, CT with his wife Kendall, son Wallace and cat Kittles.



Jeremy McDonald

Large Enterprise Account
Executive
Dell Technologies
Board Chair (2024-2026)

Sandra Catherine Ribeiro, MPH

Director of State Government Relations
GlaxoSmithKline
Vice Chair, Chair Elect (2024-2026)



Sandra Catherine Ribeiro, currently serves on the Connecticut Leadership Board and is Co-Chair of the Connecticut Advocacy committee. Sandra is also the Director of State Government Relations for GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), working with government and elected officials on advancing patient access to medicine throughout New England and New York. Her areas of passion in advocacy include increased access to healthcare services, vaccines, lung health and environmental sustainability.

Sandra has over 20 years of experience in the healthcare field. Sandra obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and received a Master of Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University. She speaks four languages and is an avid traveler. Sandra resides in Waterford, Connecticut with her 11-year-old Labrador pup, Stella Mae, and in her spare time, enjoys gardening and the beach.

Connecticut Leadership Board Fiscal Year 2026



Helaine Bertsch, MD

Hartford Radiation Oncology Associates

Dr. Bertsch serves on the Leadership Board of the American Lung Association in CT since 2013. She is a practicing Radiation Oncologist with Hartford Radiation Oncology Associates practicing in Hartford and Avon for Hartford Healthcare. She is a clinical instructor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Bertsch is on the medical staff at Hartford Hospital, UCONN, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Manchester Memorial Hospital and Backus Hospital.

Dr. Bertsch earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Binghamton University (1989) and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Vermont (1993). She completed her internship at the State University of NY hospital at Stony Brook (1993-1994), residency in Radiation Oncology at the University of Maryland (1994-1997) and her fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania (1997-1998).

Donyen Bogues

Sales Account Manager
J&L Medical Services

Donyen Bogues is an account manager for J&L Medical, an Award-winning DME company that specializes in respiratory equipment for a large COPD population. For 19 years, he's worked with physicians and case managers in many hospitals in the state of Connecticut.

Donyen enjoys helping respiratory patients transition from the hospital setting to the home with the proper equipment. He helps hospital staff coordinate procuring equipment that can handle all stages of COPD ranging from nebulizers with medications, respiratory oxygen, portable oxygen concentrators, or more complicated non-invasive ventilation.

He gets the most enjoyment from direct patient care and is a regular guest speaker for Pulmonary Rehab departments. Even after discharge, patients can reach out to him to discuss better ways of managing their disease, remaining active, and making sure they have the proper equipment to continue with their regular daily life activities, despite their respiratory challenges. He has also been a guest speaker for the American Lung Association, discussing the latest respiratory innovations, as well as challenges that face our COPD population and DME companies.

He is a lifelong CT Resident, currently residing in Southington, CT with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys sports, traveling, and visiting NYC.



Board Member Jane Reardon with her team at the LUNG FORCE Walk

Cassandra Eilers, BSN, RN, CNOR
Clinical Systems Coordinator, Perioperative Services
Hartford Hospital

Cassandra has been a Registered Nurse since 2016. She began her career in the operating room of the ambulatory surgery department for Hartford Hospital. She specialized in ambulatory surgery procedures across multiple service lines and sought continued growth in her profession. In 2020, Cassandra was awarded Hartford Hospital's Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence for her dedication, care, and leadership within the service line for Ear, Nose, and Throat procedures. She went on to complete and receive her Certificate for Certified Nurse of the Operating Room later that year.



Cassandra serves on Hartford Hospital's Nursing Council and is the co-chair of the Nursing Professional Development Council, focusing on mentoring nurses and supporting the advancement through the clinical ladder. Cassandra is now working in a leadership role in the perioperative department as their Clinical Systems Coordinator. She is currently in the final semester for completion of her Master's Degree in Healthcare Management with a focus on Organizational Excellence. Cassandra is also an active member of the professional organization of perioperative nurses (AORN), currently in the role of president for the state chapter. She is the legislative committee chair, and has fulfilled a past role as chapter secretary. Cassandra is also a member of AORN's National Nursing Informatics Committee. As an active member of CT Nurses Association, Cassandra serves as a member of their government relations committee and participates in the state-wide nursing organization roundtable to connect and support nurses all across the profession.

Her latest passion project was engaging and educating state legislators and local leaders on the dangers of surgical smoke for patients and perioperative staff. Her advocacy was the foundation for the passage of legislation in the 2022 session which will protect perioperative team members and patients from the dangers of inhaling surgical smoke.

Erin Gordon
Marketing Executive

Erin is a former Licensed Clinical Social Worker turned Marketing Executive. Erin began her social work career primarily supporting children and their families in hospital and medical settings. During her thirteen years in social work, Erin spent much of her time working with patients in pulmonary and transitional care units, as well as the Pediatric ICU at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago (now called Lurie Children's Hospital).

After starting a family of her own, Erin began to seek a different career option that would tap into her more creative tendencies and her passion for writing. She found her way into the world of marketing and advertising, starting as a copywriter/intern for a Connecticut agency and rising through the ranks to more senior leadership roles, including as Group Creative Director for an international marketing agency. After more than a decade in the agency world, Erin is now building her own portfolio as a creative consultant. She is focusing her freelance work in areas that allow her to tap into her diverse career experiences, including a current assignment helping to craft the corporate narrative for a pharma entity specializing in addiction treatment.



Erin's interest in the mission of the American Lung Association has grown in recent years as the importance of lung health has directly touched her life, through the loss of her best friend to lung cancer. She is excited to use her unique background to support the organization through board participation.

Erin lives in Wilton, CT with her husband, Greg, and their blended family of five young adults, ranging in age from high school to college. In her free time, she enjoys testing out new recipes, traveling and spending time in nature.



David Hill, MD
Director of Clinical Research
Waterbury Pulmonary
Associates

Dr. Hill is the Chair of the Lung Association's National Board of Directors and is a past chair of the Northeast Regional Board of the American Lung Association. He serves on the Leadership Board of the American Lung Association in Connecticut and is a former chair of that board. He is a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician with Waterbury Pulmonary Associates and serves as their director of clinical research. He is an assistant clinical professor of medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine, an assistant clinical professor at the Frank Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University, and a clinical instructor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Hill attends at Waterbury Hospital and St Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, CT and serves as the chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at Waterbury Hospital. He is the past president of the Connecticut Thoracic Society. Dr. Hill has served as the medical director for the Respiratory Care Training Program at Naugatuck Valley Community College since 1998. He has been the principal investigator for more than 75 pulmonary research trials and the author of many papers.

Dr. Hill is a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Lehigh University (1987) and a Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Pennsylvania (1991). He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Connecticut (1991-1994) and his Post-doctoral fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Yale University (1994-1997).

Board Purpose:

To advance the American Lung Association's mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease in the local community through revenue regeneration, advocacy, and fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in our practices, programs, and processes.



Glenn Knowles
Life Cycle Support
Program Director
Electric Boat Corporation

Glenn is currently the Life Cycle Support Program Director at Electric Boat Corporation. He has been at Electric Boat for over 40 years. The primary function of his directorate is to increase the Operational Availability and Capability of Submarines. Glenn began his career as an engineer at Electric Boat and worked his way up to Director with his creativity and ability to think strategically. He has been on the Rhode Island committee for the LUNG FORCE Walk for two years and now has taken a position on the Connecticut Leadership Board for the American Lung Association.

Glenn lost his beloved wife Toby to lung cancer just over two years ago. He has been searching for his purpose in life and believes that working on the board to help others with this awful disease and potentially find cures for lung illnesses might be the answer. He is optimistic that the skills he has learned as an engineer and as a business leader can help generate continued funding to help the cause.



Tyler Losure
Marketing Associate
Voya Financial

Tyler is the Immediate Past Chair of the local Connecticut Leadership Board of the American Lung Association. After gaining his first professional experience interning for the Connecticut Lung Association while in his undergraduate studies, he remained connected with the mission of the organization and continually volunteered with the Fight For Air Climb and LUNG FORCE Walk events, before joining the Board officially in 2017.

Professionally, Tyler works as a marketing engagement professional at Voya Financial where he partners with clients to drive measurable and actionable engagement solutions. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford and is the current chair of the Hartford Young Professional's and Entrepreneurs (HYPE).

He earned his Bachelor's of Arts & Science in Communications from the University of Hartford (2013) where he remained to obtain his Master's of Arts in Communications – Public Relations (2015).

Tyler resides in West Hartford, CT with his wife, Barbara, and American Pit Bull Terrier, Owen. If not at a Lung, HYPE, or University of Hartford function, you can find Tyler running the streets training for his next marathon or working on his golf swing at Rockledge Golf Course.

"The Board has not only been an amazing opportunity for professional growth, but a way to give back to my local community and meet many wonderful people along the way."

-Tyler Losure, Immediate Past Chair

Dr. Anil Magge, a lifelong Connecticut resident, serves as the Director of Interventional Pulmonology at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut and Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts.

After completing his medical school, internal medicine residency, chief medical resident year, and pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, he then completed an Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship through the Combined Harvard Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, where he was trained in several subspecialty areas including malignant and benign central airway disease, lung nodules and masses, COPD and emphysema, and pleural disease. He gained expertise in advanced diagnostic and therapeutic airway procedures including rigid and flexible bronchoscopy, tumor debulking, and airway stenting. Additionally, he became skilled in robotic bronchoscopy, endobronchial valve placement, medical thoracoscopy and other minimally invasive procedures of the airway, esophagus, and pleura.

Dr. Magge currently serves as an assistant professor for the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. He is involved in training UConn pulmonary and critical care fellows in bronchoscopic and pleural procedures and participates in several research projects and clinical trials improving lung health.

During his free time, he enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and is an avid UConn and Boston sports fan.



Anil Magge, MD
Director of Interventional
Pulmonology
Saint Francis Hospital,
Mercy Hospital



Mark Pelliccio
Strategic Business
Development Professional

Mark is an innovative results oriented strategic business development professional with extensive experience in building senior executive level relationships. He has recently completed a highly selective and intensive deep immersion program of the nonprofit sector through UConn's Department of Public Policy. Encore Connecticut is a nationally awarded managerial training that assists corporate professionals transition their skills and experience to opportunities in the nonprofit sector. He served as a UConn Fellow to the Connecticut Technology Council and Shine Your Light CT.

His professional experience includes being an independent advisor to confidential projects in Cyber Security and AI Ethics. From 2018-2023 he served as the Office of the CEO of HMG Strategy, developing a thought leadership network comprised of Fortune 50 to start up senior IT executives who collectively engage in defining what is important and relevant to the global IT community.

Prior to that he served as a Director of Business Development for Benham, a Haskell Company and Leidos, a leading systems integrator that addresses the world's most vexing challenges in science, technology, and engineering. From 1999-2014 he served as a Business Development Consultant for BroadReach Partners, engaging with clients to identify business development improvement strategies.

He has been married for 33 years and has raised three wonderful children, one of whom has just blessed he and his wife Laura with their first grandchild. He enjoys art, music, hiking, swimming, and the best interests of others.

Jane Reardon seemed destined to make a difference for people with lung disease. After graduating from nursing in 1966, she worked in a respiratory intensive care unit where she noticed that the same patients coming in over and over.

"I'm thinking, what's going on? Why do these people keep coming back?" she said. Jane soon realized that a major reason was a lack of resources for patients and their families. With help from the American Lung Association Connecticut chapter, Jane and other nurses wrote a book to help those living with lung disease.

Jane then earned her Master's in Pulmonary Nursing from Yale and was recruited to start the first pulmonary rehab program in Connecticut. Since then, Jane has remained committed to improving lung health, most recently advocating for others to join her in making a legacy gift to the American Lung Association. In the past, she has even put her baking skills to work making her famous chocolate chip cookies for every National Board member who joined the Legacy Society.

Jane has served on the Lung Association's Connecticut Leadership Board for many years, including a term as Chair, and previously served on the National Board of Directors and as Chair of the Northeast Board.



Jane Reardon,
MSN, APRN, CS, AE-C
Pulmonary Clinical Nurse Specialist
Hartford Hospital



Raquel Robinson
ICU Technician
Waterbury Hospital

Raquel has been involved with the American Lung Association since 2022. She is also an ICU Technician at Waterbury Hospital, an organization she has been a part of for over 20 years. She is an avid runner and recently completed the New York City marathon in November 2022, raising money for the Lung Association through the "Powered By Lungs" campaign.

Jon is founder and president of Impact Communications, the Wilton, CT-based presentation and media training practice serving the private, nonprofit and public sectors for over 42 years. He's published numerous articles on media training and crisis communication and has been quoted frequently on presentation and news media interviewing techniques by a broad spectrum of publications ranging from airline magazines to trade journals.

Before forming Impact Communications, Jon was an award-winning television news journalist at WPVI-TV in Philadelphia and WABC-TV in New York, where he was assistant news director and producer of special projects; and "Good Morning America," where he was a field producer. During his 13-year career in television news he was recognized by his fellow journalists with an Emmy nomination, the New York Press Club Feature Award and the International Television Festival of New York Gold Medal as well as the Outstanding Broadcast Service Award of the New York City Council of Churches.

Jon has been a volunteer leader of the American Lung Association at the national, regional and local levels for 42 years and received the coveted Volunteer Excellence Award from the nationwide organization in June of 2018. His primary focus has been on fundraising, marketing, media relations and advocacy at the state and federal levels.

This is Jon's third term as a member of the National Board. He has also served on the Chairs Assembly, the Nationwide Assembly and the National Council and on the boards of Hudson Valley, New York, where he was Board Chair; New York State, New York and the Northeast Region, where he was Vice Chair from 2013 to 2015, Board Chair from 2015 to 2017 and currently serves as a Past Chair. He also sits on the Metro NY and CT Leadership Boards. Rosen is an honors graduate of NYU's University College of Arts & Science and lives in Wilton, CT.



Jonathon Rosen
Founder & President
Impact Communications



Courtney Russell,
LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
State of Connecticut

Courtney (Pope) Russell, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of CT, has a deeply personal connection to her work. Since her father's diagnosis with stage four lung cancer in 2019, she has been a dedicated advocate for the cause. She attended lung advocacy week in 2020 and 2021 virtually with her father, Eric Pope, who unfortunately lost his battle with lung cancer in 2024. This personal loss has only strengthened Courtney's commitment to the mission of the American Lung Association.

Courtney earned her bachelor's in social work at Western Connecticut State University in 2012 and her master's in social work at University of Connecticut in 2013. Courtney currently has her own private practice and works for the State of CT. She resides in Newington, CT with her husband Chris, son Carson, cat Nugget and dog Cooper.

Diahann Wilcox

Nurse Practitioner & Pulmonary
Vascular Disease Coordinator
University of Connecticut Health Center

Diahann Wilcox is a Nurse Practitioner and Pulmonary Vascular Disease (PVD) Coordinator at the University of Connecticut Health Center. She provides direct outpatient care for patients with PAH, COPD, Asthma, ILD, PE, chronic respiratory failure, and OSA. She has special interest in smoking cessation and provides counseling for adults.

She has been active member of PHPN serving on the Symposium Committee for many years. She is a volunteer member on the Connecticut Leadership Board for American Lung Association. She earned her BSN at Russell Sage College in 1992, MSN from UPENN in 1996, and DNP from UCONN in 2017.





**Are you looking for an opportunity to
support our mission and grow your
professional network?**

Email Daniel Bowler, Executive Director in Rhode Island and Connecticut at Daniel.Bowler@Lung.org to learn more about our open Leadership Board opportunities.