

**Office of Communications
Cancer Information Service Research Program**

CIS Research Program Team

Project Officer for Research

The Project Officer for Research provides leadership to the CIS Research Program. She helps to establish research teams and ensures that the research objectives of both the investigator and the CIS are met.

Mary Anne Bright, RN., MN.
Cancer Information Service Research Program
National Cancer Institute

CIS Senior Research Coordinators

The CIS has funded doctorally prepared Senior Research Coordinators to work with academic researchers to develop collaborative research projects and funding applications.

Phyllis M. Wallace, Dr.P.H., CHES
Yale Cancer Center

Robin C.Vanderpool, Dr.P.H., CHES
University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel, Ph.D.
University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Nigel Bush, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

MARY ANNE BRIGHT, RN., MN.

Project Officer for Research

Cancer Information Service Research Program

National Cancer Institute

With a background in clinical oncology, cancer information and education, health communication and federal program administration, Mary Anne Bright holds a variety of leadership positions. Ms. Bright is Director of NCI's Cancer Information Service, a national network of 15 regional offices that serve the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Territories. The CIS is a resource for cancer information and education and a leader in helping people become active participants in their own health care. As Director of the CIS, Ms. Bright oversees the dissemination of cancer information through the nationwide 1-800-4-CANCER toll-free number and smoking cessation services through the NCI's Smoking Quitline (1-877-44U-QUIT). Ms. Bright also oversees implementation of the CIS Partnership Program to reach minority and medically underserved populations and its activities around comprehensive cancer and tobacco control, as well as the CIS Program to improve the delivery of cancer information to patients, friends and families of patients, and the public. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ms. Bright is actively involved in the implementation of the National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines throughout the U.S. Ms. Bright holds numerous honors and awards and is a board member of the International Cancer Information Service Group. She was a recipient of the NCI Director's Gold Star Award in 2005.

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Phyllis M. Wallace, DR.P.H., CHES

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-New England Region, Northern Cluster

Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center

Phyllis M. Wallace is the Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Northern cluster located within Yale University's Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her interest in the CIS is to support the development of evidence-based research studies and to measure help-seeking behavior among underserved and minority populations for future culturally sensitive interventions.

She is responsible for working collaboratively with cancer information investigators on research studies, from conception to dissemination, inclusive of conducting literature reviews and content analyses, research design, data analysis, interview and survey development, and manuscript development.

Research priorities include children with special health care needs, adolescent health (inclusive of GLBT), women's breast and reproductive health, lesbian women's health-seeking behaviors, and men's health addressing chronic disease prevention. Teaching interests include program planning, implementation, and evaluation, community health, research methods, cultural competency, ethics, and community health collaborations/partnerships.

She is published on children's health issues (*Healthy Childcare*) and has presented original research at the: American Academy of Pediatrics' Medical Home Symposium, American Public Health Association, Illinois Head Start Association, Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

Phyllis holds a doctorate in public health, with a specialization in community health from Walden University, MN and a master's degree in Community Health Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, IL. She is an active Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and is a Co-chair for the SOPHE Resolutions Committee.

Phyllis M. Wallace, Dr.P.H., MEd, CHES

Senior Research Coordinator

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ROBIN C. VANDERPOOL, DR.P.H., CHES

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service- Mid-South Region, Southern Cluster

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Robin C. Vanderpool is the Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Southern Cluster located within the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program. She has been with the Mid-South CIS for over 6 years as a Cancer Information Specialist and Research Coordinator. In her current position as CIS Senior Research Coordinator, Robin is responsible for working collaboratively with researchers to formulate research projects, develop funding applications, coordinate the implementation of studies conducted with the CIS, prepare manuscripts for publication, and translate and strategically disseminate innovations and research findings.

Robin's professional interests include cancer health disparities and survivorship issues among rural populations, dissemination research, tobacco control, and cancer information seeking. Robin has worked extensively with the Cancer Information Service network on research-related policies, dissemination activities, and continuing education programs; the University of Kentucky College of Public Health on rural health issues; the Kentucky Cancer Program on tobacco control initiatives; and the Appalachia Community Cancer Network on cancer disparities in Appalachia.

From 1999-2000, Robin served as both a health communications intern (Health Promotions Branch) and fellow (Patient Education Branch) at the National Cancer Institute.

Robin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychobiology from Centre College; a Master of Public Health degree from Western Kentucky University; and a Doctorate of Public Health degree from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. She is also certified as a Health Education Specialist (CHES) by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

Robin C. Vanderpool, Dr.P.H., CHES
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LUDMILA COFTA-WOERPEL, PH.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-South Central Region, Central Cluster

University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

In addition to her role as Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Central Cluster, Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel is also Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Her involvement with the CIS Research Program stems from her interest in testing and disseminating health communication and cancer control interventions in public health programs.

Ludmila came to the United States to study personality and psychosocial risk factors for cardiovascular disease at Duke University Medical Center. Her interest in chronic disease prevention led her to cancer prevention and health communication that focuses on nicotine and tobacco. Her current research examines mechanisms of smoking cessation and relapse in special populations. Ludmila has been Co-Investigator on seven smoking cessation clinical trials and longitudinal cohort studies as well as Principal Investigator on an NCI-funded study of racial/ethnic differences in nicotine dependence. She has published manuscripts on predictors of smoking prevalence, cessation, and relapse in community samples and authored reviews of evidence on pharmacological and behavioral treatments for tobacco dependence.

The highlights of Ludmila's special interests include state-of-the-science methodologies of real-time data collection and the application of mixed models to analysis of real-time longitudinal data.

Ludmila received her Ph.D. in psychology from the Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel, Ph.D.
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NIGEL BUSH, PH.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-Northwest Region, Western Cluster

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

In addition to being the Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Western Cluster, Nigel Bush is a senior staff scientist in the clinical and public health divisions of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC). He is a psychologist specializing primarily in health-related quality of life (QOL) research, and in the design and use of the internet and other interactive technologies in health communication.

Most recently, Nigel was Co-Principal Investigator of a four-year NCI project that developed a Web-based patient self-assessment QOL questionnaire to capture information about recovery from people who had received bone marrow and stem cell transplants.

Nigel currently serves as Co-Investigator on various projects concerning computerized patient symptom self-report, cancer risk education and interventions, and smoking cessation in underserved populations. He is the co-founder of the Washington-Alaska Cancer Pain Initiative, a multidisciplinary movement directed toward improving the management of cancer pain.

Nigel was educated in the United Kingdom where he earned a B.Sc. with Honors in psychology from the University of Nottingham and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Southampton.

Nigel Bush, Ph.D.
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