

Asleep at the Wheel: A Nation of Drowsy Drivers

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U.S. Department of
Transportation

SPEAKER BIOS



Mark Rosekind, Ph.D.

Mark R. Rosekind, Ph.D., was sworn in as the 15th Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on December 22, 2014. He was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Administrator Rosekind is a passionate safety professional dedicated to enhancing transportation safety for the traveling public. In his role as Administrator, Rosekind is pursuing NHTSA's core safety mission of saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing crashes through all of the tools at NHTSA's disposal — including enforcement authority, public awareness campaigns, support of technical innovation, and research into human behavior.

Before becoming NHTSA Administrator, Rosekind served as the 40th Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) from 2010 to 2014. He was nominated to the NTSB by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He was the on-scene Board Member for seven major transportation accidents and participated in numerous NTSB public events on diverse safety topics. Rosekind advanced the agency's advocacy goals on substance-impaired driving, fatigue, fire safety, and rail mass transit.

Administrator Rosekind is an internationally recognized expert on human fatigue, credited with leading the field in innovative research and implementing programs in all modes of transportation. His work has been widely published, and his awards include NASA's Exceptional Service Medal and six other NASA group/team awards; the Mark O. Hatfield Award for Public Policy from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine; two Flight Safety Foundation honors: the President's Citation for Outstanding Safety Leadership and the Business Aviation Meritorious Service Award; and Fellow of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Prior to his appointment to the NTSB, Rosekind founded Alertness Solutions, a scientific consulting firm that specialized in fatigue management, and served as the company's first President and Chief Scientist. He previously directed the Fatigue Countermeasures Program at the NASA Ames Research Center and was chief of the Aviation Operations Branch in the Flight Management and Human Factors Division. He launched his professional career as the Director of the Center for Human Sleep Research at the Stanford University Sleep Disorders and Research Center.

Administrator Rosekind earned his A.B. with Honors from Stanford University, his M.S., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Yale University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Brown University Medical School. Rosekind is married and has two children.



Jeff Michael, Ed.D.

Jeff Michael is the NHTSA associate administrator for research and program development. He is responsible for developing programs to increase seat belt use, to decrease impaired driving, and to improve the safety of motorcyclists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and older drivers. He oversees four offices that formulate, develop, and evaluate a range of traffic safety programs. Michael has a doctorate of education from West Virginia University and a bachelor's degree in design and industry from San Francisco State University. He has served in the Federal government for more than 20 years.

Victim's Story



Jennifer Pearce

Jennifer Pearce is Vice President of CityStaff, a staffing firm in Washington, DC, where she connects job seekers with hiring NGO's and nonprofits in the region. In 2008, her 18 year old sister, Nicole Lee, was killed in a drowsy driving car crash when returning from a ski trip with friends. Since that day, Pearce and her family have set out to educate others on the dangers of drowsy driving by organizing twice-yearly events at highway rest stops providing coffee, snacks, and brochures to hundreds of motorists. Additionally she helps maintain Nicole's memorial website, and plans fundraisers for a scholarship in her name. To-date they have pledged over \$30K in scholarship money.

Panel 1: Drowsy Driving Measurement & Problem ID



Debbie Ascone

Debbie Ascone works in NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis. She has been part of this group for six years and her current focus areas include distracted driving and drowsy driving while also leading a team for the annual data release. Ascone is a co-lead for NHTSA's Safety In Numbers, an electronic newsletter that brings together the agency's safety information and data from both the behavioral perspective and the vehicle perspective and educates the public on how they can become active participants in increasing their own highway safety. Prior to her position in NCSA, Ascone worked in the Office of Vehicle Safety at NHTSA. She also spent eight years as a statistician at the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Ascone received her Bachelor's in Statistics from Virginia Tech and her Master's in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland.



J. Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.

J. Stephen Higgins is a research psychologist in the Office of Behavioral Safety Research at NHTSA. Higgins performs research and develops programs related to drowsy and distracted driving as well as Emergency Medical Services. He received his B.A. with distinction in Psychology and Neuroscience at Temple University and his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Higgins was previously a Human Factors Engineer with Applied Research Associates, working at the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center, a graduate researcher at the Beckman Institute of the University of Illinois, and a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. He has previously been adjunct faculty at Rutgers University and George Washington University. Higgins is published in the areas of cognitive and behavioral neuroscience, human factors, and visual cognition and human performance.



Panel 2: Vehicle Technology



John Lee, Ph.D.

John D. Lee is the Emerson Electric professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory. Previously he was a professor at the University of Iowa and director of human factors research at the National Advanced Driving Simulator. Lee's research focuses on the safety and acceptance of complex human-machine systems by considering how technology mediates attention. Specific research interests include trust in technology, advanced driver assistance systems, and driver distraction. He recently helped to edit *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Engineering*; *The Handbook of Driving Simulation for Engineering, Medicine, and Psychology*; and two books on driver distraction: *Theory, Effects, and Mitigation* and *Driver Distraction and Inattention*.



David Dinges, Ph.D.

David F. Dinges is Professor and Vice Chair, Chief of the Division of Sleep and Chronobiology, and Director of the Unit for Experimental Psychiatry, in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia. His research over the past 35 years for the NIH, NASA, DOT, DOD, and other agencies, has focused on biological, behavioral, cognitive, performance and psychological effects of fatigue and sleep-loss associated with lifestyle, work demands, and health. Dinges's research has yielded insights and understanding into the causes and consequences for accidents and catastrophic events associated with human error, and into behaviors and technologies that can prevent or mitigate the effects of fatigue on human safety. In addition to his extensive laboratory research, he has conducted studies in driving simulators and real-world driving studies, as well as in commercial aviation, and on the International Space Station. He has over 300 scientific publications and has held both national and international science leadership positions, including President of World Sleep Federation, and Editor-in-Chief of *SLEEP*, the leading international journal on sleep research and sleep medicine. For the past 15 years, Dinges has led the Neurobehavioral and Psychosocial Factors Team for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute. He has received numerous honors, including election to the International Academy of Astronautics. He received the Decade of Behavior Research Award from the American Psychological Association, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, and he was recently named an Overseas Fellow of the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences.



Panel 3: Public Awareness, Behavior, and Education



Rafael Pelayo, M.D.

Rafael Pelayo is a clinical professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. He has specialized in the treatment of sleep disorders in children and adults at Stanford since 1993. He has lectured nationally and internationally on sleep disorders. Pelayo has done multiple television, radio and print interviews. He is originally from New York City where he attended medical school and completed training in child neurology. He has served as chair of the Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board of the National Center for Sleep Disorders Research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the NIH. He chaired the pediatric special interest section of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Along with Dr. William Dement, he teaches the Stanford Sleep and Dreams course to hundreds of undergraduate students. Together they co-authored the course textbook.



Joseph Cappella, Ph.D.

Joseph N. Cappella (Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1974) is the Gerald R. Miller professor of communication at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. His research has resulted in more than 150 articles and book chapters and four books. His articles have appeared in journals of psychology, communication, health, and politics. His research has been supported by grants from NIMH, NIDA, NSF, NCI, NHGRI, the FDA, The Twentieth Century Fund, and from the Markel, Ford, Carnegie, Pew, and Robert Wood Johnson foundations. Cappella's book with Kathleen Hall Jamieson on the Spiral of Cynicism has won prizes from the American Political Science Association and the ICA. He is a Fellow of the International Communication Association and its past president, a distinguished scholar of the National Communication Association, and recipient of the B. Aubrey Fisher Mentorship Award.

Panel 4: Public and Corporate Policy



Hans Van Dongen, Ph.D.

Hans P. A. Van Dongen is Director of the Sleep and Performance Research Center at Washington State University, Spokane. Van Dongen is nationally and internationally known for his research on sleep, sleep deprivation, drowsiness and performance impairment. His research includes a wide range of laboratory, field and simulator studies, and he has made significant contributions to drowsy driver detection technology as well as mathematical modeling to predict drowsiness. Van Dongen has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and his work is widely cited. He has been awarded funding by the Navy, Army, Air Force, NASA, NIH, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Regional Airline Association, and various industry partners.



Senator Jason Rapert

Jason Rapert is serving his second term in the Arkansas Senate. He represents Senate District 35, which is comprised of parts of Faulkner and Perry Counties. Currently, in the 90th General Assembly, he is chairman of Senate Insurance & Commerce and chairman of Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Higher Education Subcommittee. Rapert holds membership on Senate Revenue & Tax, Senate Rules, Resolutions & Memorials; Arkansas Legislative Council; Public Retirement & Social Security Programs; Joint Budget Committee; ALC-PEER; State & Public School Life & Health Insurance Task Force; ALC-Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee; Code Revision Commission; Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee; Legislative Task Force to Study the Realignment of Higher Education; JBC-Claims; the Health Reform Legislative Task Force; ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee and Boys State. During the 89th General Assembly, Senator Rapert chaired both the Senate Insurance & Commerce and the ALC Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee. He was vice chairman of Joint Public Retirement & Social Security Programs and co-chair of the Arkansas Legislative Oil & Natural Gas Caucus. During the 88th General Assembly, he served as chairman of the Senate Financial Institutions Subcommittee and vice-chairman of Senate Insurance and Commerce. He was also chairman of the bipartisan Fayetteville Shale Caucus. Rapert was a recipient of the 2011 Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association Advocate of Justice Award for his efforts during the 88th General Assembly.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Rapert works with other legislators from across the country as a member of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the American Legislative Exchange Councils (ALEC). He serves on the Energy & Environment Committee of SLC, the Legislative

Rapert's bio continues on the next page

Effectiveness Committee of NCSL and the Commerce, Insurance & Economic Development Task Force of ALEC. Additionally, he serves on the executive committee of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL).

Rapert is president and owner of Rapert Financial & Associates, Incorporated. He is also the president and founder of Holy Ghost Ministries, Inc. of Arkansas and HGM International, a faith-based humanitarian mission organization with projects in Ghana, West Africa and the Philippines. Since 2004, he has served in the mission field eight times and has led several mission teams to Africa. A lifelong resident of Arkansas, Rapert earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Central Arkansas. He is married to Laurie Tyler Rapert. They have two children.

Panel 5: Balancing the Needs for Research and Action



David Dinges, Ph.D.

David F. Dinges is Professor and Vice Chair, Chief of the Division of Sleep and Chronobiology, and Director of the Unit for Experimental Psychiatry, in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia. His research over the past 35 years for the NIH, NASA, DOT, DOD, and other agencies, has focused on biological, behavioral, cognitive, performance and psychological effects of fatigue and sleep-loss associated with lifestyle, work demands, and health. Dinges's research has yielded insights and understanding into the causes and consequences for accidents and catastrophic events associated with human error, and into behaviors and technologies that can prevent or mitigate the effects of fatigue on human safety. In addition to his extensive laboratory research, he has conducted studies in driving simulators and real-world driving studies, as well as in commercial aviation, and on the International Space Station. He has over 300 scientific publications and has held both national and international science leadership positions, including President of World Sleep Federation, and Editor-in-Chief of SLEEP, the leading international journal on sleep research and sleep medicine. For the past 15 years, Dinges has led the Neurobehavioral and Psychosocial Factors Team for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute. He has received numerous honors, including election to the International Academy of Astronautics. He received the Decade of Behavior Research Award from the American Psychological Association, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, and he was recently named an Overseas Fellow of the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences. J. Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.





Charles Czeisler, M.D., PH.D.

Charles A. Czeisler, Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.P.S. is chief of the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders, in the Departments of Medicine and Neurology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Baldino Professor of Sleep Medicine and director of the Division of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Czeisler has more than 40 years of experience in the field of basic and applied research on circadian disorders.

For more than a decade, Czeisler served as team leader of the Human Performance Factors, Sleep and Chronobiology Team of NASA's National Space Biomedical Research Institute, which is responsible for developing sleep-wake schedule guidelines and related countermeasures for use by NASA astronauts and mission control personnel during space exploration. He led the sleep experiment in which Senator John Glenn participated during the STS-95 space shuttle mission in 1998. Just this year, he and his colleagues at BWH received the NASA's Johnsons Space Center Director's Innovation Award in Houston, for designing a new solid state lighting system that is being installed on the International Space Station this year to improve the sleep of astronauts.

Czeisler's research is focused sleep, circadian rhythms, health and performance in humans. Of particular concern to Czeisler is the epidemic of sleep deficiency in our society with its wide-ranging implications for health, wellness, and the economy.

He was chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Sleep Foundation and is Past President of the Sleep Research Society. Czeisler, who has over 275 publications, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was elected as an inaugural Fellow of the American Physiological Society. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his Ph.D. in neuro- and bio-behavioral sciences and M.D. from Stanford University.

