



December 4, 2012 SPEAKERS' BIOS

Sarah Elizabeth Friebert, MD

Sarah Friebert, MD, FAAP, FAAHPM, is the director and founder of the Haslinger Family Pediatric Palliative Care Center at Akron Children's Hospital. Dr. Friebert and the team of specialists she leads are nationally recognized for their contribution to improving life and alleviating suffering for children facing life-threatening and chronic/complex conditions and their families. She also directs the ACGME-accredited palliative care fellowship program at Akron Children's Hospital. The center was selected as a Palliative Care Leadership Center (PCLC) through the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) in 2008. Dr. Friebert founded and chairs the Ohio Pediatric Palliative End-of-life care Network (OPPEN), a state-wide coalition representing pediatric palliative care and hospice providers.

Dr. Friebert received her medical training at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine. She completed her residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and her fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Dr. Friebert is board certified in pediatrics, pediatric hematology/oncology, and hospice and palliative medicine. In 2008, she received the Legendary Service Award from the Department of Pediatrics and in 2009 she was awarded the Children's Miracle Network "Children's Miracle Achievement Award" for her transformational work. She is associate professor of pediatrics at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) and a consulting medical director for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). She is past president of Akron Children's Hospital's medical staff and in 2011 she became the first chair holder of the Sarah Elizabeth Friebert Pediatric Palliative Care Endowed Chair, the first of its kind in the country, established in her honor.

Bonnie Connors Jellen

Bonnie Connors Jellen is Director of the Section for Maternal and Child Health at the American Hospital Association (AHA) and is responsible for working with over 2,000 member hospitals providing specialty care to women and children. Over three decades, she has worked exclusively in the maternal and child health field including positions at the AHA, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and on Capitol Hill for the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Child and Human Development. Bonnie has been active in many organizations including committee appointments at the March of Dimes, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, and other national and local child health initiatives. Bonnie has an undergraduate degree in Child Development from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a graduate degree in Health Services Administration from The George Washington University, Washington D.C.