



SUMMER THINK TANK 2022

# SPEAKER BIOS

## **Jessica Grossmeier, PhD**

CEO, Jessica Grossmeier Consulting



Jessica Grossmeier, PhD, MPH, works with employers and well-being service providers to identify evidence-based practices that promote a thriving workforce. This includes collaborative research, advising, writing, and speaking on topics related to workplace well-being best practices, measurement/evaluation, strategic planning, and value demonstration. Jessica has published more than 80 articles in professional journals and served as co-editor of The Art of Health Promotion section in the American Journal of Health Promotion. She is a frequent speaker at national conferences and serves on several advisory boards devoted to helping employers create a workplace culture that fosters employee well-being.

## **Malcom Marler, MDiv, DMin**

Leadership Support Specialist, UAB Medicine



Malcolm Marler has been a Chaplain at UAB Medicine for 28 years, including fifteen years as a Chaplain in the HIV/AIDS Clinic at UAB and twelve years as Sr. Director of Pastoral Care at UAB Hospital. He began a newly created role at UAB Medicine in November 2021 as a Leadership Support Specialist. The role's mission is to be a supportive, proactive presence to 700+ hospital leaders, caring for them in body, mind, and spirit. He is a graduate of Clemson University (BA Psychology) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, DMin) in Louisville, KY, and is an ordained Episcopal priest.

## Mariann Johnson

Instructor, Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality and Healing,  
University of Minnesota



Mariann Johnson has studied and practiced mindfulness meditation for over 25 years and is a certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction instructor through Brown University's Mindfulness Center. Since 2012, Mariann has taught mindfulness programs throughout the United States and consulted on the design of mindful leadership and mindfulness-at-work programs in corporate, professional, and academic settings. Before dedicating her professional life to teaching mindfulness, Mariann served as an organization development consultant and mediator, working with leaders of Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Her writings on mindful leadership have appeared in the Huffington Post and Mindful Magazine.

## Tsitsi Masvawure, PhD

Professor of Practice, Health Studies Program,  
College of the Holy Cross



Tsitsi Masvawure, PhD, teaches global health courses and coordinates the Health Studies Program. Tsitsi's current research projects include the impact of COVID on college students and the college experience; examining the impact of COVID on the operations of an AIDS service organization; and an anti-racism, racial equity program for a community health center. She sits on the editorial boards of *Medical Anthropology*, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, and *Culture, Health and Sexuality*. She holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Pretoria, a master's degree in reproductive and sexual health research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies with Columbia University.



## **Victor Strecher, PhD, MPH**

Professor, University of Michigan; CEO, Kumanu, Inc.

Vic Strecher, PhD, MPH, is a professor at the University of Michigan's Schools of Public Health and Founder of Kumanu, Inc. His latest neuroscience, behavioral, and epidemiologic research; his two books, *Life On Purpose* and the graphic novel *On Purpose*; his free massive open online course *Finding Purpose and Meaning in Life*, which in its first seven months has over 90,000 enrollees and the *Purposeful* application his business (Kumanu) created are all focused on the importance of developing and maintaining a strong purpose in life.



## **Linda Mercadante, PhD**

Founder, Healthy Beliefs – Healthy Spirit

Linda Mercadante, PhD, is a distinguished research professor emerita, at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and an ordained Presbyterian minister. Her work focuses on the intersection of theology and culture, including such themes as addiction recovery, spirituality in media, trauma, and the "spiritual but not religious" (SBNR) movement. Her work is both theological and interdisciplinary — primarily using resources from sociology, psychology, and media studies — to look at how culture, belief, and behavior interact. She is the author of five books, scores of articles, and speaks internationally to a wide variety of publics. Linda completed her PhD from Princeton University.



## **Jack Bastable**

Co-President, Vital Leadership

Jack Bastable has 44 years of experience advising companies and organizations on strategies to develop cultures where people have thriving well-being. Following a career as a professional athlete, Jack owned a chain of corporate fitness centers. He then transitioned to leading the development and marketing of hospital-based wellness programs for employers. Later, he established and led a national health and productivity management practice for an employee benefits firm, CBIZ. In 2019, Jack retired from CBIZ to focus on leadership development as the primary well-being intervention for employers through Vital Leadership, an organization he and his wife founded in 2009.



## **Joel Spoonheim, MURP**

Senior Director, HealthPartners

Joel Spoonheim, MURP is the Senior Director of Worksite Health & Population Well-being for HealthPartners. As part of an integrated health plan and care delivery system, the department delivers in-person care, virtual care, and well-being improvement solutions in new ways to make health care more simple and affordable. Customers range from small to Fortune 500 employers, individual consumers, Medicare and Medicaid populations, and patients. For over 25 years, Spoonheim has applied his passion for community and organization transformation working for healthcare companies, city governments, and non-profits directing major initiatives that require engaging diverse stakeholders.

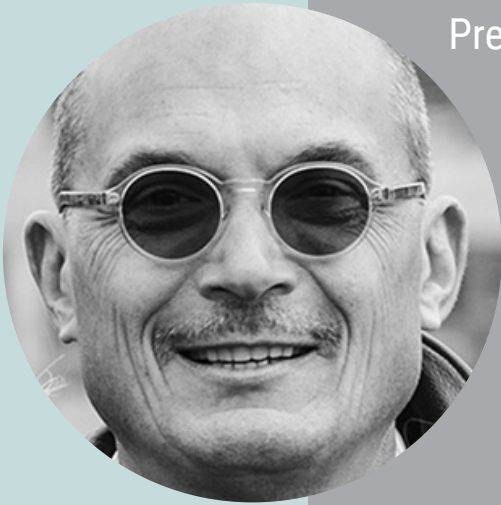




## **Bethany Slater, MSt**

Jewish Educator, Doctoral Candidate

Bethany Slater is a Jewish educator, scholar, and PhD candidate in comparative theology at Boston College. She received her MSt. from Oxford University in Jewish studies and her BA in philosophy and religion from Hillsdale College. She is a graduate of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and Yeshivat Hadar in New York. Bethany works as an educator and program creator for religious groups and non-profits. She regularly teaches in universities, synagogues, and churches. Her scholarship focuses on the role of spiritual practices on desire and ethical formation.



## **Ron Stout, MD, MPH**

President & CEO, Ardmore Institute of Health

Ron Stout, MD, MPH, serves as President & CEO of the Ardmore Institute of Health (AIH), whose mission is to improve the health and vitality of people to live more meaningful lives. Previously, he worked as Medical Director at Procter & Gamble, leading occupational health, pharmacovigilance and Medical Affairs. Ron has served on the NIOSH Board of Medical Advisors, the Preventive Medicine Section Council of the AMA, American Board of Preventive Medicine, and numerous other private and public Boards. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine, General Preventive Medicine & Public Health, Occupational Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.



## **Gary Gunderson, MDiv**

Vice President, FaithHealth, Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

Rev. Gary Gunderson, MDiv, is Professor of Public Health Science in the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Professor of the Health of the Public in the School of Divinity. He is visiting faculty at the University of Cape Town, Division of Family Medicine and Public Health. Gary's role as Vice President includes spiritual care, clinical pastoral education, and counseling centers in 35 locations across North Carolina. Gary is an ordained American Baptist minister with degrees from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Doctor of Ministry at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta as well as an honorary doctorate from the Chicago Theological Seminary.



## **Christina Clark, PhD**

Senior Education Engagement Specialist, The Religious Freedom and Business Foundation

Christina Clark is native of Cannes, France who earned her PhD, in Romance Languages and is currently a professor of French in Houston, Texas. She is an education specialist for the Religious Freedom and Business foundation and a prior board member of several NGO's supporting indigenous communities in Latin America. Christina was nominated founding secretary to the Women's CEO International Religious Freedom Roundtable. She volunteers at various service associations and faith-based organizations and is a passionate advocate for religious freedom.