~About Today’s Faculty ~

Elizabeth Miller is chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Trained in medical anthropology as well as internal medicine and pediatrics, Dr. Miller’s doctoral research focused on sex trafficking of adolescent females into Japan’s sex industry and HIV risk associated with gender-based violence. Her subsequent research has continued to examine the nexus of adolescent and women’s health with gender-based violence, with a focus on underserved youth populations including pregnant and parenting teens and foster, homeless and gang-affiliated youth. Dr. Miller’s current community-partnered research examines the impact of intimate partner violence, reproductive coercion, and sexual violence on adolescent and young adult reproductive health. Additionally, she is examining strategies to promote gender equity to prevent sexual violence, including training coaches to talk to male athletes about stopping violence against women. Dr. Miller teaches courses in community health and advocacy as well as knowledge translation (i.e., moving research into policy and practice). She has participated in numerous legislative hearings related to protecting adolescent confidentiality, reproductive health and gender violence prevention, and is involved in anti-trafficking efforts in southwestern Pennsylvania as well as nationally.

Judy Hale Reed is a practicing attorney and a member of the Western Pennsylvania Human Trafficking Coalition, as well as of the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Committee of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness. As a law student at Duquesne University, Ms. Hale Reed led a Human Trafficking Awareness Project that reached undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other universities in the area. She has previously worked as the program manager and advisor for the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Gender Equality Program of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Moldova, and has consulted for Catholic Relief Services, Winrock International, UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration. Ms. Hale Reed holds a B.A. in Sociology from Ohio University, a master of public administration degree with a specialization in anti-trafficking in persons from Seattle University, and a juris doctorate degree with a concentration in international and comparative law from the Duquesne University School of Law.

L. Kathleen Sekula joined the Duquesne University School of Nursing in 1998 and has served on the undergraduate and graduate faculties as a psychiatric mental health expert. Her research interests include biochemical and hormonal changes in patients with severe depression and anxiety, care of the sexual assault victim, and care of women in correctional settings. Dr. Sekula received her BSN from Duquesne University and her MSN and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, and obtained a certificate in forensic science and law from The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law. In 2001, she developed one of the first master’s of science programs to offer a specialty in forensic nursing, incorporating courses from the Institute and the Law School. Subsequently, Dr. Sekula applied for and received two program grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, helping to make the forensic graduate programs among the most popular at Duquesne. She has been honored as a pioneer in forensic nursing with the International Association of Forensic Nurses’ Virginia Lynch Award, served as president and member of the Forensic Nurse Certification Board, and served as a member of the International Journal of Forensic Nursing Editorial Board. Dr. Sekula was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2011.

Jessica Lieber Smolar is the deputy chief of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania’s Civil Rights, Exploitation, and Corruption Section and also serves as the Project Safe Child coordinator for the Office. Ms. Smolar currently prosecutes child exploitation and human trafficking cases in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, United States Postal Inspection Service and Pennsylvania State Police, among other law enforcement agencies. She prosecuted the office’s first human trafficking case, United States v. William Miller, in which the defendant pled guilty to sex trafficking of a minor and agreed to a 12-year sentence. Ms. Smolar has since prosecuted five other trafficking defendants, all of whom pled guilty as well to either 10 or 12 years. She has been an assistant United States attorney since 1995 and previously held the position of deputy chief of the Civil Division. Ms. Smolar is a graduate of Brown University and earned her law degree from New York University School of Law.