Our Presenters

Ryan Westergaard, MD, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Division of Public Health
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Dr. Westergaard attended medical school at Johns Hopkins University. He completed a primary care internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado at Denver, where he was also a staff physician at Denver Health Medical Center. He received fellowship training in infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Johns Hopkins AIDS Service, and completed clinical research training at the Bloomberg School of Public Health under the mentorship of Dr. Gregory Kirk. His current research projects involve interventions to improve quality and continuity of care for HIV-infected patients, with special emphasis on people with psychiatric illness, people who use drugs and prisoners. Since 2011, he has been a care provider for the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Program at UW Hospital & Clinics.

Will Cooke, MD, FAAFP, AAHIVS
Foundations Family Medicine

Dr. Will Cooke is proud to have graduated with honors from IU School of Medicine in 2001 and from the Ball Memorial Family Medicine residency in 2004. Since then, Dr. Cooke has practiced comprehensive family medicine in rural Austin, Indiana.

Dr. Cooke was born and raised in Southern Indiana where he now resides with his wife and six kids. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Medicine, specializing in Family Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and HIV Medicine. He has received national recognition for his innovative approaches to addressing the unique challenges of serving communities with limited resources. For example, he has received multiple awards for his work including Family Physician of the Year by the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians, the Doc Hollywood Award by the Indiana Rural Health Association for his service to rural Indiana, and the Indiana State Health Commission’s Award Exceptional Public Health Service during the historic Southern Indiana HIV outbreak of 2015, and was recently named physician of the year by the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has also been awarded the Ryan White Distinguished Leadership Award by the Center for AIDS and STD Prevention.

Dr. Cooke also has a book coming out titled Canary in in Coal Mine. The book details his experiences as the lone doctor working with the rural Southern Indiana town at ground zero of one of the worst healthcare disasters in US history.