

Mary Henningfield, PhD
WREN Associate Director

Mary Henningfield joined WREN in 2018. Prior to joining WREN, Mary served as the Director of Scientific Education and Research at Free to Breathe, a national lung cancer advocacy organization. At Free to Breathe, she provided oversight to the development and execution of patient education, outreach, and advocacy programs. She also managed their research grant program, which awarded funding for research on lung cancer.

Mary has held positions at Abbott Laboratories, Covance, Inc., Inventiv Health, and other medical communications companies. As a Clinical Research Scientist for Abbott Laboratories, she designed and executed research plans to study the effects of nutrients on the immune system. She is the inventor of a patented enteral nutrition formula for patients with traumatic injury. As the scientific lead for pharmaceutical product launches, she wrote publications covering a variety of indications, including oncology, neurology, pain management, virology, and nephrology. Mary has developed numerous disease awareness and education campaigns for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

Mary earned MS and PhD degrees in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she investigated the uncoupling protein of brown adipose tissue. Her interests include health literacy, patient and physician education materials, shared-decision making, and health care disparities.