

Advancing Value-Based Payment for People with Serious Illness to Align Financing with Quality: A Workshop

November 6, 2025

SPEAKER AND PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOSKETCHES

Katie Adams

My name is Katie Adams. I'm 42 years old and have been living with ALS for 3 years. I have 2 daughters ages 12 and 16. I worked as an occupational therapist for 15 years up until the day of my diagnosis. I suffered symptoms of ALS for a year and a half before I was diagnosed. I was awarded ALS Hero of the year 2024 by the ALS Association for getting the Medigap law passed in Kentucky and for the advocacy I've done and continue to do for those struggling with this horrific disease.

Melissa Aldridge

Melissa Aldridge, Ph.D., M.B.A., is tenured Professor and Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Her doctoral training is in research methods, health policy, and health economics. Dr. Aldridge has a national reputation for expertise in health services research in hospice and palliative care with over 70 publications, invited papers, and podcasts and has been consistently funded by the NIH for more than 15 years. Her research focuses on patterns of hospice use, transitions in care at the end of life, and the financial incentives inherent in the Medicare Hospice Benefit payment structure. Dr. Aldridge serves as MPI of the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center at Mount Sinai, MPI of the recently funded U54 Advancing the Science of Palliative Care Across the Lifespan (ASCENT) Consortium, and Research Methods Core co-lead of an NIA-funded program project grant in dementia.

Claire Ankuda (*Planning Committee*)

Claire Ankuda, MD, MPH, MSc, is an Associate Professor in the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She conducts health services research to assess how payment policies, and in particular the Medicare Advantage program, impact outcomes for seriously ill older adults and their families. Her work is currently funded by a National Institute on Aging Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award.

Stockton Beveridge

Stockton Beveridge, M.D., serves as Associate Chief Medical Officer at Imagine Pediatrics, where he leads the development and delivery of our innovative, value-based clinical care model for children with special health care needs. In this role, he oversees population health strategy and analytics to ensure that care is tailored to the unique needs of every child and family, and he supports the clinicians who bring that care to life. Dr. Beveridge joined Imagine Pediatrics as Medical Director for Palliative Care, where he built and implemented a fully integrated pediatric palliative care program. Before joining Imagine Pediatrics, Dr. Beveridge served as Director of Pediatric Palliative Care at the University of Texas Southwestern, where he oversaw the care of medically fragile children and served on the institution's Ethics Committee. Under his leadership, the program expanded significantly—improving access to palliative care services

across inpatient, outpatient, and antenatal settings. Dr. Beveridge earned his medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He completed his pediatric residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he also earned a postgraduate certification in biomedical ethics, followed by a fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at UT Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Beveridge is board certified in Pediatrics and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the Texas Pediatric Society. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters relating to pediatric palliative care, ethics, and healthcare disparities. He currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Les Biller

Les Biller, M.B.A., currently serves as the Founding Director of The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation. Les spent over 33 years of his career in the business sector, including 10 years internationally in Italy and England. He had leadership roles at major companies including Procter & Gamble, Citicorp, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo, where he served as Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer. In 2001, Les and his wife, Sheri, co-founded the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation with the ambitious goal of creating meaningful, lasting change by investing not just financial resources, but also their time, energy, and expertise in important causes. From the start, the Billers embraced a model of active philanthropy — one rooted in deep partnerships and a shared commitment to expanding access to supportive cancer care, economic opportunity, and social impact theatre. Les's hallmark initiatives through the Biller Family Foundation include launching CareerWork\$, which connects young adults from under-resourced communities to lasting, stable careers, and convening the Together for Supportive Cancer Care coalition, a national coalition of organizations from across sectors working to expand early, equitable access to supportive cancer care. Les has served on the boards of Wells Fargo, Ecolab, Visa, Knowledge Universe, Sterling Financial, and PG&E. He has also served on the boards of several nonprofits, including the Minnesota Orchestra, the 5th Avenue Theater, and the Urban League of Los Angeles. Les has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from City College of New York, and a master's degree in business administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brynn Bowman (*Planning Committee*)

Brynn Bowman, M.P.A., is chief executive officer for the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC). Ms. Bowman is a nationally recognized leader in scaling practice and culture change in health care delivery for people with serious illness. Her work has been instrumental in the development of clinician engagement and education strategies to equip the U.S. health care workforce with the skills needed to care for patients with serious illness and their families. She joined CAPC in 2013, leading development of education programs related to palliative care leadership and clinical palliative care skills. Ms. Bowman is the current board president for the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care. She was a 2020/2021 Health and Aging Policy Fellow, where she served with the Senate Finance Committee. She has co-chaired three of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness workshops focused on workforce and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Bowman received her Master's of Public Administration from New York University, and her bachelor's at Harvard College.

T.J. Christian

Thomas James (“T.J.”) Christian, PhD, is a health economist and health services researcher with Abt Global. Since joining in 2012, Dr. Christian has been involved in payment reform, monitoring, and rulemaking support for CMS’s Medicare Hospice Benefit. Since 2019, Dr. Christian has served as task lead for quality measure development and analytic tasks for Abt’s project supporting CMS’s Hospice Quality Reporting Program. This work entails conceptual development of quality measure concepts, empirical testing of data and measure performance, briefing CMS on findings and preparing reports, and coordinating the solicitation of input from subject matter experts. Dr. Christian has also been involved with several CMMI evaluations in quantitative analyst or lead roles for (DME Competitive Bidding, the Opioid Overutilization Monitoring system, the Oncology Care Model, the Medicare Care Choices Model, and the Global & Professional Direct Contracting/ACO REACH models evaluations).

Wyatt Decker

Wyatt Decker, M.D., MBA, is UnitedHealth Group’s executive vice president and chief physician for value- based care and innovation. In this role, Dr. Decker serves as the company’s lead ambassador working across the enterprise and externally with key stakeholders to further enable and advance accountable models of care. Dr. Decker also serves as the Executive Director of the Health Care Transformation Hub. Dr. Decker previously served as chief executive officer of Optum Health, UnitedHealth Group’s national integrated care delivery platform. During his nearly five-year tenure, he played a vital role in building out and accelerating Optum Health’s value-based care delivery capabilities and helping over 90,000 affiliated and employed physicians achieve lower costs and deliver better outcomes for more than 100 million people – including the nearly 5 million people Optum now serves in fully accountable, value-based arrangements. Under his leadership, Optum Health established national platforms for care delivery, home and community care, behavioral care, benefits chronic disease management solutions, and the Center for Advanced Clinical Solutions, applying cutting-edge technologies to solve some of health care’s toughest problems. Prior to joining Optum, Dr. Decker served as CEO of Mayo Clinic in Arizona. In that role he established Mayo Clinic in Arizona as the safest hospital in the United States, launched a state-of-the-art cancer center, the second campus of Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine and was acknowledged by U.S. News & World Report among the nation’s top 20 hospitals. At Mayo Clinic, Dr. Decker pioneered the use of digital technologies, including telemedicine and artificial intelligence, to deliver health care expertise to affiliated care providers nationwide, as well as led the digital strategy around engaging and empowering patients. Dr. Decker also served as the founding chair and professor of emergency medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine where he established and directed the emergency medicine residency training program. Dr. Decker holds an M.D. from Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, an MBA from Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Science from University of California, Santa Cruz. He has published numerous scientific articles and has been recognized among the nation’s top 100 health care leaders by Modern Healthcare.

Daniel Fischberg

Daniel Fischberg, M.D., Ph.D., is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Palliative Medicine in the Department of Geriatric Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawai‘i. Since 2004, he has served as the founding Medical Director for the Pain and Palliative Care Service at The Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu. Since moving to Hawai‘i, Dr. Fischberg has volunteered for Kōkua Mau, Hawaii’s award-winning movement to improve care

and currently serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors. Following undergraduate study at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Fischberg attended The Mount Sinai School of Medicine where he earned his MD and PhD degrees. Dr. Fischberg completed internal medicine residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital and fellowship training in pain and palliative care at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Fischberg holds board certification in Internal Medicine, Pain Medicine, Addiction Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Fischberg is recognized as a national expert in the areas of enhancing pain and palliative care education for health care professionals, improving access to palliative care for patients at all stages of illness, and advancing evidence-based practice in palliative medicine.

Matthew Gonzales (*Planning Committee*)

Matthew Gonzales, M.D., F.A.A.H.P.M., is a board-certified palliative medicine physician and associate vice president, chief medical and operations officer of the Institute for Human Caring at Providence St. Joseph Health. Dr. Gonzales completed his undergraduate degree in human biology at Stanford University. He subsequently worked as a software engineer helping to develop a publicly available database that allows clinicians to tailor treatment for persons infected with HIV. Dr. Gonzales attended the Keck School of Medicine and completed his internal medicine residency and palliative medicine fellowship at the University of California San Francisco. Since completing his training he has held faculty positions at both UCSF and City of Hope. In 2017 the Cambia Health Foundation selected Dr. Gonzales to participate in the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program. This honor came with a grant that Dr. Gonzales used to customize the Epic electronic health record at Providence, one of the nation's largest health systems. He developed a framework to guide clinicians in leading advance care planning conversations and capture the results of those discussions electronically. In addition to the prestigious Cambia award, Dr. Gonzales has been recognized by many organizations including: "Tomorrow's Leader Award," Catholic Health Association; "Rising Stars: 90 Healthcare Leaders Under 40," Becker's Hospital Review; "Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine," AAHPM. Dr. Gonzales is an attending physician of Palliative Care Service at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance and co-editor of *Hospital-Based Palliative Medicine: A Practical, Evidence-Based Approach*.

Kesha Wall Graham

Kesha Wall Graham, LISW-CP, APHSW-C, ACM-SW is a Licensed Independent Social Worker in Clinical Practice (LISW-CP) with certifications as an Advanced Palliative & Hospice Social Worker (APHSW-C) and an Accredited Hospital Case Manager (ACM-SW). With more than two decades of experience in medical social work, Kesha brings deep expertise across hospice care, gerontology, oncology, intensive care, and social work leadership in case management. Since joining the inpatient Adult Palliative Care team at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in January 2020, Kesha has been instrumental in responding to the unique demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently serving as the Ambulatory Clinical Social Worker in Adult Palliative Care. In her current role, she is engaged in a pilot project measuring value-based care outcomes in ambulatory palliative care, contributing to the advancement of healthcare system transformation. In addition to her clinical work, Kesha is committed to education and mentorship. She serves as an Adjunct Instructor at Trident Technical College and as a Guest Lecturer at MUSC's College of Nursing and College of Medicine. She is a certified Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) practicum instructor for social work students, preparing the next generation of professionals. Kesha also contributes her expertise to multiple committees and

advisory boards, including the Center to Advance Palliative Care, South Carolina Care for the Seriously Ill-Education Committee, and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - Health Specialty Committee. Kesha earned her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She completed the Zelda Foster Studies in Palliative and End of Life Care Leadership Fellowship at NYU's Silver School of Social Work.

Corita Grudzen (*Planning Committee*)

Corita Grudzen, MD, MSHS joined MSK in 2022 as the founding incumbent of the Fern Grayer Chair in Oncology Care and Patient Experience dedicated to prioritizing cancer care innovation, attentiveness to care delivery, and the patient experience. Dr. Grudzen serves as Head of the newly created Division of Supportive and Acute Care Services (SAS) in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Center for Cancer Care Innovation. Dr. Grudzen comes from the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where she was Associate Dean for Clinical Sciences, Deputy Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Vice Chair for Research, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Population Health and a practicing emergency medicine physician. Throughout her career, she has been driven by her passion for emergency medicine and public health, and the interplay between them. While caring for patients in acute situations, Dr. Grudzen developed a particular interest in those patients who arrive in the emergency department with serious, life-limiting illnesses – such as cancer. Her research centers on understanding and improving the care given to those patients, with a focus on integrating palliative care and emergency medicine and matching patients to treatments that most closely align with their preferences. She completed two large pragmatic trials in 2024 with over \$20 million in funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the National Institute of Health that focus on improving emergency medicine palliative care access (EMPALLA) and scaling primary palliative care for emergency medicine (PRIM-ER). The main outcome paper for PRIM-ER is in press at JAMA. In 2023, she received a \$56 million award from the NIA to conduct a pragmatic trial of a concurrently run emergency care redesign, nurse-led telephonic care, and community paramedic-led transitions intervention in persons living with dementia using a factorial design across 80 EDs to test the effectiveness of the interventions on ED revisits, hospitalizations, and healthy days at home following an index ED visit. She serves as an MPI for the overall project and PI of the Implementation Core at MSK.

Jessica Hausauer (*Planning Committee*)

Jessica Hausauer, PhD is CEO of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care. In this role, Jessica works with members to advance national policy priorities in serious illness care across the lifespan and to advance the Clinic Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care. Prior to joining the Coalition, Jessica served as Executive Director of Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care. From 2020 to 2021, she co-convoked the Minnesota Serious Illness Action Network, which produced three forums with over 300 stakeholders to provide education and develop recommendations specific to serious illness care in the pandemic, palliative care policy and payment, and family caregiving. As chair of the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council, Jessica leads efforts to assess access to palliative care across the state, analyze barriers, and make recommendations to the legislature. The Council successfully advocated for legislation to define palliative care in state statute and is currently working on draft legislation to establish a community-based palliative care benefit through Minnesota Medical Assistance. Jessica has served in national and state-level elected leadership positions including as a Steering Committee member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Council of States and chair of

the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, a coalition of Minnesota's leading non-profit community-based aging services organizations. Jessica earned her PhD in Sociology from Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and has research experience in the public administration of social welfare programs, aging policy, and the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate resources in serious illness and end-of-life care.

Steven H. Landers

Steven "Steve" Landers, M.D., M.P.H., is a recognized leader in home health, primary care, and aging services, with nearly two decades of experience as a physician, executive, and public health policy advocate. As the first CEO of the National Alliance for Care at Home, he is dedicated to advancing home- and community based care for aging Americans. A board-certified physician in family medicine, geriatric medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine, Dr. Landers emphasizes the importance of compassionate, cost-effective care. Dr. Landers graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed his residency and fellowship at Case Western and the Cleveland Clinic. He holds an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a BA in political science from Indiana University. Early in his career, Dr. Landers provided house-call medical care, where he recognized the need for stronger connections between home care and the broader healthcare system, leading him to focus on advocacy and health policy. He has served on numerous national boards in the past, including the National Association for Home Care & Hospice, Partnership for Quality Home Health, and the American Academy of Home Care Medicine, frequently advocating for home-based care policies in Congress and state legislatures. Previously, Dr. Landers was the director of home care and hospice at Cleveland Clinic and CEO of Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, Inc. A published author and thought leader, his work has appeared in major outlets like the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association. His team's leadership in providing specialized home care and at-home vaccines for seniors during COVID-19 was highlighted by ABC and CBS. Dr. Landers lives in Little Silver, New Jersey, with his wife and three sons, and enjoys golfing, fishing, hiking, and watching horse racing.

Deborah Day Laxson

Deborah Day Laxson's extensive lived experiences encompass her role as a primary caregiver to her husband and subsequently as a secondary caregiver to her adult son. Deborah's experience as her husband's medical decision proxy at end of life profoundly influenced her, leading her to serve on the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council from 2017 to 2024. During her tenure, she held various positions in the Council, including Vice Chair, Policy Committee Chair, and lead author of the Council's annual legislative report. Deborah's four-decade professional career spanned operations and project management across diverse industries, including banking, healthcare, payment processing, and commercial software development.

Kashelle Lockman (*Planning Committee*)

Kashelle Lockman, PharmD, MA is a Clinical Associate Professor within the Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education (OCRME) and Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, President-Elect for the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists (SPPCP), a 2019 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar, and a palliative care pharmacist. Prior to joining OCRME, she was faculty in the SOLACE Palliative Care Collaborative at University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, where she co-designed and directed a palliative care certificate and practiced as a palliative care pharmacist within the Iowa Healthcare outpatient palliative care clinic. Dr. Lockman represents SPPCP on the NASEM Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness. Dr. Lockman earned a Bachelor of Science at the College of Charleston, Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of

Maryland, and Master of Arts in Instructional Systems Development, with certificates in instructional design and instructional technology, from University of Maryland Baltimore County. After a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center, she completed a PGY-2 pharmacy residency in Pain Management and Palliative Care and a fellowship in instructional design at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Ethan McChesney

As Senior Policy Director at the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation, Ethan is responsible for leading a wide range of initiatives including, monitoring policy and regulatory developments, interfacing with industry and government officials, preparing collateral materials, assisting with event planning, and providing strategic guidance to advance the priorities of NPHI and its members. Ethan also plays a critical role in supporting the work of the NPHI Innovation Lab, where he provides policy and project management oversight. Before joining NPHI and Healthsperien, Ethan held multiple public policy-focused roles, namely at the National Coalition on Health Care, where he was involved in communications, message development, and policy analysis efforts. He also spent time with Wynne Health Group, a leading healthcare policy consulting firm in DC, assisting their diverse set of clients. Additionally, Ethan has prior experience in the congressional office of the senior Senator from Colorado, Michael Bennet. Ethan recently received recognition from the Aging Media Network which named him one of Hospice News' Future Leaders, class of 2023. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Political Science, and minors in Sociology and Psychology.

Susan O'Connor-Von

Susan O'Connor-Von, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, FNAP, is the Katherine & C. Walton Lillehei Chair in Nursing Leadership at the University of Minnesota. Dr. O'Conner-Von is a Professor in the School of Nursing and served for seven years as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Center for Spirituality and Healing. She was on staff at Children's Hospital, St. Paul for 33 years and was a hospice volunteer for Allina Health for 16 years. Dr. O'Conner-Von advances interprofessional healthcare through her program of research, teaching and service activities with a focus on holistic care and palliative care. In the classroom, Susan ignites passion for compassionate nursing care, professional development and to be life-long learners.

Kandyce Powell

Kandyce Powell, R.N., M.S.N, is Executive Director, Maine Hospice Council and Center for End-of-Life Care, and Visiting Professor, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Scotland. Kandyce has 40 years professional experience working with end-of-life issues. From 1984-1992, she was the Director of Hospice of Lincoln County. Since 1992, she has been the Executive Director of the Maine Hospice Council and Center for End-of-Life Care in Augusta. The scope of the organization's mission is to "promote quality end-of-life care through innovation, creativity, advocacy, education and collaboration". Kandyce has been instrumental in developing grant-funded partnerships to address many programs and projects that have since been replicated nationally and internationally. The "Hospice/Veterans Partnership" in collaboration with Togus VAMC, and the "Maine State Prison End-of-Life Program", being two examples. Over her lifetime she has been a tireless advocate for the underserved. Kandyce has co-authored several pieces of legislation impacting end of life care. She co-authored the Hospice Licensure Law for Maine as well as collaborated with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to develop the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council, passed by the legislature in 2015. Because she was listed in statute as the "Convening Authority", Kandyce co-authored LD

1064, resulting in a Palliative Care benefit for Maine's Medicaid population. She is a frequent speaker on topics related to end-of-life care and has been a mentor to many graduate students, doctoral candidates and medical residents.

Thomas Priselac (*Planning Committee*)

Thomas Priselac, M.P.H., is President and CEO Emeritus, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai Health System. An advocate for improving quality and access in healthcare throughout his career, Mr. Priselac developed strategic and operational innovations to foster high-quality, safe and efficient care for patients. Under his leadership, Cedars-Sinai earned an international reputation for quality care, community service, research and education. Mr. Priselac holds the Warschaw/Law Endowed Chair in Healthcare Leadership at Cedars-Sinai. He joined Cedars-Sinai in 1979. Prior to Cedars-Sinai, Mr. Priselac was on the executive staff of Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh. Active in policy discussions regarding the delivery and financing of health care, Mr. Priselac is past Chair of the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, serving as Chair during the development of the Affordable Care Act. He is also a past Chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges. He currently serves on the USC Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics Advisory Board and the RAND Social and Economic Policy Advisory Board. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the UCLA School of Public Health. Mr. Priselac has received numerous awards for his leadership in healthcare and his commitment to improving the health of the underserved, including the American Hospital Association's Distinguished Service Award, the Special Needs Network's Distinguished Community Champion Corporate Leadership Award and the Charles R. Drew University Board of Trustees Medal of Honor. Mr. Priselac earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Washington and Jefferson College and a Master of Public Health degree in health services administration and planning, from the University of Pittsburgh.

Phillip Rodgers (*Planning Committee Chair*)

Phillip Rodgers, M.D., is The George A. Dean, M.D., Professor and Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan, where he has practiced and taught family medicine and subspecialty palliative medicine for more than 25 years. Dr. Rodgers' research and national advocacy work focuses on policy, quality and payment, including issues directly impacting primary care and community-based palliative care today, and tomorrow. He has long provided volunteer leadership and service to numerous organizations including the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, and the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care and the Patient Quality of Life Coalition, among many others. Dr. Rodgers currently co-chairs the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness and is immediate Past-President the Palliative Care Quality Collaborative (PCQC). His work has been recognized with several awards including the University of Michigan Dean's Award for Community Service, the Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Leadership Award, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Gerald Holman Distinguished Service Award.

Joseph Shega (*Planning Committee*)

Joseph W. Shega, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer for VITAS Healthcare, which provides hospice and palliative care services across 15 states and Washington, DC. VITAS Healthcare cares for over 22,000 patients a day and approximately 85,000 per year. He concurrently holds

the title of Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Central Florida and partners with numerous health systems to deliver hospice and palliative care services across settings-inpatient, outpatient, and community-based. Community-based palliative care has been a recent emphasis, which includes creating and delivering a presentation deck, preparing the pro forma, clinical care delivery, scaling infrastructure, quality oversight, and metric development and reporting. Dr. Shega is a founding member of the NAS Roundtable on Quality Care for Persons with Serious Illness and serves as an active member of the American Geriatrics Society, and American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He is the recipient of the 2024 Josefina B. Magno Distinguished Hospice Physician Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine due to his long-standing and significant contribution to the field. Dr. Shega received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Lewis University, medical school from Northwestern University, and Internal Medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh followed by a two-year academic fellowship in Geriatrics at the University of Chicago.

Kristofer L. Smith

Kristofer Smith, M.D., is Co-Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer of Ruby Health and also Senior Clinical Advisor, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care. Dr. Smith oversees Ruby Health's clinical and operational services which support Home Health Agencies success in value-based care. Through interdisciplinary care teams and a responsive virtual medical group, Ruby amplifies Home Health capabilities and enables patients to experience more days at home. He also serves as the Senior Clinical Advisor to C-TAC, helping the organization's mission of improving quality and access to models of care for patients with serious illness. Recently he was the Chief Medical Officer of Optum at Home, where he oversaw clinical and care management programs for 1.1M DSNP and 0.5M MA lives. Other roles included Chief Medical Officer of Landmark Health, Chief Clinical Officer at Prospero Health, President of naviHealth's Home-based Medical Care division and SVP of Population Health at Northwell Health as well as CMO of Northwell's commercial insurance plan.

He has published papers on advanced care models for the frail elderly and regularly gives national talks on health policy, the frail elderly and the intersection of payment reform and clinical redesign. He currently serves on the board of the American Academy of Home Care Medicine and the Elea Institute. Board certified in Internal Medicine and Palliative Care, he worked as a house calls physician for more than a decade, providing primary and palliative care to the frail homebound elderly. Dr. Smith graduated with a degree in sociology from Princeton University and received a Master of Public Policy in health policy from Harvard University, JFK School of Government. After graduating from Boston University School of Medicine, he completed residency and chief residency in internal medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Bethany Cox Snider (*Planning Committee*)

Bethany Cox Snider, MD, HMDC, FACP, FAAHPM, is Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Everent Health, a not-for-profit, community-based organization providing support and care to over 4000 patients daily across Kentucky and Indiana. Dr. Snider earned her medical degree from the University of Kentucky, followed by residency training in internal medicine at the University of Kentucky, where she served as Chief Resident of the primary care track. She then pursued a hospice and palliative medicine fellowship with Hospice of the Bluegrass. Dr. Snider joined Hosparus Health directly out of fellowship as associate medical director and oversaw home hospice training for all fellows. She was first promoted to Senior Medical Director and then Chief Medical Officer in February of 2018. She is serving on the

Kentucky Palliative Care Council, was recently elected to the AAHPM Board of Directors, and has received numerous awards, including the NPHI Chirag Patel Legacy Award and the Emerging Leaders Award from AAHPM. Dr. Snider was born and raised in Kentucky and lives there on a farm with her husband, John, and their children, John Mark and Elizabeth.

Gabriel Waterman

Gabriel Waterman, M.D., M.B.A., is the Vice President of Primary Care at SCAN Health Plan, where he plays a pivotal role in shaping the organization's national care delivery strategy. He leads SCAN Embrace, an integrated I/IE-SNP integrated "payvidor" medical group that provides home-based primary care and integrated palliative care services to thousands of residents in senior living communities and nursing homes across Southern California and Arizona. Gabriel brings extensive experience in health technology, having led the implementation of electronic health records (EHRs), deployed AI-driven solutions, and developed award-winning, home-grown clinical applications. Prior to joining SCAN, Gabriel served as the Los Angeles Regional Medical Officer at CareMore Health, where he managed multidisciplinary teams—including hospitalists, primary care physicians, and mobile care units—across hospital, ambulatory, and home-based settings. Gabriel is a practicing primary care physician at SCAN and serves as an adjunct clinical instructor at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. He holds degrees in both medicine and business from USC.