

SPEAKERS



ISRAIL ALI, MPA serves as the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator in the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In his leadership role, he collaborates closely with the BHW Acting Associate Administrator to ensure that critical federal programs improve healthcare access across underserved regions. Through his guidance, BHW's loan repayment and scholarship programs empower clinicians to practice in high-need areas, supporting community health and well-being nationwide. With a legacy of commitment to public service, Mr. Ali has held the position of Director of BHW's Division of National Health Service Corps (DNHSC) for the past eight years. As Director, he has transformed federal healthcare programs to reach some of the nation's most vulnerable populations.

Managing billions of dollars in federal funding, Mr. Ali has prioritized quality medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare through scholarship and loan repayment incentives, ensuring that thousands of dedicated healthcare providers serve where they are needed most. Under his leadership, DNHSC programs support nearly 19,000 primary care, dental, and behavioral health providers in communities across the United States. Collectively, these providers care for over 20 million patients each year, delivering essential health services to those in underserved areas. Mr. Ali's stewardship of these programs has helped bridge healthcare disparities by making it possible for clinicians to contribute to underserved areas, strengthening the fabric of public health and empowering communities through accessible care. Throughout his career, Mr. Ali's achievements have been recognized through multiple honors. Most notably, he received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition given by the HHS Secretary to staff who exhibit extraordinary dedication to the mission of improving health outcomes. This award celebrates his sustained impact in advancing healthcare access and championing workforce development for those in greatest need. Additionally, Mr. Ali was named an Outstanding Alumni by his alma mater, Western Michigan University, in recognition of his "Outstanding contributions to public health and workforce development at the national level." This prestigious honor reflects his continuous pursuit of excellence in public health and his unwavering dedication to the betterment of underserved communities. Through his leadership, Mr. Ali exemplifies a commitment to public service, advancing healthcare access, and inspiring the next generation of health professionals dedicated to making a difference in underserved communities nationwide.



SANJAY BASU, MD, PHD is a physician and epidemiologist whose work focuses on primary care and reducing the health effects of financial shocks and other adverse social determinants of health. As co-founder and Head of Clinical for Waymark, a free "street medicine" community-based care service for patients receiving Medicaid, Sanjay oversees the company's research and development function, including product, engineering, design, and clinical teams. Prior to Waymark, Dr. Basu served as the Director of Research at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care. Dr. Basu received his education from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Oxford University (as a Rhodes Scholar), and Yale before completing his residency in internal medicine at the

University of California in San Francisco. Sanjay has published over 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, been named to the "Top 100 Global Thinkers" List by Foreign Policy Magazine, awarded the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, and received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He currently practices medicine at San Francisco's Integrated Care Center, a primary care, behavioral health, substance abuse, and oral health center for unhoused people.



CARRIE COLLA, PhD, is the Susan J. and Richard M. Levy Distinguished Chair in Health Care Delivery Science at Dartmouth College. She also works as an adviser to New Hampshire Medicaid. As a health economist, Dr. Colla focuses on health care financing and its impact on health care access, quality and cost. Dr. Colla previously participated in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship program, with placements in the House of Representatives and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. In 2020, Dr. Colla was selected as an Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar by the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Colla was previously the Director of the Health Analysis Division at the Congressional Budget Office in Washington, D.C. and a member of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation's Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee. Colla received her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, and her MA in Economics and PhD in Health Policy from the University of California,

Berkeley.



ANGELA DENIETOLIS, MD serves as Executive Director for the Office of Primary Care. Dr. Denietolis has oversight and monitoring of over 7000 Primary Care Providers and their support staff in over 1400 locations. Additionally, she has oversight of policy development and field support for Primary Care and their stakeholders. The Office of Primary Care collaborates with many other key program offices and programs to ensure quality and timely access to continuous, coordinated and comprehensive healthcare. Dr. Denietolis is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. She has served as an instructor and mentor at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX, the Southern Methodist University School of Law, also in Dallas, TX, and at the University of South Florida School of Medicine in Tampa, FL. In addition to serving on multiple advisory boards as a

stakeholder, Dr. Denietolis Chairs the Primary Care Integrated Clinical Communities Council, the Primary Care Clinical Governance Council and the Clinical Resource Hub Advisory Board.



KEVIN GRUMBACH, MD, is Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He served as Chair of the UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine from 2003-2022. He is a Founding Director of the UCSF Center for Excellence in Primary Care and Director of the Community Engagement Program for the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute. His research and scholarship on the primary care workforce, innovations in primary care, racial and ethnic diversity in the health professions, and community health improvement and health equity have widely influenced policy and practice. With Tom Bodenheimer, he co-authored the best-selling textbook on health policy, *Understanding Health Policy -*

A Clinical Approach, now in its 8th edition, published by McGraw Hill. He received a Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Health Resources and Services Administration Award for Health Workforce Research on Diversity, the Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence and Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education, and the UCSF Chancellor's Public Service Award.

Dr. Grumbach has been an advisor to Congressional Committees and government agencies on primary care and health reform and a member of the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and currently serves on the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council. He cares for patients at the family medicine practices at San

Francisco General Hospital and UCSF Health. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.



EMILY HAWES, PharmD, is a professor in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine and research fellow at the UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. She serves as Deputy Director of the HRSA-funded Rural Residency and Teaching Health Center Planning and Development programs. She practices as a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner providing collaborative drug therapy management in a primary care clinic in rural western North Carolina. Dr. Hawes' research focuses on team-based primary care, health workforce policy, rural health, and graduate medical education program development in rural and underserved areas.



LAUREN HUGHES, MD, MPH, Msc, MHCDS, FAAFP, is a family physician working as the State Policy Director of the Farley Health Policy Center and an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado. In these roles, she leads efforts to generate and translate evidence to inform the design and implementation of evidence-based health policy at the state, national, and federal levels. She participates in the Primary Care Centers Roundtable, a volunteer collective of all of the primary care research and policy centers in the United States. Her research interests include improving rural health care delivery; strengthening primary care infrastructure; and advancing behavioral health integration. She cares for patients at a rural federally qualified health center (FQHC) north of Denver. Dr. Hughes previously served as Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation in the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In this role, she collaborated with the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI) to co-design and launch the Pennsylvania Rural

Health Model, a new payment and delivery model that transitions rural hospitals from fee-for-service to multi-payer global budgets and transforms how they deliver care to better meet community health needs. She also oversaw the creation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring

Program for the Commonwealth and led the Department to full accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

In 2018, Dr. Hughes was selected by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as a Presidential Leadership Scholar. From 2022 – 23, she served as chair of the American Board of Family Medicine Board of Directors. She also serves on the boards of directors of the Rural Health Redesign Center Organization and the American Medical Student Association Foundation. She is a member of the Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative through the Colorado Division of Insurance and the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research. Dr. Hughes is a former Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan, where she earned an MSc in health services research. She also holds a medical degree from the University of Iowa, an MPH in health policy from The George Washington University, and a master's in health care delivery science from Dartmouth College and completed residency at the University of Washington. Since 2021, Dr. Hughes has been a member of the National Academies Board on Health Care Services.



ALEX KRIST, MD, MPH, is a professor of family medicine and population health at Virginia Commonwealth University and an active clinician and teacher at the Fairfax Family Practice Residency. He is the director of the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network, director of community-engaged research at the Center for Clinical and Translational Research and is past chairperson for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Dr. Krist's areas of interest include implementation of preventive recommendations, patient-centered care, shared decision making, cancer screening, and health information technology. He is the primary author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and has

presented to a wide range of audiences at national and international conferences. Dr. Krist completed his doctor of medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. Krist was elected to NAM in 2018, was a member of the committee that produced *Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care*, and was co-chair of the committee that produced *Achieving Whole Health: A New Approach for Veterans and the Nation*.



TOM MORRIS, MPA serves as the Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the Secretary on rural health issues. The Office, which has an annual budget of \$364 million, administers a range of research and capacity building grant programs that serve rural communities. In 2015, Tom received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. A North Carolina native, Tom came into government as a Presidential Management Intern and has work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS.



MEGGAN GRANT-NIERMAN, DO, MBA, MHCDS, is a primary care physician who practices full spectrum family medicine in the rural community of Salida, CO. She graduated in 2008 with a dual degree (DO, MBA) from KCUMB and Rockhurst University and then did family medicine residency and sports medicine fellowship at Via Christi in Wichita, KS. She joined First Street Family Health in 2012 as an FM/OB provider. She has experience during as a small independent practice physician owner and her practice was an early adopter of the value based payment initiatives including CPCI, CPC+, PCF as well as TCPI and MSSP/ACO participation. She served one term on the National Advisory committee for Rural Health and Human Services. Her passion for rural health care intersects with interest in exploring various care delivery models and payment incentives. That interest is what led her to enroll in the Master's in Health Care Delivery Sciences program at Dartmouth in 2022. In 2023 she began employment at the Salida Health Center under Heart of

the Rockies Regional Medical Center.



LUIS PADILLA, MD comes to National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). There he served for nearly a decade as the Associate Administrator for the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), responsible for over 70 workforce programs and 478 staff, and Director of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), BHW's largest program of over 18,000 clinicians. A key focus for Dr. Padilla at HRSA was improving primary care across the nation and developing, recruiting, and retaining a diverse and culturally competent health workforce; under his leadership, the Bureau expanded to its current budget of almost \$2 billion and the NHSC grew to the largest size in its 50-year history. Prior to joining HRSA, Dr. Padilla served for more than a decade at Unity Health Care, the largest community health center system in Washington, DC, as senior health policy advisor to the CEO, medical director, and as a NHSC Scholar. He also served on

the National Advisory Council of the NHSC from 2007 to 2010. A licensed family physician, Dr. Padilla received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of California at Irvine. He earned a medical degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine and completed his family medicine residency at Brown University.



SOPHIA TRIPOLI, MPH is a strategic and innovative health policy thought leader, and oversees and leads Families USA's strategic development and framework on all aspect of its health policy priorities including guidance on federal and state health policy that will improve health care and health for all families and individuals in America. Prior to this role, Tripoli lead Families USA's work on value initiatives that focus on re-orienting the health care system to deliver health, lowering health care

costs, and on forwarding consumer-focused policy agendas to improve health care delivery and payment systems. Tripoli has testified before Congress several times, and represents Families USA in various policy forums including serving on the Board of Directors for the Health Care Transformation Task Force, and on the Accountable Care Action Collaborative for the Health

Care Payment Learning & Action Network. Tripoli previously worked at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), State Innovation, and at the National Governors Association. Tripoli holds an MPH and a Bachelor of Arts in international affairs with a concentration in global public health, both from The George Washington University.



MARY WAKEFIELD, PhD, RN, FAAN, serves on a number of non-profit and government boards and committees including the Veterans Health Administration Special Medical Advisory Group, the Macy Foundation, the University of Washington Medical Advisory Board, MITRE Health Advisory Committee and Executive Board, and the UC Davis Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders. From the fall of 2022 through early 2023 she was a temporary HHS appointee serving as Senior Counselor to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2021 she served as Senior Counselor to the HHS Secretary for the Unaccompanied Children program operated by the Administration for Families and Children. In the fall of 2020, she was a member of then President-elect Biden's Transition team. In March 2015, Dr. Wakefield was named by President Obama to serve as the Acting Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the

second most senior position in the Department. She held this position through January 20, 2017. She led strategic Department-wide initiatives in key health policy areas, with a particular focus on health and human service programs for vulnerable populations. Her domestic policy work largely focused on improving health status for underserved populations, including strengthening health programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives and improving data analysis to better understand the health needs of rural populations.

From 2009 to 2015, Dr. Wakefield led and initiated program improvements as the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to further strengthen the health care workforce, build healthier communities, increase health equity, and provide health care services to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. Dr. Wakefield's public service career also includes over eight years working in the United States Senate as a legislative assistant and later as chief of staff to two North Dakota senators. Dr. Wakefield has extensive academic experience, including serving as associate dean for rural health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences University of North Dakota, director of the Center for Health Policy, Research and Ethics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and as a faculty member and area chair in the College of Nursing, University of North Dakota. Additionally, she worked on site as a consultant to the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Wakefield is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of

Medicine) a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She has served on a number of public and not for profit boards and committees bringing expertise in nursing, health care quality and access to care and health workforce. Dr. Wakefield served on the IOM committee that produced the landmark reports *To Err is Human* and *Crossing the Quality Chasm*. She also co-chaired the Institute of Medicine committee that produced the report, *Health Professions Education a Bridge to Quality*, and chaired the committee that produced the report, *Quality through Collaboration: Health Care in Rural America*.