

Strategies to Better Align Investments in Innovations for Therapeutic Development with Disease Burden and Unmet Needs

Committee

Donald M. Berwick

Co-Chair

Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP, FRCP, KBE (Co-Chair), is President Emeritus and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an organization he co-founded and led as President and CEO for 19 years. He is a Lecturer in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Berwick is one of the nation's leading authorities on health care quality and improvement. In July 2010, President Obama appointed Dr. Berwick to the position of Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which he held until December 2011. A pediatrician by background, Dr. Berwick has served as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Health Care Policy at the Harvard Medical School, Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health, and as a member of the staffs of Boston's Children's Hospital Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He has also served as vice chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the first "Independent Member" of the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association, and chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Virta Health and NRC Health, on the uncompensated Advisory Committee for Civica Rx, and formerly on the Board of Directors for LumiraDx.

He is an elected member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Dr. Berwick served two terms on the NAM's governing Council, was a member of the NAM's Global Health Board, and currently chairs the NAM Board on Health Care Services. He served on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. His numerous awards include the 2007 William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research, the 2006 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award, and the 2007 Heinz Award for Public Policy. In 2005, he was appointed Honourary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the highest honor in the UK for non-UK citizens. He is the author or co-author of over 200 scientific articles and six books. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School and MPP from Harvard Kennedy School.

Ellen J. MacKenzie

Co-Chair

Ellen MacKenzie, PhD, Sc.M (Co-Chair), is the 11th Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Bloomberg Distinguished Professor. Before becoming dean, Dr. MacKenzie held several leadership positions in the School, most recently as Chair of the School of Public Health's Department of Health Policy and Management. A leading injury prevention and trauma systems expert, Dr. MacKenzie helped shape the field of trauma services and outcomes research. She founded the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium, a collaboration of more than 50 U.S. trauma centers and military treatment facilities dedicated to interdisciplinary trials to define best practices for the care of civilian and military trauma patients. Dr. MacKenzie has distinguished herself as an academic leader, always pushing the boundaries of innovative research and the application of that research to programs and policies that make a difference. She sits on the Advisory Board of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health that issues position statements regarding support for increased federal funding across a range of issues in public health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named Dean MacKenzie one of 20 leaders and visionaries who have had a transformative effect on the field of violence and injury prevention in the past 20 years. She has also received distinguished career awards from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association, the American Trauma Society, and the American Public Health Association (Injury Control Section). In 2018, she was elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. MacKenzie has served on several NASEM National Research Council committees, most recently on the NASEM Committee on Accelerating Progress in Traumatic Brain Injury Care and Research.

Stacey J. Adam

Member

Stacey Adam, PhD, is an Vice President at the FNIH, leading many public-private partnerships, such as Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV); the Biomarkers Consortium (Cancer and Metabolic Disorders Steering Committees) and their projects; Accelerating Medicines Partnerships (AMPs)-Common Metabolic Diseases and Heart Failure; Pediatric Medical Devices PPP; Partnership for Accelerating Cancer Therapies (PACT); and the Lung Master protocol (Lung-MAP) clinical trial.

Prior to FNIH, Dr. Adam was a Manager at Deloitte Consulting in the Federal Life Sciences and Healthcare Strategy practice where she supported many federal and non-profit client projects. Before Deloitte, Dr. Adam conducted her postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine, where she was both an NIH and American Cancer Society supported fellow, and she earned her Ph.D. in Pharmacology with a Certificate in Mammalian Toxicology from Duke University. She did her BS in Medical Technology/Clinical Laboratory Science from University of Nebraska-Medical Center and graduated Sigma Cum Laude.

Dr. Adam is a member of the American Associate of Cancer Research and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She has received the NIH Directors Award four times between 2020-2022 for her work on the partnerships with NIH.

Maria E. Bottazzi

Member

Maria Elena Bottazzi, PhD, is the Sr. Associate Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, Division Chief of Pediatric Tropical Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology and Co-director of Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She is an internationally recognized tropical and emerging disease vaccinologist, pioneering and leading innovative partnerships for vaccine development to advance a robust infectious and tropical disease vaccine portfolio. Dr. Bottazzi tackles high burden, neglected and emerging diseases such as coronavirus, hookworm, schistosomiasis, and Chagas, all diseases that affect disproportionately the world's poorest populations.

Dr. Bottazzi is the co-creator of an open-source COVID-19 vaccine technology that led to the development of CORBEVAX in India and Halal-certified INDOVAC in Indonesia. As a global thought-leader, she has received national and international highly regarded awards including the 2023 Vilcek-Gold Award for Humanism in Healthcare, part of the team that received the 2023 David and Beatrix Hamburg Award for Advances in Biomedical Research and Clinical Medicine of the National Academy of Medicine, the 2023 Holocaust Museum Houston LBJ Moral Courage Award. Dr. Bottazzi was named by Forbes Latin America as one of the 2022 "100 Most Powerful Women in Central America" and one of the 2022 Great Immigrant, Great American Honoree of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. In 2022, alongside Dr. Peter Hotez, she was nominated by Texas Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher for the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Bottazzi is a former National Academy of Medicine Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar. In 2019, she was member of the ad hoc consensus committee for the report on "Stronger Food and Drug Regulatory Systems Abroad" and in 2021, member of consensus study committee on "Vaccine Research and Development Global Initiative for Advancing Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Preparedness and Response. She is a member of the technical advisory group for Access to Advanced Health Institute, and member of the board of directors for the One Health Research Foundation, Houston Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation, and Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

Dr. Bottazzi obtained her bachelor's degree in microbiology and clinical chemistry from the National Autonomous University of Honduras and a doctorate in Molecular Immunology and Experimental Pathology from the University of Florida. Her post-doctoral training in Cellular Biology was completed at University of Miami and Pennsylvania.

Macarius M. Donneyong

Member

Macarius Mwinisungee Donneyong, MPH, PhD, is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University (OSU) with joint appointments in the Colleges of Pharmacy and Public Health. Prior to joining OSU, Dr. Donneyong previously trained at the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

As a trained epidemiologist and an expert in pharmacoepidemiology, Dr. Donneyong's background and research interests are in generating real-world evidence of therapeutic products. In particular, he focuses on measuring and understanding how multilevel factors at the individual patient, healthcare system and community levels act interactively to drive racial and ethnic disparities in the use and acceptability of prescribed medications in real world settings. This line of research has been focused on racial and ethnic disparities in cardiovascular diseases and mental health, especially depression care. Dr. Donneyong is renowned for innovative research that applies data mining techniques to address drug-drug interactions among older patient populations among whom polypharmacy is the highest. Based on these lines of research, Dr. Donneyong believes that polypills could be the silver bullet to addressing both medication nonadherence and adverse drug-drug interactions due to polypharmacy.

Dr. Donneyong has been the recipient of several prestigious federal research grants and is a respected figure in the academic community. His expertise has been sought after at various national and international avenues including providing subject matter expertise to policymakers and regulators such as the FDA; he is co-author of the recent FDA report, Patricia Zettler, Micah Merman, Macarius M. Donneyong, Martin Fried, Kathryn E. Lancaster. External Review of FDA Regulation of Opioid Analgesics. Final Report (Contract Number: HHSF223201810005B). 2023 January 25. Dr. Donneyong also serves as a Panel Member of NIH Ageing, Immunology, Musculoskeletal and Rheumatoid diseases (AIMR) study section and an ad hoc Scientist Reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Donneyong is a current Board of Directors member at the American College of Epidemiology. He received his MPH from Missouri State and PhD in Epidemiology with a minor in Biostatistics from the University of Louisville.

Stacie B. Dusetzina

Member

Stacie B. Dusetzina, PhD, is a professor of Health Policy and an Ingram professor of cancer research at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Health Policy. She is a health services researcher focusing on the intersection between health policy, epidemiology, and economics related to prescription drugs. Relevant to the proposed work, prior to graduate training, Dr. Dusetzina spent several years working in a Contract Research Organization supporting industry-funded clinical trials, including multiple new drug applications. Her PhD training in pharmaceutical science was obtained from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, an academic institution with substantial experience engaging in early-stage discovery and drug development.

Dr. Dusetzina's work has contributed to the evidence base for the role of drug costs and coverage on patient access to care, with a specific focus on access to high-priced drugs and those for rare disease. She has been recognized for her work at a national level, including co-authoring a National Academies of Medicine report on "Making Medicines Affordable", advising Congressional committees and multiple government agencies on prescription drug legislation, and being selected to serve on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission in 2021. Her work on access to high-priced medications for Medicare beneficiaries was used by the White House and President Biden when promoting and passing the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022. She currently serves as an advisory member for the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) Midwest Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council and on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. Dr. Dusetzina received her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010 and completed post-doctoral training at the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School in 2012.

Holly Fernandez Lynch

Member

Holly Fernandez Lynch, JD, MBE, is Associate Professor of Medical Ethics and Law at the University of Pennsylvania. She pursues conceptual and empirical scholarship regarding clinical research ethics and regulation, access to investigational medicines, and FDA pharmaceutical policy, especially approaches to drug development and early approval pathways for diseases with unmet treatment needs. She is a board member of Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R) and board president-elect of the American Society for Law, Medicine, and Ethics. She was a Greenwall Faculty Scholar from 2019-2022, received the inaugural Baruch A. Brody Bioethics Award in 2020, was elected a fellow of the Hastings Center in 2021, and was selected as a National Academy of Medicine Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine in 2022. From 2023-2024, she served as a member of the National Academies ad hoc committee "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Accelerating Treatments and Improving Quality of Life." Professor Fernandez Lynch is the founder and co-chair of the Consortium to Advance Effective Research Ethics Oversight (AEREO) and is a member of the NYU Working Group on Compassionate Use and Preapproval Access (CUPA).

Professor Fernandez Lynch has previously worked as an attorney in private practice, a bioethicist serving NIH's Division of AIDS, an analyst with President Obama's Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, and executive director of Harvard Law School's bioethics and health law research program. She earned graduate degrees in law and bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Timian M. Godfrey

Member

Timian M. Godfrey, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, has a clinical practice background spanning 20 years within the realm of nursing and community health. For over nine years, her professional practice role has been as a nurse practitioner in emergency healthcare for rural and tribal communities. In addition to clinical practice, she is an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Arizona (UArizona) College of Nursing (CON), has a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, is board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and holds certification in public health. At Johns Hopkins University, her doctorate degree studies encompassed a leadership focus with public health training in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, specializing in American Indian Healthcare. Currently, she is a PhD candidate in the Nursing and Health Innovation program at Arizona State University. The overarching interest for her program of research is health equity for underrepresented minority groups, specifically Indigenous communities. As a proud member of the Navajo Nation, Dr. Godfrey brings pertinent cultural insights to the clinical and academic teams she works with. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and the Western Academy of Nurses for her impact on health policy and Indigenous health equity. She is the project director for two large federal grant programs aiming to increase the number of underrepresented nurses in the workforce, specifically nurses practicing in tribal communities. Dr. Godfrey's expertise in organizational leadership is also evident as the chair for the Western Institute of Nursing Diversity and Inclusion committee to promote health equity in nursing research, education, practice, and policy. Last, she serves on the board for the first tribal-specific Arizona Health Education Center to develop health sciences education opportunities with the 22 Arizona tribal nations. Dr. Godfrey received her B.S.N. in Nursing from Southern Utah University, her M.S.N. as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and her D.N.P. in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University.

Howard S. Howell

Member

Howard Scott Howell, MD, MBA, is a healthcare and life sciences advisor (Blue Line Advisors, LLC), teacher (University of California, Berkeley and Ohio State University), and co-founder (Synapse Sciences, a Switzerland based non-profit drug research network). He began his career as a general internist and became interested in the business and regulation of healthcare. He returned to school to get an MBA and transitioned into health services administration in academic group practice and then health insurance. Dr. Howell went on to work in the life sciences industries, including at several pharmaceutical companies—GlaxoSmithKline, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Genentech, and Novartis— retiring as US Chief Strategy Officer of Novartis Pharmaceuticals in May of 2022. Dr. Howell joined Novartis in 2017 as VP & Head of US Market Access, where he was responsible for pricing and contracting, channel management, managed care, hospital systems of care, as well as patient and specialty services. He also led an initiative at Novartis to employ value-based contracting for medicines, linking pricing and reimbursement rates to specific patient outcomes. He currently consults for Jazz Pharmaceuticals and previously consulted for FliptRx. He volunteers on the research advisory board of Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Dr. Howell has deep expertise in strategic investment, US drug pricing and access, has been teaching, researching, and writing about related topics for many years, and currently co-hosts the podcast “Prescription for Better Access”. Dr. Howell completed his BS at the University of Notre Dame, MD at Ohio State University, internship and residency at Duke University, and MBA at Duke University.

Mark Olfson

Member

Mark Olfson, MD, MPH, is Elizabeth K Dollard Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine & Law in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving College of Physicians & Surgeons and Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. He is also a Research Psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute. Dr. Olfson’s research characterizes national patterns in behavioral health service use, identifies critical gaps between clinical science and practice, and illuminates challenges faced by neglected patient populations including widespread problems in quality of care and inadequate treatment response. Through innovative and influential studies, sensitive to social influences, his research has advanced understanding of unmet mental health needs and the needs of clinical practice. These studies serve as a foundation for improving treatment access and evaluating the quality, effectiveness, and safety of behavioral health services.

Dr. Olfson graduated from Northwestern University Medical School, completed psychiatric residency training at Yale, and received a master’s in public health at Columbia. He has received numerous awards including and the Paul Hoch Award from the American Psychopathological Association and the Senior Scholar Health Services Award from the American Psychiatric Association. He has also contributed to NAM reports on preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in children and youth and on mental disorders and disabilities among low-income children. His spouse is strategic clinical advisor for Lumate Health, an online platform for cognitive behavioral therapy for teens and young adults.

Lisa L. Ouellette

Member

Lisa Larrimore Ouellette, PhD, JD, is the Deane F. Johnson Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, as well as a Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. Her research focuses on intellectual property law and innovation policy, including the patenting of publicly funded research under the Bayh-Dole Act. She has applied these ideas to biomedical innovation challenges including the opioid epidemic, the COVID-19 pandemic, and pharmaceutical prices. She has also authored a free casebook, "Patent Law: Cases, Problems, and Materials," which has been adopted at over 60 law schools. Prior to her appointment at Stanford Law School, Professor Ouellette clerked on the U.S. Courts of Appeal for both the Federal Circuit and the Second Circuit. She holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, a Ph.D. in Physics from Cornell University, and a B.A. in Physics from Swarthmore College.

Edith A. Perez

Member

Edith Adaljisa Perez, MD, is an internationally recognized translational researcher and cancer specialist, and Professor Emeritus at Mayo Clinic. She served as Chief Medical Officer at Bolt Biotherapeutics from 2020-2024. As Chief Medical Officer at Bolt, Dr. Perez oversaw regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, biostatistics, and medical affairs for the company's diverse clinical development and early-stage immuno-oncology pipeline. Previously, Dr. Perez was Vice President and Head of the BioOncology medical unit at Genentech, Inc., overseeing all U.S. hematology and oncology medical affairs, and with her team, was involved in leading numerous trials and launching six drugs, including GAZYVA®, PERJETA®, ALECENSA® and TECENTRIQ®. Dr. Perez spent the first 20 years of her career at the Mayo Clinic where she was active in teaching, research, and patient care, with a focus in breast cancer and translational biomarkers. She has authored over 700 peer reviewed manuscripts and abstracts.

Dr. Perez is on the Board of Directors for Food Allergy Research Foundation and is a member of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust; she has been involved in diversity leadership and philanthropic initiatives with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Association for Cancer Research, Stand Up to Cancer, and The DONNA Foundation. She also serves on the editorial boards of multiple academic journals and is a member of the Board of Directors and the Clinical Advisory Board for Artiva Biotherapeutics.

Dr. Perez earned her M.D. from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan and completed her residency in internal medicine at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. She served as a general internist in the Division of National Health Services Corps in Los Angeles and completed her Hematology/Oncology fellowship at the UC Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Perez also has pursued leadership, management, and executive development at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Kennedy School in Boston. Dr. Perez is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hematology. Her spouse is employed by Kite Pharmaceuticals.

Kathryn A. Phillips

Member

Kathryn A Phillips, PhD, is Professor of Health Economics and Health Services Research at the University of California, San Francisco. She founded the UCSF Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision Medicine (TRANSPERS), which is a global leader in translating new technologies and therapies into clinical care and health policy.

Dr. Phillips's research includes work on how to effectively, efficiently, and equitably implement new technologies and therapies using transdisciplinary approaches and multi-stakeholder engagement. Dr. Phillips brings expertise in health economics, health policy, therapeutic development, regulatory oversight, and health disparities. She works with industry, venture capital firms, and governmental boards, with a common thread of focusing on how to align investments in research and commercialization with unmet needs. She serves on the evidence review committee with the California Technology Assessment Forum, ICER (Institute for Clinical and Economic Review), and chairs the Global Economics and Evaluation of Clinical Genomics Sequencing Working Group (GEECS), which is supported by Illumina Inc. Dr. Phillips previously served on the governing Board of Directors for GenomeCanada and as an advisor to the FDA, CDC, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and White House Office of Science and Technology as well as several technology/diagnostic/pharma companies, consulting firms, and venture capital firms. In the past five years, she provided consulting advisory services (no longer active roles) to Illumina, Roche, Avia, Association of Community Cancer Centers, and Evidera. She serves as an unpaid volunteer on the Scientific Board of Advisors for Bakar Labs, which is a life science-focused incubator founded by UC-Berkeley and QB3, UC's hub for life science entrepreneurship.

Dr. Phillips is a standing member of the NAM Roundtable on Genomic Medicine and Precision Health and has participated in many NAM/NASEM activities for 25 years including nine NAM meetings, most recently as a participant in the NASEM committee on Accelerating Behavioral Science through Ontology Development and Use and a formal speaker at the Roundtable. She has been recognized for her work through lead-authored publications in the highest impact journals that place her in the top 2% of authors cited in her field, and through service on leading editorial and professional boards including being named as the founding Editor-In-Chief of Health Affairs Scholar: Emerging and Global Health Policy.

Dr. Phillips earned her BA from the University of Texas Austin, MPA from Harvard University, and PhD from University of California Berkeley. She has been a Visiting Scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Harvard, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, London School of Economics, and Brocher Foundation (Switzerland).

Joshua Salomon

Member

Joshua A. Salomon, PhD, is Professor of Health Policy at Stanford School of Medicine, Senior Fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and founding Director of the Prevention Policy Modeling Lab. Previously, he served as policy analyst at the World Health Organization, and as Professor of Global Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Trained in health policy and decision science, Dr. Salomon leads multidisciplinary research teams dedicated to producing rigorous, actionable evidence to improve the public's health and reduce health disparities. He has co-authored more than three hundred original peer-reviewed research articles and mentored dozens of graduate and post-graduate trainees in health policy, medicine and public health.

His work — supported by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — combines data synthesis and mathematical modeling to measure and forecast health outcomes and evaluate public health programs, strategies and investments. Dr. Salomon has spearheaded methodological innovation in measurement and valuation of population health and disease burden, infectious and chronic disease modeling and forecasting, and cost-effectiveness analysis. His applied modeling work on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, COVID-19 and other major health challenges informs local, state, national and international policies to improve health and wellbeing, particularly among under-served populations in the United States and around the world. A major emphasis of his work is on priority-setting for health interventions to address unmet population health needs, including assessing potential health and economic benefits of new and emerging health technologies. Dr. Salomon is a member of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Scientific Council, which is responsible for scientific oversight and decision-making on study methods.

Dr. Salomon is a member of the NASEM Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice. He received his PhD in health policy and decision sciences from Harvard University.

David I. Scheer

Member

David I. Scheer, MS, is a 40-year veteran life science entrepreneur, advisor, and company builder. He is president of Scheer & Company, Inc., a company that provides corporate strategic and transactional advisory services in the life sciences industry. He currently chairs four boards of privately held life science companies: OrphAI Therapeutics, BiologicsMD, Adela, Inc. (a health and diagnostics company), and Refactor Health (a digital health company). Mr. Scheer has previously served in an advisory capacity for many companies as well as for not-for-profit research institutions and health care systems involved in research commercialization. He has played a key role as transactionalist for spinoffs from university research. He is currently a volunteer co-chair of the board of directors for BioCT, member of the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Advisory Committee, advisor of Wolverine Foundation, and member of the director's advisory committee for the Rutgers Global Health Initiative. He has volunteered as a chair of strategic advisory for the National Organization for Rare Disorders, member of the Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology Advisory Board at Yale University, and serves on a range of initiatives in the public and global health arenas at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, including the Harvard Malaria Initiative. He was a founding member and continues to serve as a member of the NYU Langone Health Compassionate Use and Preapproval Access Working Group.

Mr. Scheer launched his first four companies, all of which saw successful exits, while part of the Health Care Investing Team at Oak Investment Partners. Mr. Scheer was a co-founder of Achillion Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Alexion in 2020, now a unit of AstraZeneca), a publicly held biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of small molecule therapeutics for complement-related diseases, and for 21 years, he served on its board of directors, including for many years, as its Chairman of the Board. He was also involved in launching, building, and serving on the boards of Viropharma (acquired by Shire), OraPharma (acquired by Johnson & Johnson), and Esperion Therapeutics (acquired by Pfizer). Much of his not-for-profit as well as for-profit activities have been focused on bringing therapies to patients with high unmet needs, including those with rare diseases. He is intricately familiar with the issues that underly successful translation of research into innovation via life science companies. He has given talks at business schools and has moderated and served on a wide range of panels focusing on research commercialization and innovation. Mr. Scheer holds an A.B. degree cum laude in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard College and an M.S. degree in Cellular, Molecular and Developmental Biology from Yale University.

Wu Zeng

Member

Wu Zeng, MD, MS, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the School of Health at Georgetown University. His research has been centered on health financing, economic evaluation of health interventions (e.g., treatment innovations and technology, and health policy design and evaluation to provide evidence for policy-making). He also works on examining health resource flow and allocation to enhance the efficiency of health systems. Dr. Zeng has conducted research in more than 20 countries and has been a senior consultant for many international organizations, including the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNFPA. He is a member of the International Health Economic Association and has served as an advisor to the Ministry of Health in several countries. Dr. Zeng received his MD degree from Fujian Medical University (China) and holds an MS degree in Global Health Policy and a PhD degree in Social Policy from Brandeis University.