



NIHCM
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Meeting the Health Care Needs of an Aging Population

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Kathryn Santoro, MA, is the Senior Director of Programming at NIHCM Foundation. Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM in 2004 and currently co-leads Policy and Education programs, co-directs the Journalism Grant program, leads several Journalism Awards, and oversees Communications. Ms. Santoro leads the Foundation's webinar program, which facilitates dialogue among experts on health care and public health topics to inform and educate health care leaders, the media, policymakers, and other key stakeholders. Previously, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant with Robert Betz Associates, a health policy consulting firm, and a Project Consultant for Women in Government/Digene Corporation, where she led the development of a state-by-state report card on cervical cancer screening.

In 2019, Ms. Santoro completed the Emerging Women Executives in Healthcare Leadership program at the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University. She received her master's degree in public policy and women's studies from The George Washington University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and women's studies from Villanova University.

David C. Grabowski, PhD is a professor of health care policy in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. His research examines the economics of aging with a particular interest in the areas of long-term care and post-acute care. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He has published over 240 peer-reviewed articles, and his work has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals of economics, health policy, and medicine. He has testified to Congress on seven separate occasions. From 2017 through 2023, Dr. Grabowski was a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), which is an independent agency established to advise the U.S. Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program.

Jasmine Travers, PhD, RN is an assistant professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and represents a cadre of nurse-scientists developing breakthrough

research and policy recommendations to transform long-term care delivery for older adults. She is one of few researchers with expertise in health equity and health services research at the intersection of nursing home research, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and workforce issues. Dr. Travers' leadership and expertise was recognized by her selection on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes. She also contributed to the development of the first-ever AARP LTSS State Scorecard focusing on equity in long-term care systems. This scorecard has raised the profile of LTSS and has driven action at federal and state levels. Her work continues to inform policy changes to improve work environments for nursing assistants and ensure safer nursing homes for residents.

Heidi Syropoulos, MD is a physician leader with strong experience in complex, chronic care management, working with clinicians and payors alike to maintain quality and cost measures. Dr. Syropoulos is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Medicine where she also did her postgraduate training. She has nearly 30 years of clinical practice experience. She has a wide and varied career which includes private practice, medical directorships in Long Term Care, Veterans Affairs Director of Geriatric Primary Care, Clinical Faculty at the University of Miami, and lead physician for a Population Health Management team for Medicare Advantage plans. She joined Independence Blue Cross in December 2015 as the Medical Director for their Medicare Advantage plans.