



The State of Our Children's Health

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Sheree Crute, MA is the Director of Communication for the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation in Washington, D.C. Ms. Crute joined NIHCM in 2020 to develop and lead the organization's communications strategy. Previously, Ms. Crute was director of communications and marketing for the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University, a research and policy communications specialist for the New York Academy of Medicine, and a strategic communications consultant for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focusing on research and policy.

In addition, Ms. Crute is a veteran journalist with decades of experience writing about public health, health inequity and disparities, medicine, and consumer health. She has written for *Washington Monthly*, *The Root.com*, *Health* magazine, *Consumer Reports on Health*, and is co-founder of *FierceforsBlackWomen.com*, a website focusing on black women's health.

Sheree has a BA in Journalism, an MA in International Affairs from New York University and a certificate in public health practice from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was also a 2011 University of Southern California/Annenberg School of Communications National Reporting Fellow.

Steven H. Woolf, M.D., M.P.H., is a senior fellow at American Progress and professor of family medicine and population health at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, where he was the founding director of the Center on Society and Health and now holds the C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Distinguished Chair in Population Health and Health Equity. He is a leading [expert on child injury and mortality](#). Dr. Woolf has also edited three books and published more than 200 articles in a career that has focused on raising public awareness about the social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape health and produce inequities. He works to address these issues through outreach to policymakers and the public, including testimony before Congress, consulting, media outreach, and speaking engagements.

Learn more [here](#)

Iheoma U. Iruka, PhD, is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy, a Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) and the Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG (the Coalition). She is leading

projects and initiatives focused on ensuring that minoritized children and children from low-income households, especially Black children, are thriving. Her work is focused on ensuring excellence for young diverse learners, especially Black children and their families, through the intersection of anti-bias, anti-racist, culturally grounded research, program, and policy. Some areas of focus include family engagement and support, quality rating and improvement systems, and early care and education system and programs. She serves and has served on numerous national and local boards and committees, including the National Advisory Committee for the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs, Brady Education Foundation, and Trust for Learning.

Learn more [here](#)

Anuradha Rao-Patel, MD is the AVP and Senior Medical Director at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC). She is responsible for the evaluation of the medical necessity, appropriateness, and efficiency of the use of health care services, procedures, prescription drugs, and facilities under the provisions of the applicable health benefits plan. Before joining Blue Cross NC, she worked in a private practice doing acute and chronic pain management. She is also an [advocate](#) for protecting the mental health and well-being of children.

Learn more [here](#)