



Climate Impacts Mental Health: The Importance of Climate-Resilience

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Kathryn Santoro, MA, is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization's journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

Susan Clayton, PhD, is the Whitmore-Williams Professor of Psychology at the College of Wooster in Ohio and a visiting fellow at the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies, 2021-22.

Dr. Clayton's research examines people's relationship with the natural environment, how it is socially constructed, and how a healthy relationship with nature can be promoted. She has written extensively about the effects of climate change on mental health and about climate anxiety. A fellow of the American Psychological Association, she is a lead author on the just-released Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Yulia Carroll MD, PhD, serves as the Associate Director for Science at the Division for Environmental Health Science and Practice at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she advises on various climate and environmental health issues.

The Division's Climate and Health Program supports state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies as they prepare for the health impacts of a changing climate.

Dr. Carroll started her CDC career as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2007, where she led investigations into emerging work-related diseases. She then worked at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), leading the development of toxicological profiles, exposure level recommendations, and field investigations, and at the CDC National Center for Environmental Health, overseeing environmental health science research and regulatory compliance and managing the science agenda. She received her PhD in Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Cincinnati, and her MD from the Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria. Dr. Carroll has done research in the area of public health epidemiology and prevention since 1996, holds numerous awards and grants and has authored over 40 publications.

Susan B. Towler, APR, is the executive director of the Florida Blue Foundation, established in 2001 as the philanthropic affiliate of Florida Blue. She is also executive director of corporate social responsibility (CSR) for Florida Blue and has responsibility for the company's philanthropic strategy.

Prior to joining Florida Blue, Towler held previous public relations roles at Robin Shepherd Public Relations, Gulf Life Insurance Company, BancBoston Mortgage Corporation and was president of SEB Communications. She is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America.

Towler is actively involved in the philanthropic and social responsibility sector. Towler serves on the board of directors for several nonprofits including the Children's Movement of Florida and Florida Humanities. She is the 2021-23 chair of the Florida Chamber Foundation. Towler is active with the Florida Philanthropic Network where she served as chair in 2016. She is also a graduate of Leadership Florida and served as its 2012-13 chair. Towler served as the 2013-14 chair of Volunteer Florida, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, and is past chair of the University of Florida Public Relations Advisory Council. She also served as vice-chair for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Towler is an honorary member of Leadership Jacksonville and Florida Blue Key.

Towler was named a "Woman of Heart" by Jacksonville Magazine and American Heart Association in 2021; "Woman with Heart" by Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville in 2017; and a "Woman of Influence" by the Jacksonville Business Journal in 2004. The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council honored her with the "Women of Distinction" award in 2006.

Towler was an EVE Awards finalist in 2013. She was chosen in 2018 as a Miami Herald “Influencer.” Florida Trend recognized Towler in the Florida 500 list of the state’s most influential business leaders for the past three years.

Towler holds a Bachelor of Science in public relations from the University of Florida. She is married to Jim Towler and they have one daughter, Emma, and a French bulldog, Mr. Pickles