



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 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.

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 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.