Can We Design AI that Will Help Advance, Not Hinder, Health Equity?

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 FierceforBlackWomen.com, a website focusing on black women's health. She is also serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Black Health.

David S. Jones, MD, PhD. Trained in psychiatry and history of science, David Jones is the Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine at Harvard University. His research has explored the causes and meanings of health inequalities (Rationalizing Epidemics: Meanings and Uses of American Indian Mortality since 1600) and decision making in cardiac therapeutics (Broken Hearts: The Tangled History of Cardiac Care). He is now pursuing three new projects, on the evolution of coronary artery surgery, on heart disease and cardiac therapeutics in India, and on the threat of air pollution to health. He teaches the history of medicine, medical ethics, and social medicine at Harvard College and Harvard Medical School.

Fay Cobb Payton, PhD is a Full Professor (with Tenure) of Information Technology/Analytics at North Carolina State University and was named a University Faculty Scholar for her leadership in turning research into solutions to society’s most pressing issues. She is on rotation as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Division of Computer and Network Systems. At the NSF, she works with the CISE Minority-Serving Institutions Research Expansion Program (CISE-
MSI Program), Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science (SCH), AI-FEAT, Computing In Undergraduate Education, Broadening Participating Alliances in Computing and a number of other cross-directorate programs (INCLUDES, ADVANCE, HBCU Excellence in Research and NSF Research Traineeship). She (along with a group of colleagues) received the 2020 NSF Director’s Award.

Dr. Payton has received the North Carolina Technology Association Tech Educator of the Year, PhD Project Hall of Fame and National Coalition of Women in Information Technology Undergraduate Mentoring Awards. She is a named SAS Institute Fellow for her work in analytics and teaching in the IT classroom, and as received two NC State University Alumni Extension Awards. She is a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Fellow where she worked on data management, technology and communications strategies for a health disparities study. As an American Council on Education Fellow, she worked on issues of academic review, interdisciplinary graduate research and education, and institutional economic and community impact.

Rajeev Ronanki serves as the Chief Digital Officer at Anthem, Inc. He is leading the transformation of Anthem to become a digital platform for health that utilizes a multi-channel approach to connect our consumers to our providers. To achieve this transformation, Mr. Ronanki drives the vision, strategy, and execution of Anthem’s digital-first approach across the organization’s Digital, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Exponential Technology, Service Experience, and Innovation portfolios. He is reimagining the future of healthcare by enabling Anthem to harness the power of AI and data to provide consumers predictive, proactive, and personalized insights into their health. Mr. Ronanki’s experience spans over 20 years of innovation-driven industry and social change across healthcare and technology.

Prior to joining Anthem, Mr. Ronanki was a Partner at Deloitte Consulting, LLP where he established and led Deloitte’s Life Sciences and Healthcare Advanced Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Innovation practices. Additionally, he was instrumental in shaping Deloitte’s blockchain and cryptocurrency solutions and authored pieces on various exponential technology topics.