The Power and Promise of AI for Health Equity

March 26, 2024

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
(In order of appearance on the program)

Sheree Crute, MA, is NIHCM's Director of Communications and Co-Director of the Journalism Grant Program. She 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 the 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, and Consumer Reports on Health, and is co-founder of FierceforBlackWomen.com, a website focusing on black women's health. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Black 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.

Dr. Maia Hightower, MD, MPH, MBA is the CEO and Founder of Equality AI and former EVP, Chief Digital Transformation Officer at the University of Chicago Medicine. Dr. Hightower is a leading voice in the intersection of healthcare, digital transformation, and health

equity. She is a champion for responsible AI, ensuring that the digital future of healthcare is equitable and just.

At Equality AI, we detect and bust AI bias in healthcare. We align AI strategy with outcomes and health equity through a technology platform for AI lifecycle management. Thus, enabling healthcare systems to realize the total value of their AI investments.

She is a 4-time C-suit physician executive with fifteen years of executive leadership spanning healthcare IT, medical affairs, and population health across four academic medical centers, clinically integrated networks, and healthcare tech companies.

She is an internationally sought-after speaker on responsible AI and digital health equity for academic, government, consumer, and industry audiences.

Dr. Hightower received her BA at Cornell University, MD, and MPH, from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, followed by residencies in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego. She also holds an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Usha Sambamoorthi, Ph.D. is a Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Associate Dean for Health Outcomes Research at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

Dr. Sambamoorthi received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Madras. She is a health economist, who has dedicated her teaching, mentoring, and research efforts to improving population health by reducing disparities by gender, race/ethnicity, age, disability, and mental health. To support her research, Dr. Sambamoorthi has consistently received funding from federal agencies such as AHRQ, NIH, and the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) – the largest integrated healthcare system in the United States. Her work has also been supported by private foundations and private corporations.

Dr. Sambamoorthi's teaching areas focus on improving population health through the examination of healthcare access, quality, and outcomes using "real-world" large data. Her interest in interdisciplinary perspectives has led to numerous collaborative research publications and grants with physician researchers, epidemiologists, statisticians, psychologists, nurses, sociologists, and policy and behavioral researchers.

In recognition of her commitment to diversity, education, scholarship, and research, Dr. Sambamoorthi received the 2018 Women In Science and Health (WISH) Advanced Career Excellence Award from West Virginia University (WVU). Dr. Sambamoorthi's mentorship skills are well known and she is often referred to as "Mentor Extraordinaire" by her mentees. Her mentees have included graduate students, post-docs, junior faculty, and clinicians from different health professions. She has received outstanding mentoring awards from the American Public Health Association (2010), WVU Vice President's Award (2017), WVU Health Sciences (2017), and WVU Distinction in Graduate Research Mentoring Award in 2020.

Dr. Sambamoorthi has over 230 collaborative publications in peer-reviewed high-impact journals. She uses diverse national and international databases (for example: UK Biobank) for analysis and triangulation of research findings. Dr. Sambamoorthi has expertise in analyzing large national survey databases (NHIS, MEPS, BRFSS, NHANES, HRS, PSID and others), health insurance claims (Medicaid, Medicare – FFS and Advantage, Veteran Health Administration, and private insurance), and linked databases (SEER-Medicare, SEER-CAHPS, MCBS, Veteran Health Administration-Medicare) to answer timely healthcare delivery and policy questions. Dr. Sambamoorthi routinely applies advanced statistical and econometric techniques in her analysis of large data.

Himanshu Arora is the Chief Data and Analytics Officer at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. He is responsible for advancing the company's data science efforts. An analytics leader with a background spanning health care, insurance, government, and financial services, Arora previously served as head of data science and analytics enablement at Health Care Service Corp. and held positions at Zurich Insurance, United Healthcare, and Deloitte Consulting.

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