



The Science of Happiness, Health & Well-being during COVID-19

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.

DONALD M. BERWICK, MD, MPP, FRCP is President Emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and also former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. A pediatrician by background, Dr. Berwick has served on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, and on the staffs of Boston's Children's Hospital Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He has also served as Vice Chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force, the first "Independent Member" of the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, and Chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He served two terms on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Governing Council, was a member of the IOM's Global Health Board, and served on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. Recognized as a leading authority on health care quality and improvement, Dr. Berwick has received numerous awards for his contributions. In 2005, he was appointed "Honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire" by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his work with the British National Health Service. Dr. Berwick is the author or co-author of over 160 scientific articles and six books. He currently serves as Lecturer in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

EMILIANA R. SIMON-THOMAS, PHD is the science director of the Greater Good Science Center, where she oversees the GGSC's fellowship program, is a co-instructor of its Science of Happiness online course, and helps run its Expanding Gratitude project.

Emiliana is a leading expert on the neuroscience and psychology of compassion, kindness, gratitude, and other "pro-social" skills. She earned her doctorate in Cognition Brain and Behavior at UC Berkeley, where her dissertation used behavioral and neuroscience methods to examine how negative states like fear and aversion influence thinking and decision-making. During her postdoc, Emiliana transitioned to studying pro-social states like love of humanity, compassion, and awe. From there, Emiliana served as Associate Director/Senior Scientist at CCARE (the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University), focusing on how compassion benefits health, well-being, and psychosocial functioning.

Today, Emiliana's work spotlights the science that connects health and happiness to social affiliation, caregiving, and collaborative relationships, as she continues to examine the potential for – as well as the benefits of – living a more meaningful life.

KELLI TICE WELLS, MD joined Florida Blue in 2018 as Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs. She is the clinical lead for Florida Blue's medical operations work in the areas of public health, social determinants of health, opioid overuse response, and corporate social responsibility.

Dr. Wells' interest in health disparities and culturally competent care began early in her training. Prior to joining Florida Blue, she was a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholar and completed her NHSC service obligation in the Jacksonville area. Dr. Wells taught cultural competency for physicians, and incorporated group and home visits into her clinical practice. She led patient-centered clinic flow redesign at numerous locations while serving as clinic Medical Director, Clinical Services Director and then County Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health. Dr. Wells also worked at the state level where she led a statewide public health initiative to advance health equity and worked to incorporate its principles into the daily work of the department.

Dr. Wells is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, and currently serves as chair of the Deans Council, Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida. She also represents Florida Blue on the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Steering Committee.

Dr. Wells received her bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University, her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine and completed her residency at St. Vincent's Family Practice Residency Program in Jacksonville, Florida.