



NIHCM
FOUNDATION

***Navigating Care Choices:
How to Help Consumers Shop for Value***

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO, MA is Director of Policy and Development at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization whose mission is to promote improvements in health care access, management and quality. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's *Driving Value* webinar series and directs the organization's maternal and child health programs. Under these projects, she conducts research and analysis on health policy issues in support of improving practices used by health care decision makers and industry leaders.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from the 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.

KRISTOF STREMIKIS, MPP, MPH is the Associate Director of Policy and the Purchaser Value Network at Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH). Mr. Stremikis is responsible for influencing -state and federal health care policy to improve quality and lower costs for PBGH members. He formulates and leads the organization's response to priority areas like provider payment and delivery system reform, drug -pricing, and transparency. He also directs PBGH's Purchaser Value Network, which identifies and engages -employers in best practices in value purchasing.

Prior to joining PBGH, Mr. Stremikis was a Senior Researcher to the President at the Commonwealth Fund in New York City. During his six years there, he published widely on the issues of coverage, payment, and delivery system reform, including the concept of "value" in the healthcare sector, competitive dynamics in commercial health insurance markets, and strategies for managing costs and improving care for chronically ill patients.

Mr. Stremikis holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Health Policy and Management from Columbia University. He received undergraduate degrees in Economics, Political Science, and History from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

DAVID AUERBACH, PhD is a health economist and currently Director for Research and Cost Trends at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC). His work has spanned a number of focus areas including understanding employer markets for insurance, spending trends and cost drivers, primary care and the health care workforce. He has specialized in, and is a nationally-recognized expert on the Registered Nurse workforce including advanced practice nurses. He has twice chaired the workforce theme for the AcademyHealth Annual Research Conference, has appeared several times on NPR's Marketplace, and has authored and co-authored several dozen publications on a range of topics in the top journals in the field including *NEJM*, *JAMA*, and *Health Affairs*. Prior to working at the HPC, he was a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation in Boston and prior to that, he was a principal analyst at the Congressional Budget Office in Washington DC where he co-developed the model used to analyze the Affordable Care Act.

RACHEL O. REID, MD is an associate physician policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. Also a practicing general internist, her research focuses on cost, quality, and value in health care, primary care, and insurance markets; implications for public reporting; and delivery and payment system reform. Prior to coming to RAND, Dr. Reid worked in the Research and Rapid Cycle Evaluation Group at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Innovation Center. Her clinical work has included ambulatory primary care and hospital-based internal medicine. She is an associate physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Reid received her B.A. in biochemical sciences from Harvard University and her M.D. and M.S. in clinical research from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

CHRISTOPHER WHALEY, PhD is an associate policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. His research focuses on using large-scale medical claims to examine 1) How information and financial incentives influence patient's choice of providers and the associated quality effects of provider choice, 2) How providers respond to changes in consumer incentives, and 3) What explains heterogeneous responses to cost and information programs across diverse patient populations? His research has been published in a variety of clinical, health policy, and economics journals. He is the lead author of a JAMA paper that examines the effects of online price transparency information. This paper was a finalist for the 2015 National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation Annual Health Care Research Award. He also received the 2015 AHRQ Research Conference Director's Award for a paper published in JAMA Internal Medicine that examines the effect of reference pricing on consumer choice of providers for colonoscopy services. Mr. Whaley received a B.A. in economics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in health economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

TOM MEIER is the Vice President of Market Solutions for Health Care Service Corporation, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. He is responsible for the development, management, and marketing of commercial market-leading products and service solutions that meet and exceed the needs of HCSC's Blue Cross Blue Shield clients and members.

Before joining Health Care Service Corporation in 2010, Mr. Meier spent 14 years with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, where he focused on the development of national consumer directed health plan products and services across the Blue Cross Blue Shield system, as well as the product and consumer tool development efforts for the Federal Employee Program.

Health Care Service Corporation is the largest customer-owned health insurance company in the United States, offering a wide variety of products and services, and serves nearly 15 million members. In his capacity of leading products and solutions for Health Care Service Corporation, Mr. Meier is a member of the National Business Group on Health's Board of Directors of the Institute on Health Care Costs and Solutions, and serves on the Advisory Board for the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mr. Meier received his Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University with degrees in Theatre and Political Science, and a Masters in Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.