



NIHCM
FOUNDATION

Preventing Chronic Diseases: Eliminating Obstacles to Healthy Living

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 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.

KENNETH E. THORPE, Ph.D. is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management, in the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. He was the Vanselow Professor of Health Policy and Director, Institute for Health Services Research at Tulane University. He was previously Professor of Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an Associate Professor and Director of the Program on Health Care Financing and Insurance at the Harvard University School of Public Health and Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Thorpe has also held Visiting Faculty positions at Pepperdine University and Duke University. Dr. Thorpe was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1995. In this capacity, he coordinated all financial estimates and program impacts of President Clinton's health care reform proposals for the White House. He also directed the administration's estimation efforts in dealing with Congressional health care reform proposals during the 103rd and 104th sessions of Congress.

As an academic, he has testified before several committees in the U.S. Senate and House on health care reform and insurance issues. In 1991, Dr. Thorpe was awarded the Young Investigator Award presented to the most promising health services researcher in the country under age 40 by the Association for Health Services Research. He also received the Hettleman Award for academic and scholarly research at the University of North Carolina and was provided an “Up and Comers” award by Modern Healthcare. Dr. Thorpe was awarded the annual Excellence in Patient Care prize from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores in 2014. He also received the 2012 Champions for Healthy Living Award presented by the YMCA of the USA.

Dr. Thorpe has authored and co-authored over 120 articles, book chapters and books and is a frequent national presenter on issues of health care financing, insurance and health care reform at health care conferences, television and the media. He has worked with several groups (including the American College of Physicians, American Hospital Association, National Coalition on Health Care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, Service Employees International Union, AHIP and the United Hospital Fund) and policymakers (including Senators Wellstone, Corzine, Bingaman, Snowe, Feinstein, Cassidy, Carper, Clinton, Obama and Kennedy) to develop and evaluate alternative approaches for providing health insurance to the uninsured. He serves as a reviewer on several health care journals.

Dr. Thorpe is chairman, Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, an international coalition of over 80 groups focused on highlighting the key role that chronic disease plays in the growth in healthcare spending, and the high rates of morbidity and mortality. PFCD focuses as well on identifying best practice prevention and care coordination strategies and scaling them countrywide. He also serves as co-chair of the Partnership for the Future of Medicare, a non-partisan organization focused on identifying long-term reforms that would make the program more efficient and improve the quality of care provided to beneficiaries

KATIE EYES, MSW is a Senior Program Officer at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. She works closely with grantees and stakeholders to support transformation in the health care system – with a particular focus on improving oral health – and leads the organization’s emerging priority to support upstream and community-centered approaches to improving health.

Known on her team as “the maximizer,” Ms. Eyes often regrets time spent on her senior comps project at Carleton College when she thinks of new and more applied research questions and in retrospect should have sought an MPH rather than an MSW at the University of Michigan. Ms. Eye’s non-working hours are spent with an aging but surprisingly athletic dog and two young kids, each of whom inspires her with their curiosity and candor.

BECKY WAMPLER, MA is Director of Wellmark’s Sustainable Health Care Initiative. In this role, she develops and oversees the Wellmark’s community health improvement initiatives including Healthy Hometown. Ms. Wampler was named the executive director of The Wellmark

Foundation in January 2016. Ms. Wampler joined Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in 1990. Initially, she began her career on the corporate and marketing communications team. Ms. Wampler also has experience in provider relations, process improvement and held leadership roles in both product development and pharmacy operations. Ms. Wampler is a current board member of the YMCA of Greater Des Moines. Ms. Wampler received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

CAROL ROBBINS, MSW is a Masters Level Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is licensed in 3 states and is also a Certified Case Manager. She is currently serving as Manager of Clinical Services and Population Health Social Work Department with AR. Blue Cross Blue Shield. Ms. Robbins has been involved in Medical Social Work and Clinical Case Management for many years and was a Social Worker with the Exchange Population with ABCBS for 4 years prior to being promoted to the manager earlier this year.

Her vision for Social Work at AR Blue Cross Blue Shield is to make Social Work available to all members and implement a single Social Work Consult workflow to get a Social Worker in response.