National Academy of Medicine Leadership Consortium & U.S. Government Accountability Office
AI in Healthcare Webinar

January 21, 2021
Zoom Webinar

Speaker Biographies

Sanjay Basu, MD, PhD, is a primary care physician and epidemiologist. He is the Director of Research at the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care, as well as Vice President of Research and Population Health at Collective Health. Dr. Basu received his education from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Oxford University (as a Rhodes Scholar), and Yale before completing his residency in internal medicine at the University of California in San Francisco. He has previously worked with organizations to create a supply chain to deliver high-cost medicines to low-income patients, mitigate the spread of drug-resistant infections in hospitals, and build a rural hospital and community healthcare worker network. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed journal articles, been named to the "Top 100 Global Thinkers" List by Foreign Policy Magazine, and awarded the NIH Director's New Innovator Award as well as the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. His work has focused on addressing social determinants of health, primary care workforce and financing, and the development and validation of tools for improving population health. He is a practicing internal medicine physician at San Francisco's Integrated Care Center for homeless adults. He co-founded Possible Health and serves on advisory boards for Columbia University's GRAPH Center, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the American Heart Association, and the Global Burden of Disease Project.

John Curtin, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist who has substantial expertise in the mechanisms involved in the etiology of addiction and the motivational processes that underlie alcohol and other drug (AOD) craving, use, and relapse. He is Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His previous training was completed at the Johns Hopkins University, Florida State University and Brown University. He is the Director of Clinical Training for the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology at UW-Madison and the Director of the Addiction Research Center. His program of research focuses on the use of personal sensing and machine learning techniques for psychiatric diagnosis and risk prediction, precision medicine, and "just-in-time" interventions for substance use and other psychiatric disorders. This program of research has been continuously funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health since 2001.

Barbara J. Evans, PhD, JD, is a Professor of Law and Stephen C. O'Connell Chair at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and Professor of Engineering at the University of Florida Wertheim College of Engineering. Professor Evans has published widely in law journals and peer-reviewed scientific, medical, and ethics journals. Professor Evans collaborates with multidisciplinary teams of ethicists, scientists, medical researchers, and engineers on a wide variety of research projects sponsored by the National Institutes of Health/National Human Genome Research Institute/National Cancer Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. Professor Evans is a Member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Standing Committee on Aerospace Medicine and the Medicine of Extreme Environments and is serving on an Expert Advisory Panel convened by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to advise on Artificial Intelligence in Health Care. She has served on National Academies Committees for studies of ethics principles and health standards for long-duration human spaceflights such as trips to Mars; future biotechnology products and the regulatory challenges they present; access to hearing health care for adults; and the public health effectiveness of the FDA's medical device regulations. She has served on multiple panels and committees to support the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, including ten years' service on the Privacy Panel for the FDA Sentinel System, a large-scale pharmacoepidemiological data network. Professor Evans is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and is admitted to the practice of law in New York and Texas. Before coming to academia, she worked as an engineer in the energy industry, as an infrastructure economist at the World Bank, and as a Moscow-based partner in the international regulatory practice of a large New York law firm. She taught law and engineering at the University of Houston from 2007-2020 and served as Co-director of their Health Law & Policy Institute and Director of their Center for Biotechnology & Law.

Marzyeh Ghassemi, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in Computer Science and Medicine, and a Vector Institute faculty member holding a Canadian CIFAR AI Chair and Canada Research Chair. She will join MIT's IMES/EECS in July 2021. Professor Ghassemi currently serves as a NeurIPS 2019 Workshop Co-Chair, and General Chair for the ACM Conference on Health, Inference and Learning (CHIL). Previously, she was a Visiting Researcher with Alphabet's Verily and a post-doc with Dr. Peter Szolovits at MIT. Prior to her PhD in Computer Science at MIT, Dr. Ghassemi received an MSc. degree in biomedical engineering from Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, and B.S. degrees in computer science and electrical engineering as a Goldwater Scholar at New Mexico State University. Professor Ghassemi has a well-established academic track record across computer science and clinical venues, including NeurIPS, KDD, AAAI, MLHC, JAMIA, JMIR, JMLR, AMIA-CRI, EMBC, Nature Medicine, Nature Translational Psychiatry, and Critical Care. Her work has been featured in popular press such as MIT News, NVIDIA, Huffington Post. She was also recently named one of MIT Tech Review's 35 Innovators Under 35.

Karen L. Howard, PhD, is a Director in GAO's Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA) team. She oversees a team of scientists and engineers who analyze science and technology issues through GAO's technology assessments, technical performance audits, and other science- and technology-focused work. Karen joined GAO in September 2007 as a member of the Health Care team, where she led reviews on private health insurance, drug pricing, and FDA's approval processes for drugs and medical devices. Since then, Karen has worked on a variety of science and technology issues at GAO, including sustainable chemistry technologies, ocean acidification, federal management of toxic chemicals, water quality and scarcity challenges, and artificial intelligence in health care. In November 2019, she became a Director in GAO's new STAA team. Prior to joining GAO, she was a high school chemistry and biology teacher for 12 years. Karen has a PhD in environmental chemistry from the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She also has a master's degree in education from Duquesne University and a master's degree in analytical chemistry from Youngstown State University. Karen received dual bachelor's degrees in biology and secondary education from Penn State University. Karen can be reached by email at HowardK@gao.gov or by phone at 202-512-6888. She works in GAO's Huntsville, Alabama Field Office.

Sonoo Thadaney Israni is the Executive Director of Presence (a Center at Stanford Medicine) & The Program in Bedside Medicine at Stanford University. Sonoo Co-chaired the National Academy of Medicine's AI in Healthcare Working Group + co-shepherds their Technology across the Lifecourse Group. She has co-hosted teaching conferences at Stanford University: Human & Artificial Intelligence for Diagnostics; AI in Medicine: Inclusion & Equity; AI in Healthcare: The Hope, The Hype, The Promise, The Peril (pre-launching NAM publication, she co-led), Human Intelligence and AI in Healthcare, etc. She serves on the AAMC Restorative Justice for Academic Medicine Committee, teaching curricula to address diversity in healthcare. After 25+ years in Silicon Valley, now a Stanford intrapreneur for 12+ years - launching centers and programs: In addition to the Presence Center and its Racial Justice Lab, other initiatives she has created and led include the MSc. in Community Health and Prevention Research, Stanford WSDM (Women and Sex Differences in Medicine) Center, Diversity-First Gen Office, Restorative Justice Pilot, and more. She teaches coursework in Leveraging Conflict for Constructive Change, Leadership Skills, and Mediation.

Michael E. Matheny, MD, MS, MPH, is Co-Director of the Center for Improving the Publics' Health with Informatics and Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Departments of Biomedical Informatics, Medicine, and Biostatistics. Dr. Matheny is a practicing part-time general Internist and board certified Clinical Informatician. He received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an M.D from the University of Kentucky, completed Internal Medicine residency training at St. Vincent's, Indianapolis, IN, and was an NLM Biomedical Informatics Fellow at Decision Systems Group at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA during which time he completed a Master's in public health at Harvard University as well as a master's of science in biomedical informatics at MIT. He has expertise in developing and adapting methods for post-marketing medical device surveillance, and has been involved in the development, evaluation, and validation of automated outcome surveillance statistical methods and computer applications. He is leading the OMOP extract, transform, and load team within VINCI for the national VHA data, and is a Co-Principal Investigator for the pScanner CDRN Phase 2. He was independently funded for two VA HSR&D IIR's in automated surveillance and data visualization techniques for acute kidney injury following cardiac catheterization and patients with cirrhosis. His key focus areas include natural language processing, data mining and population health predictive analytics as well as health services research in acute kidney injury, diabetes, and device safety in interventional cardiology. His other research foci include machine learning, artificial intelligence, and automated medical device surveillance. He is an elected fellow of the American College of Physicians and American College of Medical Informatics and elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Michael McGinnis, MD, MA, MPP is a physician and epidemiologist, serves at the National Academy of Medicine as Senior Scholar, Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Officer, Executive Director of the Leadership Consortium for a Value & Science-Driven Health System, and the NAM Learning Health System Initiative. Previously, Dr. McGinnis was Senior Vice President and head of the Health Group at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (1999-2005). Before that, he served as Assistant Surgeon General and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health & Human Services, with continuous leadership responsibility from 1977 to 1995 for federal activities in disease prevention and health promotion, a tenure unusual for political and policy posts. Key programs developed and launched at his initiative include the Healthy People national goals and objectives, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, each still ongoing. Internationally, he served in India as state director for the WHO smallpox eradication program (1974-5), and in Bosnia as the Chair of the World Bank/European Commission Task Force for reconstruction in health and human services (1995-6). Dr. McGinnis' scientific interests focus on population health and the determinants of health, his publications include approximately 200 articles and over 20 edited books, and his various national recognitions include the public health Distinguished Service Award (1994), Health Leader of the Year Award (1997), Public Health Hero Award (2013), the Fries Prize for Health Improvement (2018), and election as a member of the National Academy of Medicine (1999), and Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Ozanan Meireles, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Surgery Harvard Medical School and Bariatric and Foregut Surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is the co-founder and the director of the Surgical Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Laboratory (SAIIL) at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Meireles has been practicing surgery at MGH for more than 10 years, where he ha s been responsible for the introduction of new technologies and techniques, including Artificial Intelligence, Surgical Telementoring, and novel Laparoscopic and Endoluminal surgical procedures. Dr. Meireles graduated from the Sao Paulo State University School of Medicine, in Brazil. He completed his surgical training at Michigan State University and his clinical fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at the University of California San Diego. He spent his research fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital investigating augmented reality in surgery and robotic telemanipulation. Furthermore, he was deeply involved in studying and developing Natural Orifices Trans Endoluminal Surgery (NOTES) techniques, and he was among the first to pioneer their clinical applications. At SAIIL, his research focus is on utilizing computer vision to investigate the intraoperative phase of care through real-time, automated surgical analysis, and provide surgeons with additional data, with the goals of democratization of surgical knowledge, lowering costs, improve patient outcomes, and reduction of morbidity and mortality.

Mark Sendak, MD, MPP, is the Population Health & Data Science Lead at Duke Institute for Health Innovation (DIHI) and helps lead interdisciplinary teams of data scientists, clinicians, and machine learning experts to build technologies that solve real clinical problems. Together with the DIHI team, he has integrated dozens of data-driven technologies into clinical operations at Duke Health. He leads the DIHI Clinical Research & Innovation scholarship, which equips medical students with the business and data science skills required to lead health care transformation efforts. His work has been published in technical venues and clinical venues, such as Machine Learning for Healthcare, Nature Medicine, Plos Medicine, and JAMA Open. He is an organizer of the annual Machine Learning for Healthcare conference and loves partnering across boundaries to tackle hard problems. He completed his Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics at UCLA and an MD and MPP at Duke University.