Confronting Workforce Shortages and Health Worker Well-Being: Harnessing Lessons from Rural Health Settings
Monday, December 4th, 2023
11:00AM-4:00PM CT

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome Remarks

Robert D. Simari, MD, the Franklin E. Murphy Professor in Cardiology, assumed the role of executive vice chancellor for the University of Kansas Medical Center in January 2018. A 1986 alumnus of KU School of Medicine, Dr. Simari also served as executive dean for the KU School of Medicine from March 2014 through August 2019, providing oversight and leadership to the school’s three campuses in Kansas City, Wichita and Salina. As executive vice chancellor, Dr. Simari oversees the education, research, patient care and outreach missions of the schools of Health Professions, Medicine and Nursing, which have a total annual enrollment of more than 3,500 students. He is responsible for a workforce of more than 1,700 faculty and more than 3,500 staff; a significant research enterprise with funding of nearly $100 million; and activities in every county in the state of Kansas. Prior to joining KU, Dr. Simari served as vice chair for the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and co-principal investigator of the Center for Translational Science Activities at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where he also served as a physician scientist, cardiologist and professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. Dr. Simari’s laboratory made fundamental discoveries in the areas of thrombosis and identification of vascular stem cells, and he led the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute-funded Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network from 2008 to 2021. Dr. Simari earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and his medical degree from the University of Kansas. He completed his internal medicine residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at the Mayo Clinic. Following his clinical training, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Elizabeth Nabel at the University of Michigan. In 2018, he was appointed to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for M.D.-granting medical education programs in the United States and Canada; he served as vice chair in 2020-21 and as chair in 2021-22. Dr. Simari is a member and has served as the president of the Association of University Cardiologists. He also holds memberships in the American Clinical and Climatological Association, the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Society of Medical Administrators. He is the author of A Prescription to Lead: How Medical Training Prepares America’s Physician Leaders.

Victor J. Dzau, MD (Clinician Well-Being Collaborative Co-Chair), is the President of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), formerly the Institute of Medicine (IOM). In addition, he serves as Vice Chair of the National Research Council. Dr. Dzau is Chancellor Emeritus and James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke University and the past President and Chief Executive Officer of the Duke University Health System. Previously, Dr. Dzau was the Hershey Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine and Chairman of Medicine at Harvard Medical School’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, as well as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University. He is an internationally acclaimed leader and scientist whose work has improved health care in the United States and globally. His seminal work in cardiovascular medicine and genetics laid the foundation for the development of the class of lifesaving drugs known as ACE inhibitors, used globally to treat hypertension and heart failure. Dr. Dzau pioneered...
gene therapy for vascular disease and was the first to introduce DNA decoy molecules to block transcriptions in humans in vivo. His pioneering research in cardiac regeneration led to the Paracrine Hypothesis of stem cell action and his recent strategy of direct cardiac reprogramming using microRNA. He maintains an active NIH-funded research laboratory.

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. As the national organization of specialty societies, CMSS advances the expertise and collective voice of medical specialty societies in support of physicians and the patients they serve. Representing every specialty, from primary care to surgery, CMSS addresses critical issues across specialties through shared learning and innovation, convening, collaboration, and collective action. Dr. Burstin formerly served as Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum (NQF). Prior to joining NQF, she was the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Prior to joining AHRQ, Dr. Burstin was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and served as Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She is the author of more than 100 articles and book chapters on quality, safety, equity, and measurement. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Burstin currently serves on the board of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. A graduate of the State University of New York at Upstate College of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Burstin completed her residency training in primary care internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and fellowship in General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Keynote

Loretta Christensen, MBA, MSJ, FACS, an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe, serves as the chief medical officer of the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As the chief medical officer, Dr. Christensen is IHS’ lead expert on medical and public health topics, giving technical consultation and guidance to the IHS Office of the Director and IHS staff throughout the country on American Indian and Alaska Native health care policies and issues. She provides national leadership for clinical and community-based health programs of the agency, and serves as the primary liaison and advocate for IHS health professionals. Dr. Christensen began her career with the IHS as a general surgeon. She has recently served as the chief medical officer of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service from 2017-2021, and as chief medical officer at the Gallup Service Unit from 2014-2017. She also served as acting IHS chief medical officer from May to June 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she served as the co-lead for the COVID-19 Response Branch and the Medical Branch lead for the Navajo Nation’s Unified Coordination Group. Dr. Christensen received her undergraduate degree in biological anthropology from Harvard University and her medical degree from Hahnemann University Medical School, now the Drexel University College of Medicine. She completed her general surgery residency at Monmouth Medical Center in New Jersey and a fellowship in trauma and critical care at Cooper University Hospital. Dr. Christensen also holds a master of business administration from Georgian Court University and a master of jurisprudence with a specialty in healthcare law from Seton Hall Law School. Before joining the Navajo Area, Dr. Christensen served for 17 years as the trauma clinical director and associate director of the surgical intensive care unit at Jersey Shore University.
Hospital. She was also the director of integrative medicine and non-invasive pain management services, as well as an assistant professor of surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She has specialty training in medical acupuncture, palliative care, functional medicine, just culture, quality management and patient safety. Dr. Christensen is board certified in general surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Session 1

Noël Smith, MA, is Senior Director of PA and Industry Policy and Analysis. She joined the American Academy of PAs in 2015. Ms. Smith has focused her career on workforce research and policy analysis. Ms. Smith leads AAPA’s research team and is a regular speaker at workforce conferences. Prior to joining AAPA, Ms. Smith worked in research related to optimizing workforces for the benefit of overall organizational performance. Her educational background is in clinical psychology. Drawing upon her background, Ms. Smith has served as staff advisor to the AAPA Task Force on Burnout and currently oversees work related to healthcare workforce well-being for AAPA. Her areas of interest include understanding the prevalence and drivers of PA burnout, PAs role as behavioral health providers, and documenting the growing opportunities for PAs in leadership.

Hayden Kepley, PhD, has been Deputy Director of the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the past four years. Prior to this position, he served several years as the special assistant to the Director and was the first branch chief for performance metrics and evaluation in NCHWA where he led the performance measurement and evaluation of over 40 healthcare workforce training programs in the Bureau’s portfolio. Dr. Kepley came to NCHWA from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he directed the graduate clinical training program in Psychology. He holds a PhD in both psychology and statistics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he later served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Karen B. Lasater, PhD, RN, FAAN, is an Associate Professor of Nursing and the Jessie M. Scott Term Chair in Nursing and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, and Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Lasater’s research, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, evaluates the impact of nursing on patient outcomes with a focus on determining the value of nursing care, in order to inform practice, organizational decision-making, and policy.
**Session 2**

**Jennifer Bacani McKenney, MD, FAAFP,** is a family physician in her hometown of Fredonia, Kansas, a community of approximately 2,500 people. She has owned and managed her practice alongside her father since 2009. Dr. McKenney was named the “2021 Rural Health Practitioner of the Year” by the National Rural Health Association and received the “Early Career Achievement Award” by the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2021. She earned her medical degree at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed her residency at Via Christi Family Medicine Residency in Wichita. She serves as the Wilson County health officer as well as the Fredonia city health officer. She was a member of the USD 484 school board from 2014-2023 and served as the president for two years. Previously, she served on the national Board of Directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Dr. McKenney created the Fredonia Medical Academy and also helped establish the Fredonia Area Community Foundation and Cultivate Fredonia, a community-wide growth initiative, and she serves on the board of directors for both. She is the Immediate Past President of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians and serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Health Foundation. She was the co-chair of the Governor’s Safer Classrooms Workgroup and serves as the Chair of the Kansas Cancer Partnership. Dr. McKenney is on the medical staff at Fredonia Regional Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital. She has made numerous appearances on national news covering COVID-19 and rural health. She is the proud mother of her daughter Millie and her son Sidney.

**Benjamin Anderson, MBA, MHCDS,** is a consultant with Stroudwater Associates. Most recently, he served as Vice President for Rural Health and Hospitals at the Colorado Hospital Association, where he provided leadership and direction in the development and execution of the Association’s rural strategies, advocated on behalf of rural hospitals and health systems and works to develop strategic partnerships with organizations that affect the health of rural Americans. Prior to joining CHA, Mr. Anderson served as CEO of Kearny County Hospital a comprehensive rural health care delivery complex in Lakin, Kan. that serves patients of 30 nationalities within a 180-mile radius. Mr. Anderson is a recognized leader in transforming rural health care through a mission-driven approach to recruiting physicians to underserved areas, tying together domestic and international service. Kearny County Hospital is now at the forefront of innovations in health care delivery to improve care to underserved U.S. populations and his work was recently recognized on CBS Sunday Morning, and in POLITICO and Sports Illustrated. Mr. Anderson was named to Becker's Hospital Review’s Rising Star list of health care leaders under 40 and one of Modern Healthcare's 2014 Up and Comers. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English (2004) and a Master of Business Administration (2007) from Drury University in Springfield, Mo. and a Master of Health Care Delivery Science degree from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

**Margot Savoy, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FABC, CPE, CMQ, FAAPL** (she/her), is Senior Vice President of Education, Inclusiveness, and Physician Well-Being for the American Academy of Family Physicians, Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine and Urban Bioethics & Population Health at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, and Associate Professor (adj) at the Maurice Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University. Dr. Savoy oversees the AAFP education portfolio from medical school through continuing medical education, the accreditation system, journal media and directs the Center for Diversity & Health Equity. She also is the lead for Physician Health First, the AAFP’s physician well-being program. Dr. Savoy graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2002, completed Family Medicine Residency
Program at the Crozer-Keystone Family Medicine Residency Program (Springfield, PA) in 2005 and graduated from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health in 2008 with a Masters degree in Public Health Leadership with a focus on Public Health Practice. She is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, the Certifying Commission in Medical Management, the American Board of Medical Quality and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Association of Physician Leaders and the Advisory Board Company.

Carlton Abner, DNP, RN-BC, has demonstrated a life-long calling to serve with over three decades of healthcare and leadership experience across a variety of settings. His passion for serving others includes more than 25-years of distinguished military service having recently retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Nursing Executive from the Kansas Air National Guard. In 2021, Dr. Abner brought his expertise and dedication to service to Kansas City University where he is now an Assistant Professor and the university’s first-ever Associate Provost of Campus Health & Wellness. In this groundbreaking role, he spearheads initiatives to cultivate a culture of health and wellness for the more than 2,500 faculty, staff, and students at the university. Driven by a genuine desire to make a difference, Dr. Abner actively volunteers his time supporting a variety of organizations that mentor and empower historically marginalized groups. He and his wife reside in Shawnee, KS with their two children.

Session 3 & Synthesis

Candice Chen, MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Health Policy & Management in the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Dr. Chen’s work focuses on the role of the health workforce in addressing health equity. She has developed metrics for health professions education outcomes in primary care, practice in underserved communities, service to Medicaid populations, and diversity; evaluated community-based residency training; and examined the role of the health workforce in access for rural and underserved communities. She currently leads the Workplace Change Collaborative focused on addressing burnout and moral injury for the health workforce. Dr. Chen was previously the Director of the Division of Medicine and Dentistry in the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce, where she led programs to strengthen the primary care workforce and improve access for underserved communities. She is a primary care pediatrician and continues to practice in Southeast Washington, DC. She received her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and her Master of Public Health from the George Washington University with a concentration in Community Oriented Primary Care.

Anna Ratzliff, MD, PhD, is a national expert on Collaborative Care and specifically, on training teams to implement and deliver mental health treatment in primary care settings. Her passion for translating complex research ideas into practical real-world applications began when she received her MD and PhD in Anatomy and Neurobiology as part of the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of California at Irvine. She currently is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington where she has developed additional expertise in mental health workforce development, suicide prevention training, adult learning best practices, and mentorship. Dr. Ratzliff is the Co-Director of the AIMS Center (Advancing Integrated Mental Health Solutions) and Director of the UW Integrated Care Training Program for residents and fellows. For more information on
Collaborative Care please visit the AIMS Center Website (aims.uw.edu), the UW Integrated Care Training Program.

**Greg Ator, MD, FACS, FAMIA,** graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Cum Laude. He subsequently attended Baylor College of Medicine medical school and went on to a Residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at UCLA followed by a Fellowship in Otology – Neurotology, Skull Base Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. He joined the faculty of KU Otolaryngology in 1992. He became the first Chief Medical Informatics Officer for the KU Health System in 2004. He did graduate work in Informatics at OHSU and was Board Certified in Clinical Informatics in 2016. A personal touch with medical errors, easily preventable with technology, along with his background in digital technology led to work beginning in late 1990’s focused on bringing an enterprise EMR to KU. Logician was first installed in 2003 and subsequently Epic beginning in 2007 as an Enterprise Solution for the ambulatory and inpatient sectors. Since that time his focus has been on improving provider experience with complex technology and putting that technology to work for physicians.

**Natasha Bray, DO, MSEd, FACOI, FACP, FNAOME,** is the Campus Dean of the Oklahoma State University (OSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, OK. Dr. Bray also serves as Associate Dean for Accreditation for OSU Center for Health Sciences. Board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, Bray earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from OSU-COM and went on to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her internship as the Chief Intern Physician, then completed her residency at Cambridge Health Alliance. Dr. Bray completed a health policy fellowship in 2009 and earned a Master of Science in Medical Education with an emphasis on simulation and competency-based assessment. Dr. Bray has extensive experience in the development, accreditation, and delivery of educational programs for both undergraduate and graduate medical education. Bray serves on several national committees and has dedicated her career to medical education as a vehicle to serve vulnerable and marginalized populations and improve access to quality health care.

**Tom Field, MEd,** has served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Organizational Development at KU Medical Center (KUMC) since September 2012. In this role, he leads KUMC’s strategic planning, process management, general facilitation, and CliftonStrengths and related professional development programming. Prior to this role, he was KUMC’s Associate Vice Chancellor for Compliance, administering regulatory oversight of the human and animal research protection programs; environment, health and safety programs; equal opportunity; and research integrity. Prior to KUMC, he worked in association management, managing executive and board communication, and in the telecommunications industry, specializing in post-merger integration. Mr. Field has served as an examiner in the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program (through the US Department of Commerce) since 2012 and as a judge for the Kansas and Texas regional Baldrige programs. He holds master’s degrees in higher education administration and health services administration from The University of Kansas (KU) and bachelor’s degrees in Journalism (Business Communications) and Slavic Languages and Literature from KU.
Closing Remarks

Darrell G. Kirch, MD (Clinician Well-Being Collaborative Co-Chair), is president emeritus of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which represents the nation’s medical schools, their teaching hospitals and health systems, and related academic societies. He served as President and CEO of the AAMC from 2006 until 2019, when he was succeeded by Dr. David J. Skorton. A distinguished educator, biomedical scientist, and clinician, Dr. Kirch speaks and publishes widely on the need for transformation in the nation’s health care system and how academic institutions can lead change across education, research, and health care for their communities and beyond. As a respected university leader, Dr. Kirch has chaired the Washington Higher Education Secretariat and served as a member of the American Council on Education Board of Directors. In 2007, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, and has been active in multiple initiatives of the National Academies. As an ardent champion for the well-being of the nation’s health professions workforce, he currently serves as co-chair of the National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience. Dr. Kirch also serves as a member the Board of Regents of the American College of Psychiatrists. A psychiatrist and clinical neuroscientist by training, Dr. Kirch began his academic career at the National Institute of Mental Health, becoming chief of the Schizophrenia Research Branch, serving as the acting scientific director in 1993, and receiving the Outstanding Service Medal of the United States Public Health Service. A native of Denver, he earned his BA and MD degrees from the University of Colorado, and in 2002 received the Silver and Gold Award from the University of Colorado Medical Alumni Association.

Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP (Clinician Well-Being Collaborative Co-Chair), is president and chief executive officer of the ACGME; professor of Medicine (vol.), Jefferson Medical College; and senior scholar in the Department of Medical Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine. Dr. Nasca graduated from the University of Notre Dame with High Honors and is an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Jefferson Medical College. Prior to joining the ACGME, Dr. Nasca served as senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Jefferson University, and as the Anthony and Gertrude DePalma Dean of Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Nasca left the deanship at Jefferson to assume the leadership of the ACGME in December 2007. In May 2009, Dr. Nasca became the founding president of ACGME International. Dr. Nasca is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology. He has been a member and leader of a number of organizations with a mission of advancing excellence in medical education. He was a member of the Council of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM), having served as both secretary treasurer and president. He served as associate editor of the Nephrology Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program for the American College of Physicians (ACP), and was a member of the Internal Medicine In-Training Examination Steering and Writing Committees, the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, and the Federated Council for Internal Medicine. He is a former chair of the ACGME Review Committee for Internal Medicine and served as special accreditation consultant to that Review Committee and the ACGME. Dr. Nasca was a member of the Council on Graduate Medical Education of the Department of Health and Human Services and the US Congress. He is the author of over 190 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and other publications, and has delivered more than 475 invited lectures on topics related to medical education to national and international audiences.
PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP (Planning Committee Co-Chair), is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. As the national organization of specialty societies, CMSS advances the expertise and collective voice of medical specialty societies in support of physicians and the patients they serve. Representing every specialty, from primary care to surgery, CMSS addresses critical issues across specialties through shared learning and innovation, convening, collaboration, and collective action. Dr. Burstin formerly served as Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum (NQF). Prior to joining NQF, she was the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Prior to joining AHRQ, Dr. Burstin was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and served as Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She is the author of more than 100 articles and book chapters on quality, safety, equity, and measurement. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Burstin currently serves on the board of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. A graduate of the State University of New York at Upstate College of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Burstin completed her residency training in primary care internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and fellowship in General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Richard Korentager, MD, FACS (Planning Committee Co-Chair), is the David Zamierowski Endowed Professor of Plastic Surgery and the Chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery, Interim Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the Chair of the Well-Being Taskforce in the University of Kansas Medical Center. He earned his MD degree from the University of Toronto, in Toronto, Canada. His completed his internship at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto and his Plastic Surgery training at the University of Toronto program. Dr. Korentager went on to complete 6-month fellowships in breast reconstruction as well as hand/micro-nerve surgery. He spent 10 years in private practice in Toronto, Waterloo, Iowa and Kansas City. He has been in academic practice since 2000. He was the Program Director of the Integrated Plastic Surgery Program at KUMC and served as the Medical Director of the Burnett Burn Center, each for more than 10 years. Dr. Korentager has been involved in the undergraduate ACE curriculum at KUMC since its inception and was an Assistant Director for 4 years and is currently the Director of Orr Society. He completed the Stanford Chief Wellness Officer Course in its inaugural year and serves as the Chair of the KUMC Well Being Taskforce. He has been involved in providing care at national and international sites since 1996 where he has worked with volunteer plastic surgery societies including Operation Smile, Interplast, Medical Mission Foundation as well as with the Navajo nation in Chinle, Arizona. Dr. Korentager and Dr. Jim Butterworth have developed a long-term partnership in San Lucas, Guatemala providing educational programs, care and telemedicine coverage.
Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ, is the Director & Chief Vaccinologist of the CDU-Kedren Mobile Street Medicine program in South LA; President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; Trustee of the California Medical Association; and Vice Chair of the American Medical Association's Council on Constitution & Bylaws. Dr. Abraham holds a MPH from Emory University and completed a Post-Graduate Fellowship in Global Injury Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. He received his Medical Doctorate from the University of Texas and completed his Family & Community Medicine Residency, and Faculty Development, Health Policy, and Medical Quality Fellowship at the USC Keck School of Medicine & Dignity Health California Hospital in Downtown Los Angeles. Dr. Abraham holds a joint appointment in Family & Community Medicine and Psychiatry at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, a Historically Black Medical School in South Los Angeles. In his time at Kedren and CDU, he has become an advocate and bulwark for advancing health equity and achieving medical justice for his community. Dr. Abraham's clinical, public health, and policy interests include: climate change, physician burnout, health equity & medical justice, LGBTQ health, Ending the Epidemics (HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis), substance use & addiction, homelessness, caring for people with histories of incarceration, and providing primary care services to patients with severe mental illness.

Farida Ahmed is an Associate Program Officer on the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She earned her master's degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to that, she worked as a social worker/ intensive care coordinator at the National Association of Drug Abuse Problems (NADAP). She worked as an Emergency Medical Technician in New York City before and during the pandemic. She also administered COVID-19 vaccines. Her passion and dedication toward the well-being of the health workforce align with the vision of the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and her long-term goal of being a physician. In her spare time, she loves to cook and explore nature.

Jennifer Bacani McKenney, MD, FAAFP, is a family physician in her hometown of Fredonia, Kansas, a community of approximately 2,500 people. She has owned and managed her practice alongside her father since 2009. Dr. McKenney was named the “2021 Rural Health Practitioner of the Year” by the National Rural Health Association and received the “Early Career Achievement Award” by the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2021. She earned her medical degree at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed her residency at Via Christi Family Medicine Residency in Wichita. She serves as the Wilson County health officer as well as the Fredonia city health officer. She was a member of the USD 484 school board from 2014-2023 and served as the president for two years. Previously, she served on the national Board of Directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Dr. McKenney created the Fredonia Medical Academy and also helped establish the Fredonia Area Community Foundation and Cultivate Fredonia, a community-wide growth initiative, and she serves on the board of directors for both. She is the Immediate Past President of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians and serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Health Foundation. She was the co-chair of the Governor’s Safer Classrooms Workgroup and serves as the Chair of the Kansas Cancer Partnership. Dr. McKenney is on the medical staff at Fredonia Regional Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital. She has made numerous appearances on national news covering COVID-19 and rural health. She is the proud mother of her daughter Millie and her son Sidney.

Bram Bond is a Program Specialist for the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). New to the Collaborative, she joined the team bringing
administrative experience from the Washington D.C. education sector. A native Washingtonian, she enjoys discovering new coffee shops, listening to podcast, and traveling with her family.

Katie Boston-Leary PhD, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, CCTP, is the Director of Nursing Programs at the American Nurses Association overseeing the Nursing Practice and Work Environment Division and Healthy Nurse Healthy Nation. She is also the Co-Lead for Project Firstline, a multi-million-dollar grant collaborative with the CDC for training on Infection Prevention and Control. Dr. Boston-Leary is also the co-chair for the DEI committee for the Healthcare Leaders Network Delaware Valley, an ACHE affiliate. She helped redesign the Nurse Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland with an embedded coaching program. Dr. Boston-Leary is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and the School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. She is a board member on St. John’s University Health Programs and an editorial advisory board member with Web/MD Medscape, Nursing Management, Nursing 2023 and ACHE. Dr. Boston-Leary serves as staff on the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing and is also part of the National Academy of Science and Medicine’s National Plan to Address Clinician Well-Being supported by the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy. Dr. Boston-Leary also leads as an ANA representative with 4 partner organizations to organize a National Nurse Staffing Think Tank and Task Force, which published actionable recommendations to address the nurse staffing crisis. She was recently admitted to the International Council of Nurses Global Nurse Institute that focus on global policy development. She was identified August 2019 Health Leaders Journal as “One of Five Chief Nursing Officers Changing Healthcare”. Her most recent research was a qualitative study on nurses’ perceptions of power dynamics in the hospital setting. She is a well-known speaker nationally and internationally with many publications and podcast guest invitations. She completed her PhD at Walden University in Health Services, obtained a dual degree MBA and MHA from the University of Maryland Global Campus and her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Bowie State University in Maryland. She is a board-certified Nurse Executive and obtained a nurse executive leadership certificate from Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been interviewed for stories in numerous print, online and televised media outlets namely CNBC, NY Times, Cheddar TV, Axios, Beckers and Bloomberg News. She has written and co-authored numerous articles on staffing, diversity and leadership and was recently featured on NBC’s Today Show to discuss the nurse staffing crisis that is impacting health care delivery.

Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI, FAODME, joined the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) as President and CEO in July 2019. Prior to assuming this position, he served as the Associate Dean for Clinical Education at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) where he oversaw business development and relationship management for clinical experiences associated with undergraduate and graduate medical education (GME). As part of his GME related duties, Dr. Cain functioned as the Chief Academic Officer for the Ohio Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE), a statewide medical education consortium. Prior to this university appointment he served as the Director of Medical Education (DME) at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio (2006-2014) and as the director of the internal medicine residency program at the same facility (1999-2007). As a specialist in pulmonary medicine, Dr. Cain graduated from OU-HCOM in 1988 and operated a private practice in Ohio from 1994-2008. Originally board certified in both internal medicine and pulmonary medicine, he was recertified by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) in pulmonary medicine in 2018. Dr. Cain enjoys reading, creative writing, competing as a master Olympic weightlifter, and kayaking with his wife, Gina, a dental hygienist.
Catherine Colgan is a Research Assistant for the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health at Ithaca College in 2020, where she also participated in Model United Nations, conducted research on food insecurity, and wrote for several on-campus publications. In her spare time she enjoys reading, baking, and exploring DC.

Mary Dale Peterson, MD, MSHCA, FACHE, FASA, past President (2020) of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Driscoll Health System, prior to that she was the President and CEO of Driscoll Health Plan, a Medicaid non-profit HMO in South Texas. Driscoll serves a 32,000 square mile area of South Texas, including large rural, border, and smaller urban areas with significant shortages of health care professionals. She is a Clinical Associate Professor at Texas A&M University, received her Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University and completed her Doctor of Medicine and anesthesiology residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Peterson also completed a Master of Science in Health Care Administration at Trinity University in San Antonio. She is board-certified in anesthesiology and critical care medicine. She currently chairs the ASA task force on work force and has served on the Texas Medical Association's workforce committee.

Jennifer Keeton has worked in higher education nearly 25 years and has been at the University of Kansas Medical Center for 18 years, leading a wide variety of special projects and strategic initiatives on behalf of the institution. Currently, she serves as the Director of Well-being. She earned a bachelor’s in communication and master’s in Leadership and Management from Baker University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri. Her expertise is in strategic plan implementation, training, program development and assessment, organizational leadership, strategic communications, executive support and advising, and employee development. She has served as an Unconscious Bias trainer and offered numerous workshops on respect, civility, and mentoring.

Kristin Kroeger currently serves as the Chief of Policy, Programs, & Partnerships at the American Psychiatric Association. Ms. Kroeger primary role at APA is to oversee coordination and implementation of all policy priorities and programs, as well as build relationships with all allied and external partners. It comes at an important time when we need to push Congress to implement mental health parity, become leaders in developing quality measures for our field and encourage our practitioners to embrace new models of care. Ms. Kroeger has worked in the mental health policy and advocacy arena for over 22 years and comes to us from our allied organization, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry where she served as AACAP’s Deputy Executive Director and Director of Government Affairs and Clinical Practice.
Suzanne Pope, MBA, is Senior Advisor at the Council of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. CMSS elevates the unique role of medical specialty societies and advances the expertise and collective voice of societies in support of physicians and the patients they serve. Representing every specialty, from primary care to surgery, CMSS is committed to ensuring high quality, evidence-based healthcare is available and accessible to all patients. Ms. Pope works on such issues as physician workforce, AI/ML, and medical misinformation. Additionally, she directs several CMSS programs including the PCORI-funded Promise of Patient-Led Research Integration into Clinical Registries and Research, Identifying Credible Sources of Health Information in Social Media – CMSS-NAM-WHO Collaboration, and Reconsidering Race in Clinical Algorithms. Ms. Pope also works with the CMSS specialty societies and professional peer groups regarding programmatic engagements and new opportunities. Previously, Ms. Pope served as the Director of Quality at the American Urological Association (AUA) where she managed efforts to develop and test urology measures, increase urologists’ participation in public reporting, and launch quality improvement initiatives. Prior to joining the AUA, Ms. Pope served as a healthcare consultant, providing expert guidance in the areas of health policy, physician performance improvement, medical writing, guideline development, evidence-based medicine, and project management.

Edward Salsberg, MPA, has been a national leader studying the supply, demand, distribution, use, and education of the health workforce for more than 35 years. Mr. Salsberg is currently a lead research scientist at the Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity at George Washington University where he directs the Health Workforce Diversity Initiative. He has published extensively on the health workforce. A common thread of his work has been bringing more data and improved research methods to assess health workforce needs, trends, and developments across states, specialties, and occupations and for high need populations and using this data and research to inform policies and programs. Prior to joining GWU, Mr. Salsberg founded and directed three health workforce research centers: the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis at the US Department of Health and Human Services where he oversaw health workforce research, studies and projections designed to help assure an adequate supply and distribution of health workers; the Center for Workforce Studies at the Association of American Medical Colleges; and the New York Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health at the SUNY University at Albany. Mr. Salsberg is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. He holds a master’s in public administration (MPA) from NYU’s Wagner school.

Tina Shah, MD, MPH, is a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician and national expert in workforce burnout, digital health, and health policy. Early during the COVID pandemic, Dr. Shah stood up telemedicine for a large health system in GA and led emergency response across tribal hospitals. She has served in two White House Administrations and the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and more recently as Senior Advisor to the current US Surgeon General where she created the nation’s strategy to address the great resignation and burnout in healthcare. Dr. Shah is currently the Chief Clinical Officer of Abridge, a generative AI company that is cutting down time spent on administrative burden for clinicians and empowering patients. As a national expert on burnout and healthcare, she has been featured at the National Academy of Medicine, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Harvard and CBS and NBC news. Dr. Shah received her MD from Thomas Jefferson University and her MPH from Harvard. Her favorite activities include pondering a society where going to work helps us thrive, playing volleyball, and changing hearts and minds.
Cynthia (Daisy) Smith, MD, was chosen for the role of the American College of Physician’s new Chief Membership and Engagement Officer as part of a national search and vetting process. Smith has most recently served as ACP’s Vice President for Clinical Education where she led a multi-million-dollar federal grant on transforming clinical practice, served as ACP’s representative to the National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being, and served as a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties Advancing Practice Task Force. Board certified in internal medicine, Smith has been a Fellow of ACP (FACP) since 2005. She practices primary care general internal medicine and is adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Smith earned her medical degree at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed her internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. Prior to joining ACP, she served as an internal medicine program director and academic hospitalist at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, Pa.

Noël Smith, MA, is Senior Director of PA and Industry Policy and Analysis. She joined the American Academy of PAs in 2015. Ms. Smith has focused her career on workforce research and policy analysis. Ms. Smith leads AAPA’s research team and is a regular speaker at workforce conferences. Prior to joining AAPA, Ms. Smith worked in research related to optimizing workforces for the benefit of overall organizational performance. Her educational background is in clinical psychology. Drawing upon her background, Ms. Smith has served as staff advisor to the AAPA Task Force on Burnout and currently oversees work related to healthcare workforce well-being for AAPA. Her areas of interest include understanding the prevalence and drivers of PA burnout, PAs role as behavioral health providers, and documenting the growing opportunities for PAs in leadership.

T. Anh Tran is a Program Officer and Director of the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She has served the Collaborative for 3 years, where she oversaw the release of the National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being in 2022 and managed workstreams on mobilizing national stakeholders, reviewing and applying lessons from COVID-19, and implementing evidence-based tools for clinician well-being. Prior to that, Anh conducted research on the Rwandan health sector as staff for the National Academies of Science’s evaluation of their Human Resources for Health Program—a landmark global partnership to build the health education infrastructure and workforce necessary for high-quality care in Rwanda. She started at the National Academies on the Board on Global Health and studied public health at The George Washington University.