

# HealthAffairs

## Biographies of Presenters

**Natalia Chalmers**, DDS, PhD, is director of analytics and publication at the DentaQuest Institute, where she is charged with transforming data and information into actionable insights on effective and efficient care, while also leveraging that knowledge to enhance care and better inform policy and financing. Prior to joining the DentaQuest Institute, Chalmers served as a pediatric dentist clinical research fellow at the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), leading the latest clinical, translational and basic research while providing clinical service to the unique pediatric patient population at the NIH Clinical Center. Chalmers also serves as a fellow with the Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center, expert consultant for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Council on Scientific Affairs, Dean's Faculty at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and officer for the International Association for Dental Research Women in Science Network.

**James J. Crall**, DDS, MS, ScD, is a professor and chair of the Division of Public Health and Community Dentistry at the UCLA School of Dentistry and directs the HRSA/MCHB Leadership Training in Pediatric Dentistry Program. Crall served as director of the HRSA/MCHB National Oral Health Policy Center from 2000-2008, was project director for the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative from 2007-2010, and has been child advocate for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry since 1995.

**Susan O. Griffin**, PhD, is a health scientist in the Division of Oral Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Jane Koppelman**, MPA, is research director for The Pew Charitable Trusts' dental campaign, supporting Pew's efforts to grow the dental workforce and increase access to care. Before joining Pew, Koppelman spent more than 20 years researching, reporting on, administering, and evaluating programs that support disadvantaged families. She oversaw a variety of projects funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including planning research conferences and advising federal grantees on how to conduct rigorous evaluations. As deputy director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Making the Grade" program, she worked to increase the number of school-based health centers nationwide.

**Margaret Langelier**, MSHSA, is Deputy Director of the Oral Health Workforce Research Center (OHWRC) at the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) in the School of Public Health at the State University of New York at Albany. Langelier has been lead staff or the principal investigator on numerous research projects about the allied health and oral health workforce. She has completed studies examining professional scope of practice for various professions as well as comprehensive studies of multiple health workforces. Langelier is also the deputy director of OHWRC, where she assists in the preparation of all OHWRC research projects, reports, and dissemination activities.

**Brandy Lipton**, PhD, is a health economist with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Her core interests lie in exploring the connections between health care policies and both health and economic outcomes. Much of Lipton's work leverages state-level variation in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program policies, both in the context of past policy decisions and the current implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion.

**Richard Manski**, DDS, PhD, is professor and chairman of Dental Public Health at the University of Maryland, School of Dentistry. He manages and provides oversight for a team of faculty, staff, educators and researchers in areas including public health, research methods, practice management, and the school's externship program, and is also responsible for the management at the Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry. Manski leads a multi-institutional, multidisciplinary and international team of researchers studying the effects of dental utilization patterns associated with changes in dental insurance coverage and changes in retirement status among older Americans. He is currently a senior scholar at the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and served as theme advisor to *Health Affairs* for the December 2016 issue on oral health.

**Elizabeth Mertz**, PhD, MA, is an associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, with a joint appointment in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, School of Dentistry and in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing. She is affiliated with Healthforce Center, the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, and the Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health (CANDO). Mertz has researched, published and lectured on a broad range of health professions workforce policy and analysis issues including; supply and demand of providers, health care regulation, state and federal workforce policy, access to care, and evolving professional practice models. She has served on a number of advisory and planning committees for organizations such as the Health Resources and Services Administration, the California HealthCare Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation and the Institute of Medicine.

**Chad D. Meyerhoefer**, PhD, is an associate professor of economics at Lehigh University's College of Business and Economics where he holds the Arthur F. Searing Professorship. His research focuses broadly on the economics of health and nutrition. Much of his work involves the use of microeconomic methods to evaluate and inform public policy. Some of Meyerhoefer's current research projects include: (1) examining the relationship between food assistance programs and health, (2) predicting the medical cost of obesity, (3) estimating the price responsiveness of consumer demand for medical services, and (4) determining the impact of electronic medical record adoption on pregnancy outcomes. He is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Prior to joining Lehigh's faculty he served as a research economist at both The CNA Corporation and the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and was an adjunct professor of public policy at Georgetown University.

**Joan O'Connell**, PhD, is an associate professor, community and behavioral health, at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health of the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

**Jaffer A. Shariff**, BDS, MPH, DPH, is research analyst in the Section of Population Oral Health at the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and a Periodontal Resident at the school. He is passionate about clinical practice, and conducting clinical and epidemiological research in the field of periodontics, general dentistry and general medicine.

**Marko Vujicic**, PhD, currently serves as chief economist and vice president of the Health Policy Institute at the American Dental Association (ADA). He came to the ADA from the World Bank in Washington D.C. As a senior economist, he directed the global health workforce policy program, which addresses numerous human resources for health challenges in developing countries. Previously, Vujicic was a Health Economist with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was part of a team responsible for policy research and support to Ministries of Health in developing countries. He is the lead author of *Working in Health*, a book that examines the effect of fiscal policy on the health workforce in the public sector, as well as several publications in academic journals. He has also worked extensively on broader health systems and health financing issues in Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia and the Caribbean as well as Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

**Amber Willink**, PhD, is an assistant scientist of health policy and management and assistant director of the Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research uses predictive modeling to examine trajectories and health outcomes of older adults and inform policy for health and long-term services and supports. She is also focused on issues of access to and cost burdens of non-covered Medicare services. Her dissertation examined the midlife health and behavioral factors that predict disability and long-term nursing home stays using the Health and Retirement Study.

**Alan Weil**, JD, became the editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs* on June 1, 2014. For the previous decade he was the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization. Previously, he directed the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project, one of the largest privately funded social policy research projects ever undertaken in the US; held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and spent six years on the NAM (and its predecessor, the Institute of Medicine) Board on Health Care Services. He is also a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, the board of trustees of the Consumer Health Foundation in Washington, DC, and of the board of directors of the Essential Hospitals Institute.