BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS

Alan Balch, PhD, is chief executive officer of the Patient Advocate Foundation and National Patient Advocate Foundation. He has nearly fifteen years of executive leadership in the non-profit sector with an emphasis on consensus-building and collaboration and has led numerous federal advocacy efforts on a range of issues both at the legislative and regulatory level over the years. Prior to becoming CEO of PAF and NPAF in 2013, he served as the vice president of the Preventive Health Partnership, a national health promotion collaboration between the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, and American Heart Association, and earlier, he was the executive director of Friends of Cancer Research.

Rena M. Conti, PhD, is associate professor of health policy and economics at the University of Chicago, departments of pediatrics and public health sciences. Her research applies economic methods to analyze the incentives driving prescription drug development and adoption. Conti’s focus has been primarily on “specialty” drugs because this area is at the epicenter of the key policy conundrum: the tradeoff between providing incentives for innovative activity versus ensuring access and affordability. She currently serves as a member of a National Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science study on prescription drug access and affordability.

Louis P. Garrison, Jr., PhD, is professor emeritus in the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy Program in the University of Washington School of Pharmacy, where he joined the faculty in 2004. He is a health economist who has worked in range of settings for the past 40 years—non-profit policy research (at Project HOPE), pharmaceutical industry, and academia. He is Immediate past president of ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research), and is co-chair of the ISPOR Special Task Force on U.S. Value Frameworks.

Anna Hyde, MA, is the Vice President of Advocacy and Access at the Arthritis Foundation. She oversees both the federal and state legislative programs, in addition to grassroots engagement. Hyde previously served as senior director of advocacy and access, managing the federal affairs portfolio and overseeing the state advocacy team. Prior to joining the Arthritis Foundation in 2014, she worked as senior manager for federal affairs at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Hyde began her health policy career as a congressional fellow for U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee members, where she drafted legislation and staffed Committee activities.

Jeroen P. Jansen, PhD, is chief scientist for evidence synthesis and decision modeling at Precision Health Economics (PHE). He is trained as an epidemiologist (Erasmus University, The Netherlands), has 15 years of research experience in the context of health technology assessment, lectures evidence synthesis at Stanford University, and is a co-author of a textbook on network meta-analysis for decision-making, to be published soon by Wiley. Most recently, he has overseen the development of open-source cost-effectiveness models at the Innovation & Value Initiative.

Darius Lakdawalla, PhD, holds the Quintiles Chair in Pharmaceutical Development and Regulatory Innovation at the University of Southern California, where he sits on the faculties of the School of Pharmacy, the Sol Price School of Public Policy, and the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, one of the nation’s premier health policy research centers. His research has focused primarily on the economics of risks to health, the value and determinants of medical innovation, the economics of health insurance markets, and the industrial organization of healthcare markets. Lakdawalla is currently a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. In addition, he is a co-founder and chief scientific officer of the health care consultancy Precision Health Economics, and also serves as the executive director of the Innovation and Value Initiative, a collaboration of diverse healthcare stakeholders dedicated to improving the way value is measured and rewarded in the healthcare system.
Peter J. Neumann, ScD, is director of the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health at the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies at Tufts Medical Center, and professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. Prior to joining Tufts, he was on the faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health. Neumann’s research focuses on the use of comparative effectiveness research and cost-effectiveness analysis in health care decision making. He is the founder and director of the Cost-Effectiveness Registry (www.cearegistry.org), a comprehensive database of cost-effectiveness analyses in health care. He served as President of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), and as a trustee of the Society for Medical Decision Making, and is a member of the editorial advisory boards of Health Affairs and Value in Health. Earlier, Neumann held several policy positions in Washington, including special assistant to the administrator at the Health Care Financing Administration.

Samuel R. Nussbaum, MD, is a senior fellow at the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at the University of Southern California, a strategic consultant with EBG Advisors, Inc., and chair of the Panel of Health Advisors for the Innovation and Value Initiative. Previously, he was the executive vice president and chief medical officer of Anthem. During a 15-year tenure, he oversaw medical and pharmacy policy, health improvement, care management, provider contracting, innovative payment models, and outcomes research and drug safety through HealthCore, an Anthem subsidiary. Earlier, Nussbaum had a 20-year career as a professor at Harvard Medical School and led a basic and clinical research program at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he directed the endocrine group practice. He serves on the boards of the National Quality Forum, the OASIS Institute, and BioCrossroads and previously served as president of the Disease Management Association of America, chairman of the National Committee for Quality Health Care, and chair of America’s Health Insurance Plan’s Chief Medical Officer Leadership Council.

Kavita Patel, MD, MPH, is a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution. Previously, she was the managing director of clinical transformation at Brookings’ Center for Health Policy. Patel is a practicing primary care internist at Johns Hopkins Medicine. She also served in the Obama Administration as director of policy for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement in the White House where she played a critical role in policy development and evaluation of policy initiatives connected to health reform, financial regulatory reform, and economic recovery issues. Patel was deputy staff director on health for the U.S. Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under Sen. Edward Kennedy, a researcher at the RAND Corporation, and a practicing physician in both California and Oregon. She is a member of the Health Affairs Editorial Board.

Michael Sherman, MD, MBA, is senior vice president and chief medical officer of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc., a not-for-profit health plan that provides a variety of insurance options to more than 1.25 million members in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. Previously he served as corporate medical director, physician strategies for Humana, focusing on developing collaborative programs with provider organizations to support their mutual goal of delivering the highest quality care to their patients. Before joining Humana, Sherman held leadership positions with UnitedHealth Group, Thomson Medstat (now Truven), HealthAllies, Immusol, and Total Renal Care (now known as DaVita). He currently serves on the faculty of the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 2013, he was appointed by then Governor Deval Patrick to represent the health plan perspective on the Massachusetts Statewide Quality Advisory Committee.

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.