



**Theme:** *“Primary Care Crossroads: Lessons Learned & Mapping the Future”*

## Speakers and Moderators

### **Tiffany Donelson, MPH**

President & CEO

Connecticut Health Foundation

Tiffany Donelson, MPH is president and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation, overseeing the independent health philanthropy's work in grantmaking, policy advancement, strategic communications, and leadership development. She brings to the role a deep knowledge of health care systems and policy, extensive experience in grantmaking, and a commitment to equity. Prior to this leadership role, Tiffany previously served as the CT Health Foundation's vice president of programs. In this role she set the foundation's programmatic strategy, which includes grantmaking, strategic communications, policy, the leadership development program, and evaluation. Tiffany is a member of several boards and advisory committees, including the boards of the United Way of Connecticut and the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and received her MPH in health policy and management at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.



## **Margaret Flinter, PhD, APRN**

Senior VP and Clinical Director  
Community Health Center, Inc.

Margaret Flinter, PhD, APRN is the senior vice president and clinical director of the community Health Center, Inc. A family nurse practitioner since 1980, she has held progressive roles in the organization as both clinician and executive leader as it transformed from a storefront clinic to one of the country's largest FQHCs. In 2005, she founded CHCI's Weitzman Center as the research and development arm of CHCI, now the Weitzman Institute. Margaret also serves as the national co-director of the RWJ Foundation's LEAP project, which is studying exemplar primary care practices across the country. Margaret has led the national development of a model of post-graduate residency training programs for new nurse practitioners committed to practice careers as primary care providers, particularly in safety net settings and established the National Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Consortium. She is the co-host of a weekly radio show, "Conversations on Health Care", which connects people with issues of health policy, reform, and innovation, and speaks widely on topics related to primary care transformation.

## **Bruce E. Gould, MD, FACP**

Associate Dean for Primary Care, UConn School of Medicine  
Director, CT AHEC Network at UConn Health

Bruce E. Gould, MD, FACP is a Professor of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Primary Care at the UConn School of Medicine. He serves as the Director of the Connecticut Area Health Education Center Program, Medical Director of the Community Health Center Association of CT (CHCACT), and Medical Director for the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Dr. Gould also served as the Medical Director of the Burgdorf Health Center, a community health center serving the north end of Hartford, Connecticut, from 1988 to 2016. Dr. Gould works with community and academic partners to create services that directly support care of medically underserved patients and communities including interprofessional training opportunities for health professions students that enhances their knowledge of team-based care and care for vulnerable and underserved populations. He is also the founder of and advisor to the Mobile Free Migrant Farm Workers Clinic that has served Connecticut's migrant farm worker population since 1998.



## **David D. Henderson, MD, FACP**

Chair, Department of Family Medicine, UConn Health  
Associate Dean, Multicultural and Community Affairs & Associate Professor of  
Family Medicine, UConn School of Medicine

David D. Henderson, MD, FACP is the Chair of Department of Family Medicine at UConn Health, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, and Associate Dean for Multicultural and Community Affairs at UConn School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty Dr. Henderson worked for a year as a physician volunteer in a rural hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He also worked part time as a physician volunteer at Charter Oak Terrace Community Health Center in Hartford for two years. He was instrumental in the development of a community health center in Norwich, Conn. and was the center's only full-time physician in its first three years. While chairman of the Family Medicine Department at Backus Hospital he assisted in the development of a series of hospital run, community based primary care sites and served as the primary care director.

## **Vivian Leung, MD**

Physician Epidemiologist & Program Coordinator for Healthcare-Associated  
Infections & AR Programs  
Connecticut Department of Public Health

Vivian Leung, MD, is a physician epidemiologist at the Connecticut Department of Public Health and is currently overseeing Connecticut's Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program, also known as the HAI-AR Program. The HAI-AR Program conducts surveillance and response for organisms with novel and emerging resistance, nosocomial infections, and infection control issues in healthcare settings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Leung's group at Connecticut DPH has been working on outbreak prevention, detection, and containment in nursing homes and other healthcare settings. They are a resource for Connecticut clinicians and healthcare facilities seeking the latest guidance as new knowledge about SARS-CoV-2 emerges. Prior to joining Connecticut DPH in 2018, Dr. Leung served as the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer assigned to Connecticut. She is board-certified in Family Medicine, and primary care is near and dear to her.



## **Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC**

Dean, UConn School of Medicine

Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center; Ray Neag Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Biology and Medicine

Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC is the Dean of UConn School of Medicine Dean who has been nationally-recognized in this role as well as an internationally recognized as a leading cardiovascular physician scientist. As Dean of UConn School of Medicine, Dr. Liang has implemented a new curriculum to foster active learning and to establishing clinical integration with basic sciences that starts in the first year of medical school. The School also successfully completed limited and full LCME surveys under Dr. Liang's direction. UConn School of Medicine ranked highly in both Research and Primary Care categories in the U.S. News and World Report in 2017 and 2018.

Prior to becoming Dean, his cutting-edge translational research contributions advanced scientific knowledge for heart biology receptor signaling and heart failure. His work has been continuously funded since 1986 by the NIH, the American Heart Association, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Liang is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

## **Julian Nieves III, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, UConn School of Medicine  
CT AHEC Network at UConn Health

Julian Nieves III, MD, MPH is an Internal Medicine physician in active practice at UConn Health with experiences and interest in primary care redesign and population health management strategies, health care management, health policy, community engagement and development, health equity, social/economic justice, and digital health solutions. Dr. Nieves' research interests include health and healthcare systems transformation, and advancing health equity with innovative digital health and potential block chain solutions to meet both health and social needs via economic promotion and enhanced patient/community engagement.



## **Douglas Olson, MD**

Chief Medical Officer, Medicaid/CHIP Centers  
U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare

Douglas Olson II, MD is a primary care and addiction medicine physician with years of experience treating patients and serving in leadership roles at federally qualified community health centers across Connecticut. Dr. Olson recently took on a new challenge as Chief Medical Officer (Medicaid/CHIP) at the U.S. Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Service (CMS). In this new role at CMS, Dr. Olson continues his work to advance quality and value to improve the health of the 71 million beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Dr. Olson brings direct experience at the state level working with clinicians, advocates and payers to develop new models of care that focus on integration, innovation and new payment methodologies. Prior leadership roles within FQHCs at the state level include Vice-President of Clinical Affairs at Fair Haven Community Health Care; Chief Medical Officer at Norwalk Community Health Center; and Medical Director for Hartford County sites.

## **Frances Padilla, MPA**

President  
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Frances G. Padilla, MPA was appointed President of Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut in September 2012. Since joining the Foundation in 2004, Frances has held various leadership positions in addition to spearheading the Foundation's research and policy initiatives, which led to the design of the landmark SustiNet law in 2009, and building block health care reform legislation passed in 2011. Her career in philanthropy, which began as a program officer at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, spans over 30 years. She later held positions at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven before running her own business, New Paradigms Consulting. Frances serves on various boards and committees focused on transparency and fair pricing of prescription medications, eliminating health inequities by ensuring access to quality health care, empowering individuals to actively participate in their care, and improving affordability of health care costs. Frances is a graduate of Wesleyan University and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



## **Khadija Poitras-Rhea, LCSW**

Assistant Vice President for Population Health  
UConn Health

Khadija Poitras-Rhea, a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and experienced program developer, serves at UConn Health as Assistant Vice President for Population Health. In this role Poitras-Rhea supports the mission of helping people achieve and maintain healthy lives and restoring wellness by providing patients with tools, education, and support to manage their health and achieve their wellness goals. Poitras-Rhea joined UConn Health from St. Francis Healthcare Partners, where she served as Director of Care Coordination and Population Health Management.

## **Roberto Vargas III, MD, MPH**

Assistant Dean, Health Policy and Inter-Professional Education, College of Medicine;  
Director, Health Services Research and Policy Core, Urban Health Institute  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Roberto Vargas MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and Assistant Dean for Health Policy and Inter-Professional Education, College of Medicine, and Director, Health Services Research and Policy Core, Urban Health Institute at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. Dr. Vargas' professional interests combine health services research, clinical care, and community collaborative partnerships towards the design, implementation, and testing of interventions to promote equal access to quality health care and to reduce health disparities. He completed a fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University School of Medicine and a Master's degree in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. He did his residency and chief-residency in the Yale Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program, received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and his undergraduate degree in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania.



## **Zhao Helen Wu, PhD**

Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
UConn Health

Zhao Helen Wu, PhD is a social epidemiologist. For more than two decades, she has been conducting mental health related research with a particular focus on substance abuse. Her research interests include health disparities, geriatrics, epidemiology, and public health. She has extensive experience in teaching and mentoring as course director for multiple MPH courses and for a course in the Master's Program in Clinical and Translational Research (MCTR), a preceptor for the clinical medical course at the UConn School of Medicine, a research facilitator for all the residents in the Department of Psychiatry, and a graduate advisor for the Master's Program in Clinical and Translational Research.

## **Robert Zavoski, MD, MPH, FAAP**

Chief Medical Officer  
First Choice Health Center

Robert Zavoski, MD, MPH, FAAP is a Board Certified pediatrician with more than two decades of experience in primary pediatrics in a variety of practice settings and brings over 25 years of experience in public policy and children's advocacy. Dr. Zavoski recently transitioned from his long-time position as the Medical Director of the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) into his current position as the Chief Medical Officer of First Choice Health Center in East Hartford, Connecticut. Prior to his leadership role at Connecticut DSS, Dr. Zavoski served as a Medical Director within a community health center in Connecticut's poorest community and prior to this served as Medical Director for the Primary Care Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), the largest academic pediatric practice in Southern New England.

