



# SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING A VIBRANT PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



**NOVEMBER 17, 2023**



**10:30 AM-1:30 PM**

UConn Health Cell and Genome Sciences Building  
400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT 06030

# AGENDA

## TIME

## PROGRAM

## LOCATION

10:30 AM –  
10:45 AM

Coffee and Posters:  
UST/AS, Yale/Public Health Fellowship  
Sponsored by CT DPH, AmeriCorps

Lobby

10:50 AM –  
11:00 AM

Opening Remarks:  
Bruce T. Liang, MD

Grossman Auditorium

11:00 AM –  
12:15 PM

Panel Discussion:  
Anton Alerte, MD, Moderator

Grossman Auditorium

12:15 PM –  
12:30 PM

Panel Q & A

Grossman Auditorium

12:30 PM –  
1:00 PM

Lunch

Lobby

1:00 PM –  
1:30 PM

Fireside Chats:  
Julia Levin  
Rev. Harlon Dalton, JD  
Justin Hamrick  
Bruce Gould, MD

Grossman Auditorium



# MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS





## **Sean Scanlon, Connecticut State Comptroller**

Sean Scanlon began his term as state comptroller in 2023. A native of Connecticut, Sean attended Boston College, returning to Connecticut with the goal of helping others. His career in public service has included working for U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and later being elected state representative for Connecticut's 98th District. Outside of serving in the legislature, Sean previously served as executive director of Tweed New Haven Airport. He currently resides in Guilford with his family.



## **Bruce T. Liang, MD Interim Chief Executive Officer, UConn Health Executive Vice President for Health Affairs; Dean of UConn School of Medicine**

Dr. Liang is an internationally recognized cardiovascular physician-scientist and national leader in academic medicine. He is dean of UConn School of Medicine and the Ray Neag Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Liang first joined UConn Health in 2002 as a physician-scientist faculty member and was appointed dean of the medical school in 2015. As dean he has led to new heights UConn's advancement of medicine, medical education, and research.



**Anton Alerte, MD**  
**Associate Dean for Primary Care**  
**UConn School of Medicine**

Dr. Alerte is the associate dean for primary care at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He is a professor of pediatrics and leads the school's Delivery of Clinical Care doctoring course. Dr. Alerte is a community preceptor for students during their pediatric rotations. Dr. Alerte has also been involved with the school on a number of levels over the years. He was chair of the Admissions Committee, served on the Education Council and was president of the SOM Alumni Board. Outside of the University, Dr. Alerte was president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



**Mark Schaefer, PhD**  
**Vice President, System Innovation and Financing**  
**CT Hospital Association**

Mark Schaefer, PhD, is the vice president of system innovation and financing for the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). Dr. Schaefer previously served as the state's Medicaid director at the Department of Social Services, where he led the design and implementation of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership, the HUSKY medical ASO initiative, and the Person Centered Medical Home program. He subsequently served as the state's director of healthcare innovation overseeing a wide range of payment, care delivery, and insurance reforms and launching the state's first quality scorecard. In his current role with the CHA he is working to advance a sustainable healthcare delivery and financing system that fosters innovation and provides optimal health and health equity for Connecticut communities.



**Frederick Streets, MDiv, DSW**  
**Adjunct Associate Professor of Divinity and Social Work**  
**Yale Divinity School**

Frederick J. (Jerry) Streets currently serves as the senior pastor of the historic Dixwell Avenue Congregational United Church of Christ in New Haven, CT. He also is an adjunct associate professor of pastoral care at Yale Divinity School. Prior to this, he served as senior pastor of the Mount Aery Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut from 1975 to 1992, leading the congregation to significant growth, building a new church edifice, and developing many social outreach programs and ministries. He also served as the Yale University chaplain and senior pastor of the Church of Christ in Yale from 1992 to 2007, where he established a model of multi-faith campus ministry.

A licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Streets is the former Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor in Pastoral Counseling at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University in New York City, and a former visiting professor in the Department of Social Work and Latino Community Practice at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.

Some of his current larger involvements include membership on the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Commission on Accrediting. He is a member of the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma through which he assists in the training of mental health professionals across disciplines, religions, and cultures in providing mental health services to those throughout the world who have been traumatized by war and natural disasters.





**Ellen Carter, MPA**  
**Vice President, CT Health Foundation**

Ellen Carter is vice president of program at the Connecticut Health Foundation. She oversees the foundation's programmatic strategy, which includes grantmaking, policy, strategic communications, leadership, and evaluation.

Ellen joined the foundation after nine years at the Connecticut Community Foundation in Waterbury, where she most recently served as vice president of program and strategy. In that role, she guided strategy and leadership direction for grantmaking, evaluation, advocacy, and community engagement work. Recently, she spearheaded the community foundation's COVID-19 response, working closely with community organizations and city agencies on equitable vaccine access, outreach and education. Ellen previously worked at the Connecticut Association for Human Services, serving as director of programs focused on building economic and food security for low-income families across Connecticut.

She is involved in many local and statewide organizations, including the Bridge to Success Community Partnership, Greater Waterbury Health Partnership, the Connecticut Healthy Living Collective, Age Well Steering Committee, Health Equity Trust Planning Committee, Waterbury Juneteenth Committee, and the Waterbury School Readiness Council.

Ellen is a graduate of College of the Holy Cross and has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.



**Ayiti-Carmel Maharaj-Best, MD**  
**Medical Director**  
**Director of Primary Care**  
**Southern New England Planned Parenthood**

Dr. Ayiti Maharaj-Best is a family physician who completed her family medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania. There she served as an associate residency program director, training new physicians to provide trauma-informed primary care and pregnancy care. Dr. Best also served as the vice chair of inclusion, diversity and equity where she designed and implemented structural changes to increase workplace equity and decrease health disparities.

Her commitment to the pursuit of health equity and reproductive justice brought her to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England in February 2023, where she now serves as the medical director, and leads the primary care and gender affirming care programs in addition to providing sexual and reproductive healthcare.





**Deb Polun, MA**  
**Chief Strategy Officer**  
**Community Health Center Association of CT**

Deb Polun is the chief strategy officer for the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHCACT), the statewide association that works with Connecticut's 17 federally qualified health centers. As part of this role, Deb leads efforts around advocacy and public policy, media, and strategic partnerships, and she represents the health centers on several statewide task forces and workgroups.

Deb has 25 years of public policy experience in the health care and social services realm, including working at the state legislature, at the Connecticut Association for Community Action, and at CHCACT. She has focused her work on improving systems towards better health and well-being for all.



**Chris Hyers, MBA**  
**Vice President, Strategy and Business Development,**  
**UConn Health**

Chris Hyers is vice president of strategy and business development for UConn Health. Since 2015 he has led a renaissance of its marketing and communications programs, accelerating brand, preference and clinical growth. His 20+ year career in healthcare includes work in Ohio, Iowa, Nebraska, Florida and California giving him a breadth of situational experience applicable to many of the issues faced by today's marketing and communication teams. He holds faculty appointments at Des Moines University and the Rochester Institute of Technology and is passionate about his family, their dogs and the Florida Gators.



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**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUMMIT,  
PLEASE COMPLETE OUR EVALUATION.**

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