

Speaker Bios – November 1, 2019

Abigail Averbach serves as Assistant Commissioner and Director of the Office of Population Health for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). In this role, Abigail oversees the Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Special Analytics Projects, Office of Health Equity, and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. She oversees the Public Health Data Warehouse, a nationally recognized innovation that underlies the Department's efforts to address inequities in health outcomes. Amy is responsible for the Population Health Information Tool (PHIT), an interactive web-based data portal designed to support community health planning, using a health equity framework with a focus on the social determinants of health.

Prior to joining DPH in 2017, Abigail served as Assistant Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Data Analytics at UMass Medical School's (UMMS) Commonwealth Medicine Division. She was Chair and member of the Worcester Board of Health for over a decade and served on the Community Outreach Committee of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

Abigail holds a Masters of Science degree in Public Health (Epidemiology) and a faculty appointment in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMMS.



Doug Brown is President of UMass Memorial Community Hospitals and Chief Administrative Officer for the UMass Memorial Health Care system. UMass Memorial is a \$2.4 Billion integrated health care delivery system in Central Massachusetts with over 13,000 employees. The system includes approximately 30 corporate entities, including an academic medical center, 2 community hospitals, a large physician group practice and numerous related entities. It is the clinical partner of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

In his current role, Doug has a wide range of system responsibilities, including oversight of UMass Memorial's two community hospitals, its behavioral health provider, and oversight over several system corporate functions, including human resources, legal affairs, governance, compliance, internal audit, government affairs, and health policy and public programs. He also currently leads the system's anchor mission work.

Doug has a breadth of experience in both the private sector, where he worked at two large law firms, and the public sector, where he served in leadership roles in two separate branches of Massachusetts state government. These roles included service as an Assistant Attorney General, as General Counsel of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and finally as Director of the state Medicaid program in 2003 before coming to UMass Memorial.



Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH a physician, epidemiologist, and author, is dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. He previously held academic and leadership positions at Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the New York Academy of Medicine. He has published more than 800 scientific journal articles, 50 chapters, and 15 books. His latest book is "Well: What We Need to Talk About When We Talk About Health"; Arianna Huffington has called it "A deeply affecting work

from one of the important and innovative voices in American health and medicine". Sandro holds a medical degree from the University of Toronto, graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow. Sandro was named one of Time magazine's epidemiology innovators and has been listed as one of the "World's Most Influential Scientific Minds." He is chair of the board of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and past president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Sandro has received several lifetime achievement awards. He is a regular contributor to, and his work is regularly featured in, a range of public media.

Nissa James, Ph.D., dedicated her undergraduate studies to behavioral neuroscience after discovering that mental and physical health were intricately intertwined as an undergraduate student. Her undergraduate studies in neuroscience ignited a spark within her for further understanding and the subsequent need for amassing additional knowledge led to the pursuit and attainment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology in 2006. Dr. James strived to understand the physiological processes that influence human behavior and published in peer-reviewed literature on her work in investigating the effects of nicotine exposure during crucial periods of development in animal models. After traveling all over Europe, Dr. James joined a clinical research organization to further her understanding of the considerations for human participant involvement in clinical research. During that time, she recognized the substantial impact of the social determinants of health for the participants in her studies and returned to her roots in practicing a community-development approach to the prevention of chronic conditions as a result.

Dr. James joined the Blueprint for Health in 2017; the Blueprint for Health is Vermont's state-led program within the Department of Vermont Health Access for integrating a system of health care for patients, improving the health of the overall population, and improving control over health care costs by promoting prevention, health maintenance, care coordination and care management. In 2019, Dr. James became the Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs for the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA); DVHA is the state department that administers the Vermont Medicaid program.



Phillomin "Philly" Laptiste is the Executive Director of Bowdoin Street Health Center (BSHC), a community health center in the Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhood of Dorchester that operates under the licensure of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC).

A second-generation Bowdoin-Geneva resident, Philly graduated from Boston Latin School, received her bachelor's degree in management and organizational communications from Emerson College, and completed a master's degree in health care administration at Suffolk University. In June 2015 she graduated with a certificate from the Massachusetts Institute for Community Health Leadership, one of only 19 professionals in the state to participate in this program.

Philly joined BSHC in 2008 as the manager of community health, where she was responsible for developing and implementing community health programs and serving as a liaison to the community. She then went on to become an operations manager for practice and community health at BSHC and continued to take on increased levels of responsibility while ascending to her role as associate director. In her current role, Philly oversees health center operations and develops, implements, and evaluates health center programs in response to changing community and patient needs. She supervises BSHC's administrative staff, medical staff, and nursing management, and manages all external relationships and marketing efforts. She also played an integral role in the establishment of the Wellness Center at BSHC.

Philly has committed her time to numerous community building and neighborhood improvement events. She is passionate about improving the well-being of the neighborhood and the people who live within it. In addition to being the co-chair of both the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance and Friends of Geneva Cliffs, she has participated in Boston Shines neighborhood clean-up events, community gardening clean-up days, and the oversight of the annual "Haunted Forest at the Cliffs," event to create a safe Halloween for neighborhood youth and their families. She constantly instills the importance of giving back to the community in her colleagues and her family.

Philly ran the Boston Marathon for Team BIDMC in 2017 and again in 2018. In 2018, she was recognized by BIDMC as a YMCA Achiever for her accomplishments and dedication to community service. Under her leadership, BSHC received the Mayoral Prize Award for Innovations in Primary Care. Most recently, she was appointed as one of seven Commissioners to the Board of Health for the city of Boston. In this role, Philly works on a broader scale to impact change and ensure equity in health outcomes for residents throughout the City of Boston. As an adjunct professor for the Suffolk University Healthcare Administration Program, she is also a member of the program's Advisory Board. Philly served on the Transition Team for Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins and is currently serving as part of the Discharge Integrity Team.



Daniel Slater, MD is the Chair of Pediatrics and the Medical Director, Mass Health ACO at Atrius Health. Dr. Slater is an Adjunct Staff at Boston Children’s Hospital and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Part Time, Harvard Medical School .

Dr. Slater received a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Pennsylvania and a Doctorate of Medicine from the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine. He completed his pediatric residency at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Slater is board certified in Pediatrics.

Dr. Slater is an experienced Chair with a demonstrated history of achieving results in the health care industry. He is responsible for the development, implementation and performance of the Atrius Health family and patient-centric Pediatric Medical Home. In his role as Medical Director for the Mass Health ACO, Dr. Slater has introduced and spread social determinants of health screening across Atrius Health and has championed the needs of our underserved patients.



Jennifer Tomasik, Vice President and Principal, is a second-generation owner of CFAR and serves as a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors. She is skilled at creating and directing processes that clarify strategy, solve complex organizational challenges, ensure sustainable implementation, and build effective leaders and teams. Her approach blends qualitative methods and quantitative analytics, with an emphasis on communication and collaboration, enabling people to discuss their most pressing issues in a safe and productive environment. She is a recognized expert at large group event design and facilitation.

While Jennifer leads CFAR’s healthcare practice, she has had the privilege of working with mission-oriented leaders across many industries for more than two decades. She is a deep believer in the power of systems-thinking and the role of active engagement of people across all levels of an organization to shape, own, and contribute to their strategic future. Jennifer is proficient at bringing stakeholders together in ways that bridge the organizational and professional boundaries that often impede productive dialogue and strategic change. She helps her clients move from ideas to action, whether that be through individual or team-based coaching or leading large-scale strategy and change work.

Jennifer is an experienced speaker and author, and has presented to numerous client audiences, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Hospital Association, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives, among others. Her published work has appeared in the Wharton Healthcare Quarterly, Healthcare Executive, the American Journal of Medicine and several books focused on population health and healthcare management. Her most recent publication, *Lessons from the Field: Promising Interprofessional Collaboration Practices*, was produced as the result of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project that she led to identify effective interprofessional collaboration practices that create a culture of health and improve patient-centered care.

Jennifer is deeply committed to improving healthcare, leadership and education in her home state of Rhode Island, where she resides with her husband and daughters. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), and was elected to represent the state on ACHE's national Board of Regents. In 2011, she won the Regent Award for Early Careerist from the American College of Healthcare Executives Rhode Island (ACHERI), where she serves as a member of the Board. She is the Immediate-Past President of the Board of Trustees of the French American School of Rhode Island, where she lead strategic planning, search, transition and governance efforts. Jennifer is a member of the Omicron II class of Leadership Rhode Island. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Tufts University, holds a Master of Science in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and is certified as a Predictive Index Practitioner.

ACHE Speaker



Kurt Barwis, FACHE, is President and CEO, Bristol (Conn.) Hospital & Health Care Group Inc. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives, an international professional society of more than 48,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. With comprehensive programs in credentialing, education, career counseling, publications and research, ACHE works toward its goal of being the preeminent professional society for leaders dedicated to improving health. Board certified in healthcare management as an ACHE Fellow, Mr. Barwis served as an ACHE Regent for Connecticut from 2016 to 2019, and on the Regents Advisory Council from 2008 to 2016.

Before joining Bristol Hospital & Health Care Group Inc., he served as senior vice president and COO, St. Mary's Hospital of St. Mary's County, Leonardtown, Md., from 2003 to 2006. Prior to that he was system vice president, managed care and business development, Union Hospital of Cecil County, Elkton, Md., from 1998 to 2003; and vice president and CFO, Renaissance Technology Inc., Newtown, Pa., from 1996 to 1998. Previously, he served as general manager, Eastern Rail Systems Inc., Newtown, Pa., from 1994 to 1996; COO, Eastern Anesthesia Inc., Newtown, Pa., from 1989 to 1994; director, patient services resources, Jeanes Hospital, Philadelphia, from 1986 to 1989; auditor, reimbursement specialist and consultant, Coopers and Lybrand, Philadelphia, from 1984 to 1986; and patient transport, outpatient billing clerk and general accountant, Jeanes Hospital, Philadelphia, from 1978 to 1983.

Kurt is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, a registered lobbyist in Connecticut and was a CPA in Pennsylvania until 1999. In addition to his service to ACHE, he has served as director and CEO Forum Chairman, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Hospital Association, since 2008; as a member of the Finance Committee, Connecticut Hospital Association, since 2007; and as director and chair of the Government Affairs Committee, Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, since 2007.

He is a recipient of several ACHE Recognition Program awards, including the Service Award in 2012, the Distinguished Service Award in 2015 and the Exemplary Service Award in

2018. Kurt received an MBA from La Salle University, Philadelphia, and a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, where he graduated cum laude.