

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES

FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Raymond C. Bredfeldt, MD was appointed as the Medical Director of the Northwest Region at Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield in 1999. Between 1989-1999, Dr. Bredfeldt served as Director of the Northwest Arkansas Family Practice Residency. Dr. Bredfeldt is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Medicine and is board certified in family medicine. He completed his family practice residency at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Illinois. After serving three years in the US Public Health Service he became Director of the Southern Illinois University Decatur Family Practice Residency from 1984-1989. He has numerous medical publications and was recognized as the "Arkansas Family Doctor of the Year" in 1992.

Peter A. Briss, MD, MPH is the Chief of the Community Guide Branch at CDC. His work focuses on making the best available scientific information accessible to practitioners and policy makers in ways that are both scientifically credible and practically useful. He has participated in public health teaching, practice, and research at state and federal levels in the U.S. and internationally. He has authored or coauthored more than 50 scholarly publications and coedited the Guide to Community Preventive Services. Dr. Briss received his medical degree and residency training in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Ohio State University. He has an MPH in Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan, and completed training in epidemiology and preventive medicine at CDC. He is board certified in internal medicine, pediatrics, and preventive medicine.

Sandra Bunting, RN is the Senior Manager of Clinical Network Management at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee where she is responsible for coordinating practitioner education and managing both regional and corporate staff involved in community outreach and education, and internal training. Ms. Bunting received her diploma in Nursing from Erlanger Nursing School, and her Bachelors of Science in Business from Bryan College, where she graduated Suma Cum Laude. She is a certified case manager through the Commission for Case Management, a Certified Professional in HealthCare Quality, and has a certification in Managed Care Nursing. She is a recent graduate of Leadership Chattanooga where she successfully organized and participated in a major project for Habitat for Humanity. Prior to coming to BCBST, Ms. Bunting had extensive clinical and management experience in the areas of surgical intensive care, recovery and ambulatory surgery nursing.

Nancy Chockley, MBA is the founding President and CEO of the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) and NIHCM Foundation, Ms. Chockley has led the organizations since inception in 1993, steering them through one of the most interesting decades of health care policy. She has spearheaded NIHCM Foundation's work in obesity, pharmaceuticals, prevention, children's health and the uninsured. Ms. Chockley is a national voice in the health care arena, and has been featured on many broadcasts such as ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, NBC News with Tom Brokaw, BBC and CNN, and in numerous print outlets such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*. Prior to founding NIHCM, Ms. Chockley was a principal in the Strategy Practice of Mercer Management Consulting where she had worked with a variety of industries, including health care and pharmaceuticals, since 1985. Her experience spans the areas of business strategy development, best practices benchmarking and strategy implementation. Ms. Chockley received her MBA in 1983 and her BA, with Distinction in Economics, in 1980 from the University of Virginia.

Lakshmi Dhanvanthari, MD is Staff Vice President Medical Director at WellPoint State Sponsored Business. Her responsibilities include medical oversight for quality improvement, health management, and pharmacy programs, ensuring high quality health care to members enrolled in Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Access for Infants and Mothers, and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Programs, and medical expertise for coordination of care with California Children's Services, Pediatric Case Management Programs, and utilization management. Dr. Dhanvanthari champions Blue Cross of California's Childhood Obesity Initiative and has collaborated with the American Academy of Pediatrics, UCLA School of Medicine, American Heart Association, the Rob Reiner Foundation, Parents Action for Children to address the obesity epidemic in California. Dr. Dhanvanthari has been honored by WellPoint with an Individual Honor Award (WellPoint's highest award) in recognition of her leadership in childhood immunization and childhood obesity initiatives. Dr. Dhanvanthari is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She received her medical school training at Madras University, India, and completed her Residency in Pediatrics at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. She has served as an Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of California at Irvine and Medical Director of Outreach Programs, Faculty Member of the Residency Program, and Attending Physician Ambulatory Care at the Children's Hospital of Orange County, California.

William H. Dietz, MD, PhD is the Director of the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity in the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the CDC. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a Professor of Pediatrics at the Tuft's University School of Medicine, and Director of Clinical Nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. He received his BA from Wesleyan University in 1966 and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. After the completion of his residency at Upstate Medical Center, he received a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Dietz has been a councillor and past president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. From 2001-2003 he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. In 1995 he received the John Stalker award from the American School Food Service Association for his efforts to improve the school lunch. Dr. Dietz served on the 1995 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. In 1997, Dr. Dietz received the Brock Medal of Excellence in Pediatrics from the New York Academy of Medicine. In 1998, Dr. Dietz was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2000, he received the William G. Anderson Award from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was recognized for excellence in his work and advocacy by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors. In 2002, he was made an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association, and received the Holroyd-Sherry award for his outstanding contributions to the field of children, adolescents and the media. In 2005 he received the George Bray Founders Award from the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. He is the author of over 150 publications in the scientific literature, and the editor of four books, including [A Guide to Your Child's Nutrition](#).

Robert T. Harris, MD serves as Senior Vice President of the Healthcare Division and Chief Medical Officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. Dr. Harris joined Blue Cross in 1998, bringing more than 23 years experience in clinical practice of internal medicine and more than 17 years of physician executive experience in medical management and administration for

large health insurance and managed care companies. In his current role at Blue Cross, Dr. Harris is responsible for quality improvement, care management, and health care resource management, and oversees all health plan medical staff. In addition, Dr. Harris is a practicing physician, with regular clinic times at a volunteer medical clinic. Dr. Harris earned his MD at Emory University School of Medicine. He earned his Masters in Health Science from Johns Hopkins University and his undergraduate degree in psychology from Duke University. Dr. Harris is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Medical Management. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, plus the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE), honored Dr. Harris as a Fellow, one of its highest awards.

Lisa M. Koonin, MN, MPH serves as Associate Director for Business Partnerships in the Division of Partnerships and Strategic Alliances, National Center for Health Marketing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In her current position, she develops, promotes, leads and coordinates effective partnerships for prevention and quality improvement among businesses, business organizations, public and private purchasers of health care, and others with CDC and public health. She has developed and led initiatives linking public health agencies and the private sector for improving community-level terrorism preparedness, responded to business and public health needs for urgent health threats and has produced tools for businesses to use for influenza pandemic planning. Ms. Koonin has been with CDC since 1987 and previously served as CDC's Chief for Reproductive Health Surveillance for 12 years.

Prior to her employment with CDC, Ms. Koonin spent 10 years in a variety of clinical and faculty nursing leadership positions. Ms. Koonin is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Epidemiologist with degrees from Emory University: a Master of Nursing and a Master of Public Health. Ms. Koonin actively serves as a member of multiple committees both within CDC and for other organizations. She recently completed a 2-year term as the CDC Liaison to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Committee on Performance Measurement, and served as the CDC Liaison to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Quality of Care Summit. Ms. Koonin has published approximately 50 papers on a variety of health topics.

Premila M. Kumar, MD is the Senior Clinical Manager for Disease Management Programs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Dr. Kumar develops, administers and oversees all clinical operations of the Diabetes, Coronary Artery Disease, Weight Management and CHF Health Education Programs. Prior to her position at Horizon, she was the Health Education Manager for Disease Management Programs at CIGNA Health Care Tri-State Region. Dr. Kumar has a broad experience in health care having worked in different departments such as Utilization Management, Claims & Quality Management. She has served in different internal Professional Advisory Committee, Quality Improvement Committee & Quality Management Committees in her prior position. Dr. Kumar received her medical degree from Stanley Medical College, Madras University, India.

Mary Sue Lancaster, RN is a Public Health Analyst in the Division of Partnerships and Strategic Alliances at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is on the health care sector team and is the Project Officer for six cooperative agreements, including the National Institute for Health Care Management. Ms. Lancaster previously worked at CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), where she served as a Project Officer, Deputy Branch Chief, and Acting Branch Chief of the program branch. During her 12 years in DASH, she worked on HIV prevention for youth, as well as nutrition, physical activity and tobacco issues. Prior to coming to CDC, Ms. Lancaster served as the Health Education Manager for Intergroup Health Care Corporation, a Health Maintenance Organization in Phoenix, Arizona. In this position, she managed a thriving health education division, which offered over 150 classes each

year to HMO members, and provided worksite health promotion to businesses via HealthWorks. Ms. Lancaster also worked as a RN in a hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan for three years, and taught 9th grade health education. She has her Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters in Health Education from Central Michigan University, as well as an Associates Degree in Nursing.

Andrew P. Lanza, MPH, MSW has been a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service since 1976, after receiving his Masters of Social Work degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. During his public health career, he has had numerous progressively challenging managerial, administrative and programmatic assignments and received a Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Health Administration from Columbia University in 1988. Since then, he has focused on health promotion and disease prevention particularly in the workplace and community settings, while holding leadership positions in Federal Occupational Health, Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry and currently, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is a member of the Commissioned Corps Readiness Force and he has attained the rank of Captain (06).

Through his most recent role as program consultant and as the CDC's Diabetes division's lead for working with businesses and health plans, Captain Lanza has focused on translating the well defined and accepted standards of public health practices into the "real" world. He has published on this subject area, has presented at numerous national meetings, including national conferences sponsored by the National Business Coalitions on Health and the National Business Group on Health, and has coordinated the Business Consultation on Diabetes. He has also served as the CDC operational lead for the HHS Secretary's Diabetes Detection Initiative, the National Diabetes Education Program's Business and Managed Care Workgroup, and is involved with the development of new and useful tools for businesses and health plans. He is currently assigned to CDC's Division of Partnerships, and Strategic Alliances, where he serves as a Senior Program Consultant for the business sector, where he manages CDC's strategic partnerships with national business and health organizations, bridging the gap between evidence based science and its practical applications in order to improve and protect health.

Lisa Latts, MD, MBA is the Vice President for Programs for Clinical Excellence at WellPoint, Inc. Prior to this, Dr. Latts served as Regional Medical Director and Medical Director for Quality Management with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and as Assistant Medical Director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Colorado.

Dr. Latts earned her medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1992 and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Colorado Health Science Center. She is certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners, the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Society of Obstetric Medicine. She is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Colorado Health Science Center and a contract physician at the acute injury and illness center in Colorado. Dr. Latts is a member of the American College of Physician Executives, the American College of Physicians, the Colorado and Denver Medical Societies, the Society of Obstetric Medicine and has been the president elect of the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians since 2004. Dr. Latts has research interests in smoking cessation and has published in both peer-reviewed journals and books. She received her MBA from the University of Colorado in 2005.

Jason Lee, PhD is the Director of Research and Policy at the National Institute for Health Care Management Research and Education Foundation. Dr. Lee has over 20 years of conducting health policy research, running a successful consulting firm, managing a national grantmaking program, and working for the U.S. Congress. He has served as Principal Investigator on grants for RWJF,

AHRQ, the National Library of Medicine, Kaiser Permanente and AcademyHealth. Dr. Lee has extensive work experience on Medicare, Medicaid, and public health issues and is a nationally recognized expert on managed care, health insurance, health care quality and health care reform. A former board member of the National Health Policy Forum, Dr. Lee is an EBRI Fellow, an adjunct faculty member at the George Washington University, and a board member of Loudoun Healthcare, Inc. His work has been quoted in *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and numerous trade journals. In 1999 he was named a Top Congressional Aide by the *National Journal* and was profiled in the *2000 Almanac of the Unelected*. Dr. Lee has written widely on health policy subjects; his work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, books, congressional policy briefs, and other sources. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan.

George Mensah, MD is the Chief Medical Officer and Associate Director for Medical Affairs (acting) in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At CDC, he most recently served as the Interim Director for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Prior to joining the CDC, he was a tenured professor at MCG. Dr. Mensah graduated with honors from Harvard University and has a doctorate in medicine from Washington University. He completed postgraduate training at the Cornell University Medical Center. He has held many academic leadership positions and served on the cardiology faculties at Vanderbilt University and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). His interests include global health promotion and the prevention and control of heart disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases.

Toby Merlin, MD is Director of the Division of Partnerships and Strategic Alliances at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this new role, Dr. Merlin is leading the effort to work with health care organizations, businesses, and educational institutions for health care promotion and disease prevention. Over the past decade, Dr. Merlin has worked on several projects and task groups for the CDC. He has also served on the editorial boards of *Human Pathology* and the *International Journal of Surgical Pathology*, as well as various test committees of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Merlin joined the CDC in 2003 from Lovelace Health Systems in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he served in various capacities, including member of the elected Medical Practice Board, Chair of the Department of Laboratories, Senior Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer, and an officer of the Board of Directors. Dr. Merlin has also served on the senior medical management team of CIGNA HealthCare (which owned Lovelace Health Systems) where he led CIGNA's Technology Assessment Council, which was responsible for evaluating medical evidence on new procedures and technologies.

Dr. Merlin received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Florida and completed his training in pathology at the University of New Mexico. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and clinical pathology. From 1984 until 1992 he served on the faculty of the departments of Pathology and Internal Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, where he performed research in the molecular mechanisms of antibiotic resistance and was Associate Professor of Pathology, Vice-chairman of the Department of Pathology, and Chief of Laboratory Services at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Kenneth Patric, MD is Chief Medical Officer in the Commercial Business & Established Markets Division of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. He is also Board Certified by the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, certified by the Health Insurance Association of America as a Health Insurance Associate and Managed Healthcare Professional, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Healthcare Management. Dr. Patric is board certified in Family Practice and has been with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee for the past 11 years in various positions, including Associate Medical Director, Medical Director of

Quality Management, Medical Director of HMO Blue, Medical Director of Riverbend, Inc. (BCBST's Medicare Part A Intermediary), Sr. Medical Director of Medical Management and Operations, and Corporate Medical Director.

Dr. Patric received his BA in Biology from UC, San Diego in 1972; his MD from U Rochester School of Medicine in 1976; and completed his Family Practice residency at UC, Davis School of Medicine in 1979. Prior to coming to BCBST, Dr. Patric was in private practice for 15 years in various settings in California, where he was also Chief of Staff and Board member of a 200 bed community hospital, Board Member of an 80+ physician IHO, Board member of the California Medical Association and California Academy of Family Physicians, and Clinical Professor of Family Practice at UC, Davis School of Medicine.

David Ross, ScD is Director of the Public Health Informatics Institute. He became the Director of All Kids Count, a program of the Institute supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2000 and subsequently began the Institute, also with funding from RWJF. His experience spans the private health care and public health sectors. Before joining the Task Force, Dr. Ross was an executive with a private health information systems firm, a Public Health Service officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and an executive in a private health system. Dr. Ross holds a doctoral degree in Operations Research from The Johns Hopkins University (1980) where he was involved in health services research. After serving as Director of the Health Service Research Center, Baltimore USPHS Hospital, he became Vice President for Administration with the Wyman Park Health System. In 1983, he joined the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. During his career at CDC, he worked in environmental health, CDC's executive administration, and public health practice. Dr. Ross was founding director of the Information Network for Public Health Officials (INPHO), CDC's national initiative to improve the information infrastructure of public health. His research and programmatic interests reflect those of the Institute: the strategic application of information technologies to improve public health practice.

Harvinder Sareen, PhD, MPH is the Director of Clinical Programs at WellPoint State Sponsored Business. She leads Blue Cross of California's Childhood Obesity Initiative to impact childhood obesity in California. Dr. Sareen holds a doctoral degree from the UCLA School of Public Health. She has played a primary role in developing and analyzing several surveys including the National Survey of Early Childhood Health (NSECH 2000). As a project manager and research scientist at the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, her work has largely focused on child health and development within different cultural and ecological contexts. Her previous work has included coordinating nutritional assessments of women and children in underserved populations in northern India, and evaluating the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC REI) in South Los Angeles. She has provided oversight for two consecutive evaluations of the Healthy Start program in California for the California Department of Education. She has also worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Division of Health Policy Research to identify disparities in the provision of child developmental assessments, psychosocial assessments, and referrals to community-based services among families with young children. More recently, Dr. Sareen collaborated with the Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Development in Ventura County to conduct annual evaluations of First 5 Ventura County-funded programs and services for young children and their families. Dr. Sareen is an active member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD). She was inducted into the Delta-Omega National Honorary Society in Public Health, Iota Chapter, in 2004.

Janice E. Seigle, MPM is the Strategic Corporate Initiatives Director at Highmark Inc. She heads strategy development, using the corporation's resources to work with community stakeholders in formulating community-based initiatives or programs to achieve the corporation's community mission. In 2000, at Highmark, she investigated issues contributing to health care costs and impact of overweight in relation to chronic disease and preventable illness which led to Highmark's community mission emphasis on a multi-year strategy to address childhood obesity. Areas of focus have been best practice and evidence-based approaches to preventing childhood obesity, especially through school-based interventions. Before coming to Highmark, Ms. Seigle acted as a consultant to various non-profit groups in the areas of strategic planning and program development. Ms. Seigle is a Western Pennsylvania native and graduated with highest distinction from the H. John Heinz III School Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, obtaining a Masters Degree. Ms. Seigle also holds BA degree in Communications from Carlow University in Pittsburgh.

Carey Vinson, MD, MPM is the Vice President, Quality and Medical Performance Management at Highmark, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His responsibilities include supporting the medical performance improvement and payment efforts conducted throughout Highmark, development of quality improvement programs, monitoring and measuring the quality of clinical services, credentialing of clinicians and other providers, maintenance of NCQA and URAC accreditation, and compliance with state and federal oversight agencies.

Dr. Vinson is a family physician and qualified in geriatric medicine. Prior to working at Highmark, he was the Director for Clinical Utilization at the Forbes Health System of Pittsburgh, Medical Director for the Forbes Family Practice Residency Program's Family Health Center, and Medical Director for the Lexington/Fayette County Kentucky Health Department. A graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Dr. Vinson completed a family practice residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. He is the recipient of a Master of Public Management degree from the Carnegie Mellon University Heinz School. Dr. Vinson is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine of the Temple University School of Medicine. Dr. Vinson is on the faculty of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program and teaches a monthly rotation on managed care. He is on the clinical faculty at the UPMC Shadyside Hospital Family Practice Residency Program and is a clinical preceptor at the Program's Family Health Center. Dr. Vinson has written and lectured extensively on health care delivery, managed care, medical ethics, and medical administration. In addition, Dr. Vinson gives lectures on American Civil War battles, leaders, and medical care.

Howell Wechsler, EdD has served as the Director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since April 2004. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Wechsler served for two years as the Chief of the Research Application Branch in DASH where he supervised CDC's scientists who provide content expertise in topics such as sexual risk behaviors prevention, physical activity, nutrition, obesity prevention, tobacco use prevention, injuries and violence prevention, asthma management, and food safety. He also has served as the Division's nutrition education and obesity prevention specialist and co-coordinator of CDC's national initiative to enable schools to prevent cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. Dr. Wechsler has provided technical assistance for CDC school health surveillance instruments, coordinated projects that promote the implementation of the CDC school health guidelines, was the lead author of CDC's "Guidelines for School Health Programs to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating" and played a leading role in the development of the "School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide" and "Promoting Better Health for Young People Through Physical Activity and Sports: A Report to the President."

Prior to joining CDC in 1995, Dr. Wechsler served for six years as Project Director of the Washington Heights-Inwood Healthy Heart Program in New York City. He has also directed a community-based health screening program serving the New York City metropolitan area and has worked as a health educator for the New York City Department of Health. He entered the field of public health during his service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zaire. Dr. Wechsler earned a Doctorate in Health Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, a Master's in Public Health from Columbia University, and a Bachelors in journalism from Northwestern University.

Bonnie Zell, MD, MS is Associate Director, Healthcare Partnerships in the Division of Partnerships and Strategic Alliances and Senior Advisor for Partnership Development in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta where she is working on patient safety, health care quality and primary prevention initiatives. She is leading the newly formed Healthy Healthcare goals team for the agency. Her focus is on building focused relationships with key stakeholders in the health care delivery system including hospitals, health plans, regulators, accreditors, professional societies, quality improvement organizations and sister federal agencies with the goal of improving the health of the public.

She has a diverse background in health care as a RN with 6 years of inpatient, home care, public health and administrative experience and a physician with 17 years of practice and administrative positions. She practiced full-spectrum Obstetrics and Gynecology for over 14 years, serving as Chief of OB/GYN at Kaiser Permanente in the San Francisco Bay Area. She served in Northern California Kaiser Permanente Regional roles as both Co-Clinical Leader of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Midlife and Beyond and as Chair of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for women. Prior to her CDC position, she developed novel approaches to strengthen the patient-physician relationship and created valuable tools and unique system infrastructures to support the practice of truly comprehensive and integrated care for women across their life span in her position as Medical Director of the Aurora Women's Pavilion and Physician Midlife Specialist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

OBSERVERS

Kathleen Eyre, JD is currently Policy Consultant to NIHCM. Previously she served as Vice President, Public Affairs and Policy, and later Policy Consultant, for Broadlane, a health care resources procurement company headquartered in San Francisco. Her responsibilities included oversight for public affairs, research, government relations, and public policy. Kathy has extensive experience in health policy, research development and management, and government affairs. Prior to joining Broadlane, Kathy held senior research, policy and government relations positions with The Permanente Medical Group, in Oakland, California, the National Institute for Health Care Management (where she was Senior Director, Policy and Research) and Blue Cross of California (now WellPoint). An attorney by training, she focused on health policy and antitrust matters with the Washington, DC office of Sidley & Austin and conducted in-depth factual investigations for the United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and a juris doctorate from University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She was a Pew Foundation mid-career fellow at the RAND/UCLA Center for Health Policy.

Carolyn Myers, BS is the Administrative Manager at NIHCM Foundation and has 20 years experience in various educational settings. She taught high school and was on the faculties of The University of Akron (Ohio) and Anne Arundel (Maryland) Community College. While at the

University of Akron, she specialized in computer-based education presenting before boards of education nationally. For the past six years, Ms. Myers was the administrator of a 500 member non-profit organization in the Annapolis area. In addition to a BS from The Ohio State University, she holds a National Association of Security Dealers, Series 7 license. Ms. Myers maintains NIHCM's multi-grant operating budgets by managing grant resources, complying with guidelines and reporting methods, and processing accounts payable. Her other areas of responsibility include administrative operations, meeting planning, and human resources.

Britney Peterson, MS is the Policy Analyst for the Primary Care Project at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in Washington, DC. At ASTHO, Britney supports primary care related activities specific to access to care, safety net, and health disparities. Prior to joining ASTHO, Ms. Petersen served as a senior management analyst in the Health Services, Research, and Management Group of BearingPoint in McLean, Virginia. Britney has also served as a research consultant with the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence and as a clinical office coordinator and group facilitator at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and Rose Medical Center in Denver, Colorado. Britney completed her MS degree in Health Services Administration at Regis University in Denver, Colorado and received her BS degree in Health and Human Development with a concentration in Community Health from Montana State University.

Hafiza Pirani, BSc is a Research and Policy Analyst at NIHCM Foundation where she conducts research, analysis, writing and communications support for Foundation and grant-funded projects. She is currently staffed on two CDC grants, one investigating the evidence base for obesity reduction and weight management programs and the other on issues related to public and private partnerships in clinical preventive practices. In addition to this grant-funded work, she assists in developing and submitting grant proposals on coverage and other policy issues. Ms. Pirani also provides support to the Foundation President for NIHCM member relations. Ms. Pirani previously worked with the Public Health Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, where she assisted in the analysis of the Ontario SARS case data and composition of the SARS Provincial Report. Prior to that, Ms. Pirani worked in the Republic of Mali, collaborating with local partners including the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and the World Health Organization of Mali, to increase childhood immunization rates in the country. Ms. Pirani attended McGill University in Montreal, Canada and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology in 2002. She will complete her Masters Degree in Health Policy from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in May 2006.

Lauren Raskin Ramos, MPH is the Principal Director for Public Health Prevention and Promotion Programs at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in Washington, DC. At ASTHO, Lauren oversees policy and programmatic issues for the Public Health Prevention and Health Promotion Team, which includes the access to care, adolescent and school health, chronic disease, injury prevention, maternal and child health, and primary care projects. In this position, Lauren helps to assure that a widespread network of state health agency staff and partners has access to information and resources needed to improve state public health policy. Previously, Lauren managed ASTHO's maternal and child health project. Prior to coming to ASTHO, Lauren worked on the Bright Futures Project at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health at Georgetown University and at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Lauren completed her MPH at the UCLA School of Public Health, with a concentration in Community Health Sciences, and received her BA in Sociology and a Certificate in Community Health from Tufts University.