

Medicare Accountable Care in 2025 and Beyond: Building on Successes and Finding New Opportunities

Speaker Bios

Welcome and Preview



Mark McClellan, MD, PhD
Director, Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, is Director and Robert J. Margolis, M.D., Professor of Business, Medicine and Policy at the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy at Duke University. He is a physician-economist who focuses on quality and value in health care, including payment reform, real-world evidence and more effective drug and device innovation. At the center of the nation's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the author of COVID-19 response roadmap, and co-author of a comprehensive set health policy strategies for COVID vaccines, testing, and treatments, Dr. McClellan and his Duke-Margolis colleagues are now focused on health policy strategies and solutions to advance the resilience and interconnectedness of 21st Century public health and health care. Mark is a former administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and former commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where he developed and implemented major reforms in health policy. Dr. McClellan is an independent board member on the boards of Johnson & Johnson, Cigna, Alignment Healthcare, and Prognom IQ; co-chairs the Guiding Committee for the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network; and serves as an advisor for Arsenal Capital Group, Blackstone Life Sciences.

Congressional Action to Support Accelerating Accountable Care: Where We've Been and Where We're Going



Michael Burgess, MD
The US House of Representatives

After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas, Congressman Burgess has served the constituents of the 26th District since 2003 in the United States House of Representatives. He currently serves on the House Rules Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the House Budget Committee. Congressman Burgess has served on the Rules Committee since 2013 and was appointed as Chairman in 2024. In addition, he chairs the Health Care Task Force on the Budget Committee and serves on the Health, Energy, and Oversight and Investigations subcommittees of Energy and Commerce.

As of the 118th Congress, he is the most senior medical doctor on both sides of the aisle serving in the House of Representatives. Because of his medical background, Congressman Burgess has been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. He received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston and completed his residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. He also received a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

The Next Iteration of MACRA: Building on MIPS and AAPMs to Improve Medicare's Payment Systems



Susan Dentzer, MS
President and CEO, America's Physician Groups

Susan Dentzer is President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Physician Groups, the nonprofit organization representing more than 360 large physician groups focused on patient-centered, coordinated, and integrated health care that is accountable for both costs and quality. Dentzer is a highly respected health and health policy thought leader, a frequent speaker and commentator, and an author of commentaries in *Modern Healthcare*, the *New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and other prominent publications. She is also the editor and lead author of the book *Health Care Without Walls: A Roadmap for Reinventing U.S. Health Care*. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the Council on Foreign Relations and is a fellow of the National Academy of Social Insurance and the Hastings Center. Dentzer graduated from Dartmouth and also holds a master's degree in health care delivery science from the institution.

Dentzer serves on the advisory boards of the Robert J. Margolis Institute for Health Policy at Duke University; the Center for Global Health Equity at Dartmouth; and the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California – San Francisco (UCSF). From March 2021-March 2023, Dentzer chaired the Board of Directors of Research!America, which advocates for health-related research, and formerly chaired the board of the Global Health Council. Dentzer was also a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the International Rescue Committee, the organization that works in more than 40 countries to help those affected by humanitarian crises survive and rebuild their lives, and currently serves on IRC's Board of Advisors.



Michael McWilliams, MD, PhD

Warren Alpert Foundation Professor of Health Care Policy, Professor of Medicine, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

J. Michael McWilliams, MD, PhD is the Warren Alpert Foundation Professor of Health Care Policy and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In his research, Dr. McWilliams is examining a range of topics, including Medicare Advantage, the design of population-based payment models, risk adjustment, market consolidation, and strategies for leveraging professionalism more productively in health care. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and American Society for Clinical Investigation. In other roles, Dr. McWilliams serves as a Senior Advisor to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, member of the board of directors for the Institute for Accountable Care, and member of the editorial boards for Health Services Research and the American Journal of Managed Care. Previously, he served as an Associate Editor for JAMA Internal Medicine and Comments Editor for the Journal of General Internal Medicine. Dr. McWilliams received his BS with highest distinction in biology as a Morehead Scholar from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his MD magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School, and his PhD in Health Policy from Harvard University. He completed his residency in general internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



Aisha Pittman, MHP

Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, National Association of ACOs

Aisha Pittman, MHP, is the Senior Vice president of Government Affairs at NAACOS. In her role, Pittman leads work to promote legislative and regulatory policies that will advance ACOs. She has 19 years of experience in healthcare payment, alternative payment models, healthcare quality measurement, and health information technology. Pittman was previously vice president of policy with Premier, Inc., a group purchasing organization of more than 4,400 hospitals and 225,000 other provider organizations. During her eight years with Premier, she was responsible for working with policymakers, providers, and other healthcare stakeholders to reduce costs and improve the quality of healthcare. Prior to Premier, Pittman held senior management roles with the National Quality Forum, the Maryland Health Care Commission and CenterLight Healthcare, in addition to experience at the National Committee for Quality Assurance. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and a Master's in Public Health from The George Washington University.

Advancing Alternative Payment Models: Accelerating Adoption of Accountable Care in the Near-Term



Rob Saunders, PhD

Senior Research Director, Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy

Dr. Saunders is Senior Research Director, Health Care Transformation at Duke-Margolis. In this role, he oversees work on payment and delivery reform initiatives, including generating practical evidence; translating that evidence into solutions; and accelerating progress on policy actions at the state, national, and international levels. The team's work focuses on Medicare accountable care transformations, health care transformation for health equity and social needs, Medicaid and state transformation in North Carolina and other states, medically and socially underserved populations, and bolstering population health. Prior to joining Duke-Margolis, Dr. Saunders was a Senior Director and then Senior Advisor to the President of the National Quality Forum, Senior Program Officer at the Institute of Medicine, and managed health care legislative affairs for Representative Rush D. Holt during the ACA debates. He received his PhD from Duke University and his undergraduate degree from William and Mary.



Ken Cohen, MD
Executive Director Translational Research, Optum

Dr. Kenneth Cohen is an experienced physician leader, practicing physician, and researcher who has attained national recognition for advancing evidence-based medicine and delivering value-based care. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Translational Research for Optum Care. The care model he created is based on rapid translation of clinical research to clinical practice and is now the foundational care model of the Optum Care medical groups. Dr. Cohen was one of the founding physicians of New West Physicians, which is the largest primary care group practice in Colorado. He served as Chief Medical Officer for New West Physicians for 25 years before transitioning to his role with OptumCare. He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacy at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He was recognized as the Exemplar Lutheran Medical Center Physician of the Year in 2010. Dr. Cohen holds degrees from Dickinson College (Phi Beta Kappa) and Hahnemann University (Alpha Omega Alpha). He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Elizabeth Drye, MD, SM
Chief Scientific Officer, National Quality Forum

Elizabeth Drye, MD, SM, is responsible for the strategic direction and leadership of NQF’s quality measurement programs and partnerships. She brings an ideal blend of expertise in clinical medicine, measurement science and health policy to the organization and a proven track record in the development of quality measures and their use to drive meaningful improvement. Prior to NQF, Dr. Drye was Senior Director of Quality Measurement Programs at the Yale New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), as well as a Research Scientist at Yale School of Medicine. Before becoming a physician and focusing on quality measurement, she worked for eight years in senior governmental public health policy positions in Washington, DC, where she helped lead and manage regulatory, legislative, and government-wide health initiatives. Her prior policy positions include Chief of Staff of the White House Domestic Policy Council and Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman. Dr. Drye received her MD from Harvard Medical School, her SM in health policy and management from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, and her AB in human biology from Stanford University. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital.



Marc Gruner, DO, MBA
Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer, Limber

Dr. Marc Gruner is a Mayo Clinic trained sports medicine physician dedicated to enhancing patient outcomes through innovative solutions and value-based care models. He is Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Limber Health, a digital MSK platform that offers a comprehensive suite of services, including home-exercise programs, remote therapeutic monitoring, patient-reported outcome collection, and care navigation for MSK conditions building a hybrid model of care. He maintains a part-time clinical practice in orthopedic care at Aligned Orthopedic Partners. Dr. Gruner also serves as a consultant for various organizations, including the State of Maryland, PACES, and Rubicon Founders. In this capacity, he focuses on developing and evaluating specialty value-based care models. He also represents the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation on value-based care model development, and participates in the Partnership for Quality Measurement’s Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review Hospital Committee developed by CMS on quality measures. Dr. Gruner’s diverse experience includes a brief period at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center (CMMI), where he focused on alternative payment models. He also holds an MBA with a specialization in value-based healthcare.



Dr. Mandy Williams, DO, CMD
Dually Board-Certified Family Physician and Geriatrician
Certified Medical Director, Physicians Group of Southeastern Ohio

Dr. Mandy Williams is a dually board-certified family physician and geriatrician, dedicated to serving rural communities with compassion and expertise. She holds certification as a Medical Director and currently serves as the Medical Director for the Physicians Group of Southeastern Ohio (PGSEO). In collaboration with agilon health, PGSEO focuses on delivering value-based care to enhance the health and well-being of rural populations throughout Southeastern Ohio, with Dr. Williams at the forefront of these efforts. Dr. Williams is also a founding member of the agilon health Women Physicians Leadership Council, where she plays a vital role in supporting and empowering women in medicine. Through this initiative, she advocates for leadership development and collaboration among female physicians. In her private practice, Dr. Williams serves as the President of South Zanesville Family Medical Center, where her focus remains on providing high-quality care to underserved rural communities. Her commitment to personalized and patient-centered care makes her a trusted leader in family medicine. Dr. Williams graduated from the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed both her residency and fellowship in rural Hendersonville, North Carolina. Her extensive experience in rural healthcare has fueled her passion for addressing the unique healthcare needs of underserved communities, a mission she continues to pursue in her current roles.

Improving Learning and Diffusion of Accountable Care: Developing a More Systematic Approach



Dawn Alley, PhD
Head of Scale, IMPaCT Care

Dawn Alley, Ph.D., has a 20-year career of leadership in population health research, health policy, and health care delivery. She is currently an Executive in Residence at ARPA-H and Head of Scale at IMPaCT Care. She has held previous executive roles including President of Decision Support at CareBridge Health, a Medicaid value-based provider, and as Head of Healthcare Innovation at Morgan Health, JPMorgan Chase's business unit focused on innovation in employer-sponsored insurance. She served in leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 10 years, including as Chief Strategy Officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Dr. Alley is currently affiliate faculty at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and previously served on the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.



Peter Margolis, MD, PhD
Co-Director of James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Peter Margolis is Co-Director Emeritus and Cincinnati Children's Professor of Pediatrics at the James M. Anderson Center for Health System Excellence. His work encompasses applying and studying systems improvement methods across a broad range of areas, including primary and sub-specialty care, communities, and public health settings, to improve the health outcomes of children, families, and communities. He served as Co-Director of the Center from 2016-2024 and currently leads the Center's efforts focused on advancing the science of networked Learning Health Systems. Over the last 20 years, he and his research team have developed innovative approaches that engage patients, their families, clinicians, scientists, and communities in developing network-based learning health systems that improve care, spawn innovation, and accelerate research. Dr. Margolis was co-PI of an NIH Transformative Research Grant focused on developing learning health systems for children with chronic illness by harnessing all stakeholders' inherent motivation and expertise. Dr. Margolis has extensive experience in large-scale comparative effectiveness research, creating large-scale interoperable data systems, managing large project teams, and engaging individuals from diverse backgrounds to co-produce improved care and research. He served as Chair of the PCORnet Council, guiding PCORI's investment in transforming research infrastructure in the US. The ImproveCareNow Network, which he leads, was awarded the Drucker Prize, the largest non-profit management and innovation award in the US. Dr. Margolis is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.



Kathleen Noonan, JD
President and CEO, Camden Coalition

Kathleen Noonan is President & CEO of the Camden Coalition, a nationally recognized, community-based nonprofit organization. Based out of Camden, New Jersey, the Camden Coalition works for people who have been failed by the healthcare system and provides dignified, proactive and comprehensive help, and in doing so, learns about the barriers and challenges they are navigating to design human-centered, scalable and effective solutions and new models of care. The Camden Coalition also houses the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs, launched to coalesce the field of complex care by bringing together a broad range of clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and consumers who are developing, testing, and scaling new models of team-based, integrated care and finding new

and better ways to engage consumers both in their care and the broader health ecosystem. Kathleen has a long career at the intersection of health, children's services, and policy. Before joining the Camden Coalition in 2018, Kathleen worked for ten years at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). In 2008, Kathleen co-founded PolicyLab at CHOP to connect clinical research with real-world health policy priorities, especially for our country's vulnerable children and their families. Previously, Kathleen was a Senior Associate and Engagement Manager with Casey Strategic Consulting, the consulting arm of the Annie E. Casey Foundation where she worked with state and local government agencies involved in system transformation and turn-around efforts. She also worked as a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she taught health law, and founded and directed a Government Law Clinic. Kathleen received her JD from Northeastern University School of Law, and her BA from Barnard College, Columbia University.



Will Shrank, MD
Venture Partner, A16Z

Dr. William Shrank is a venture partner on the a16z Bio + Health team. Will was most recently Humana's Chief Medical Officer. His responsibilities included implementing Humana's integrated care delivery strategy. He also led Humana's Care Delivery Organization, clinical operations, and the Bold Goal population health strategy. Will previously held the position of Chief Medical and Corporate Affairs Officer during which time he oversaw government affairs. Previously, he served as Chief Medical Officer, Insurance Services Division at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer, and Chief Medical Officer of Provider Innovation at CVS Health; and Director of the Research and Rapid-Cycle Evaluation Group for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Across these roles, he developed and evaluated programs for payment and delivery system reform, population health, and continuous quality improvement. Will began his career as a practicing physician with Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and as an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. Will received his MD from Cornell University Medical College. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Georgetown University and his fellowship in health policy research at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also earned a Master of Science degree in health services from the University of California, Los Angeles and a bachelor's degree from Brown University.

The Next Iteration of Innovation—The Role of CMMI in 21st Century Accountable Care in Promoting Learning and Diffusion



Elizabeth Fowler, PhD, JD
Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

Elizabeth Fowler, Ph.D., J.D., is the Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Dr. Fowler previously served as Executive Vice President of programs at The Commonwealth Fund and Vice President for Global Health Policy at Johnson & Johnson. Liz was special assistant to President Obama on health care and economic policy at the National Economic Council. In 2008-2010, she was Chief Health Counsel to Senate Finance Committee Chair, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), where she played a critical role developing the Senate version of the Affordable Care Act. She also played a key role drafting the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA). Liz has over 25 years of experience in health policy and health services research. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where her research focused on risk adjustment, and a law degree (J.D.) from the University of Minnesota. She is admitted to the bar in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Liz is a Fellow of the inaugural class of the Aspen Health Innovators Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



Tim Lash, MBA
President, West Health Institute and West Health Policy Center

Tim Lash oversees the development and execution of West Health’s successful aging portfolio across its nonprofit applied medical research, policy and advocacy initiatives, and outcomes-based philanthropy. Lash has extensive experience in shaping and advancing innovative and disruptive healthcare models, establishing collaborations across a diverse group of stakeholders and organizations, creating new growth platform strategies, and executing acquisitions/equity investments. Prior to joining West Health, he held leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson and several other healthcare companies.

Lash holds an M.B.A. from New York University’s Stern School of Business, with a concentration in finance and marketing. He earned his B.S. in biology from Union College. Lash also serves on the advisory board of the University of Rochester’s d.health Summit. He also serves on the board of directors for Reflexion Health and The Learning Corporation. Additionally, he is a member of the Drug Selection and Market Trend committees for Civica Rx, a nonprofit generic drug company.