Speaker Biographies

**Aylin Altan, PhD**  
Senior Vice President, Research, OptumLabs

Aylin Altan, Senior Vice President of Research, specializes in the use of observational data in applied research settings. Her role within OptumLabs includes working with Partners as a consultant and co-investigator, overseeing the OptumLabs team of scientists and research analysts, and leading workshops, issues panels, and training sessions both for OptumLabs Partners and at clinical, policy, and industry conferences and meetings.

Prior to joining OptumLabs in 2015, Aylin spent 15 years in Optum's Health Economics and Outcomes Research practice. As head of the North American HEOR organization, she was responsible for working with Life Sciences companies to develop evidence generation strategies in support of their key assets, with the end goal of publication in the peer-reviewed, clinical and policy literature.

Aylin holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Stanford University. She was a contributing author to *Managed Care and the Treatment of Chronic Illness*, published by Sage Publications, and has more than 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals and more than 90 posters, workshops, and podium presentations.

**Gretchen Bandoli, PhD**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of California, San Diego

Gretchen Bandoli is a perinatal epidemiologist at the University of California San Diego in the Department of Pediatrics. Her research focuses on pregnancy and early life determinants of mental health and cognition. She is primarily interested in biomarkers of maternal mental health in pregnancy, as well as exposures in pregnancy including psychotropic medications and opioids.

**David Beshara**  
Managing Director, Clinical Programs, OptumRx

David Beshara is a Senior Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy PBM Programs with OptumRx. Dave has been in the industry over 20 years in pharmacy benefits and is responsible for the clinical programs that improve patient safety and efficacy. His experience includes all aspects of managing pharmacy programs including program design, contract negotiation, PBM selection and oversight, internal operations, and legislative affairs. Prior to joining Optum he was a Senior Vice President for a Fortune 100 health plan responsible for the growth, profitability and clinical pharmacy programs of all Government pharmacy programs which included Medicare and Medicaid, and also has experience as the Chief Pharmacy Officer for the TennCare, Tennessee’s Medicaid program.

David is a licensed pharmacist. He graduated from Rutgers College of Pharmacy in Piscataway, NJ with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy and from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ with a MBA in finance. He has done
numerous presentations in the industry and has been interviewed for his expertise by numerous media outlets such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and CNN.

Michael Botticelli, M.Ed
Executive Director, Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine, Boston Medical Center
Distinguished Policy Scholar, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Former Director, National Drug Control Policy

Michael Botticelli is the Executive Director of the Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine at Boston Medical Center and a Distinguished Policy Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Prior to this, Mr. Botticelli was the Director of National Drug Control Policy for the Obama Administration. He joined the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as Deputy Director in November 2012 and later served as Acting Director.

Mr. Botticelli has more than two decades of experience supporting Americans affected by substance use disorders. Prior to joining ONDCP, he served as Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where he successfully expanded innovative and nationally recognized prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also forged strong partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; state and local health and human service agencies; and stakeholder groups to guide and implement evidence-based programs.

Mr. Botticelli holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Siena College and a Master of Education degree from St. Lawrence University. He is also in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder, celebrating more than 28 years of recovery.

Kimberly Brandt, JD, MS
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Kimberly Brandt is the Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). She supports the Administrator for all activities necessary for the operation and management of CMS and its programs, including Medicare, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Kim also assists with the implementation of the CMS priorities, cross-cutting and strategic plan initiatives and the Medicare and Medicaid program integrity programs.

Kim served as Chief Oversight Counsel on the Majority staff of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, where she has served on Committee staff from January 2011 – August 2017. In her role on the Committee, Kim coordinated oversight of the whole range of Committee issues including tax, health care, social security and trade. Before joining the Finance Committee staff, Kim was a Senior Counsel at Alston & Bird in Washington, D.C., advising clients on health care compliance and fraud and abuse issues.

Kim’s previous government service includes seven years as the CMS Director of the Medicare Program Integrity Group. Prior to her first tenure at CMS, Kim worked for five years at the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) as Special Counsel and Director of External Affairs and as a Senior Counsel negotiating False Claims Act settlements and drafting and monitoring Corporate Integrity Agreements, as well as authoring the OIG’s compliance guidance for Individual and Small Group Physician Practices.
Kim received her J.D. with a concentration in health law from the DePaul School of Law, an M.A. in legislative affairs and health policy from George Washington University, and her B.A. from Valparaiso University. She is a nationally recognized expert in healthcare compliance and fraud and abuse issues and in 2016 received the Healthcare Compliance and Ethics Professional of the Year award from the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics and the Health Care Compliance Association.

Catherine Chen, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care, University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Catherine L. Chen is an Assistant Professor in the UCSF Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Care and is affiliated with the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies and the UCSF Center for Healthcare Value. After a brief stint in investment banking, Dr. Chen obtained her MD and MPH from Johns Hopkins followed by an anesthesia residency and research fellowship at UCSF. She received a Research Fellowship Grant in 2013 and a Mentored Research Training Grant in 2016, both from the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). Her research interests include identifying and reducing healthcare overutilization and its potential harms in surgical patients, as well as studying how surgeons and anesthesiologists can help mitigate the current opioid crisis.

Bernie Elliott, MD
Chief Clinical Officer, Population Health Solutions, Optum

Bernie Elliott, M.D., is Chief Clinical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Alignment for Optum’s Consumer Solutions Group. In these roles he provides clinical expertise and oversight to improve the quality and health care effectiveness of Optum’s population health management (medical and behavioral) and specialty solutions.

Dr. Elliott’s current responsibilities include advancing population identification, stratification, interventions and clinical outcomes, the development of evidence-based medicine guidelines and clinical policies, governance of clinical systems, and qualification of Centers of Excellence for network offerings. In addition, he and his team partner on innovative clinical strategies and optimization initiatives to drive medical and behavioral affordability, support client acquisition and retention, and represent the Consumer Solutions Group’s clinical expertise in the marketplace.

Dr. Elliott completed his undergraduate degree at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and went on to earn his M.D. degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. With a background in family medicine, Dr. Elliott spent over a decade as owner and partner of a large-group multispecialty practice in northwestern Illinois. In 2004, he joined John Deere Health as Vice President of Medical Management. Under Dr. Elliott’s leadership, John Deere Health successfully implemented numerous regional and enterprise-wide strategies to improve population health, reduce the total cost of care, and improve the member and provider experience while consistently achieving Excellent NCQA accreditation for Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid products.

With the acquisition of John Deere Health in 2006 by UnitedHealthcare, Dr. Elliott had the opportunity to spend the next five years in various leadership roles. In these roles he successfully developed and implemented a national program to gain remote access to electronic health record systems at key network hospitals. He also led the design of a software solution, which standardized recovery facility documentation and FIM™ scoring, including alert logic that provides decision support for custodial considerations, plateau management, and transitioning to outpatient levels of care.

In 2011, Dr. Elliott joined Optum, the national health services and innovation company, part of UnitedHealth Group, that focuses on modernizing the health system’s infrastructure. At Optum he has held several leadership roles including Chief Medical Officer of Provider Performance and Complex Medical Conditions, and Senior National Medical Director of Population Health Management Clinical Operations.
Dr. Elliott currently lives with his family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he is an avid boater, spending his spare time during the summer on Lake Michigan.

David Elton, DC  
Senior Vice President, Clinical Programs, Optum

Dave Elton has been with OptumHealth since 2001 and is responsible for clinical, UM/UR, credentialing, network designation, and professional/government relations functions at OptumHealth. Before joining OptumHealth, Dr. Elton served in a similar role with OptumHealth Care Solutions, LLC. from 1996 until OptumHealth Care Solutions, LLC. was acquired by OptumHealth in 2001. Prior to joining OptumHealth Care Solutions, LLC., Dr. Elton served in a clinical leadership role within a multi-site, multi-state, multi-disciplinary physical rehabilitation company. Dr. Elton obtained his chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University.

Ana Fuentevilla, MD  
Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare Community & State

Dr. Ana Fuentevilla is Chief Medical Officer of UnitedHealthcare Community & State, which is the largest health benefits company dedicated to providing diversified solutions to states that care for the economically disadvantaged, the medically underserved and those without benefit of employer funded health care coverage. UnitedHealthcare Community & State would rank as 127th on the FORTUNE 500 if it were a stand-alone company. UnitedHealthcare Community & State participates in programs in 24 states markets, serving approximately 5.0 million beneficiaries of acute and long-term care Medicaid plans, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Special Needs Plans and other federal and state health care programs.

As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Fuentevilla is responsible for the overall clinical functions within Community & State, including overall Quality and Affordability results, Model of Care programs, as well as share responsibilities with the health plan CEOs for medical director leadership and performance. Prior to this role, Dr. Fuentevilla was the Central and West Region CMO for Clinical Services where she was responsible for supporting UnitedHealthcare-wide Quality and Affordability programs, our Accountable Care Organization (ACOs)/Person Centered Care Model programs, STARs and HEDIS projects, along with several other key leadership deliverables. Previously, she served as the Chief Medical Officer for Evercare Arizona, the National Medical Director for Complex Care/Long Term Care Health Plans and the West Region Medical Director. Before joining UnitedHealthcare, she served as the Director for the Division of Geriatrics and Long Term Care at Maricopa Integrated Health System, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona, and staff Physician at Tucson Long Term Care.

Dr. Fuentevilla received her M.D. at the University of Arizona and completed her residency in internal medicine. As a Flinn Foundation Scholar, she subsequently completed a fellowship in Geriatrics. She also received a Master in Health Care Delivery Science from Dartmouth College/Dartmouth Institute. Ana is a board member for the Arizona Medicare Directors Association, a member of the American Medical Directors Association, member of Arizona Geriatric Society, American Geriatric Society, National Hispanic Medicare Association and the Arizona Medical Association. In addition, she has published many articles on the elderly population, chronic illness and disabled adults in leading journals and has been a speaker at numerous national and local conferences.
Christopher Hane, PhD
Vice President, Data Science, OptumLabs

As Vice President of Data Science, Dr. Hane is responsible for design and construction of leading edge analytic applications and services. The Data Science team helps OptumLabs partners and external customers meet the challenges of extracting useful information from big data. These projects and frameworks include predictive models, cost analyses and comparative effectiveness research. He has won numerous Optum and UnitedHealth Group innovation awards for this work.

Prior to joining Optum, Dr. Hane was a Product Manager at ILOG (now owned by IBM). In this role Dr. Hane shepherded products from conception to launch as well as managed mature product releases. Dr. Hane’s software experience is in the field of decision support applications – using advanced mathematics to guide decision makers in a wide range of decisions from strategic to operational.

Dr. Hane has over twenty years’ experience in the field of decision support applications. He has designed models to optimally assign the right size aircraft to the flights of a major airline, saving an estimated $300M over three years; selecting the right manufacturing equipment and its location that saved a major cereal company $90M; and designed schedules for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ Pacific salmon fishery that balanced fishery survival with commercial needs.

Dr. Hane holds a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and M.S.O.R. both from Georgia Institute of Technology and a BS in Mathematical Sciences from The Johns Hopkins University. His publications have appeared in the journals Health Services Research, Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, Value in Health, CE Measure, Operations Research, Annals of Operations Research, and Mathematical Programming.

Sam Ho, MD
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare

Sam is responsible for the clinical advancement of UnitedHealthcare’s 40 million members throughout the U.S. who are enrolled in commercial, Medicare, Medicaid, and military health plans. He oversees and influences execution of the quality improvement, innovative medical management, care delivery transformation, performance measurement, transparency, and health care affordability programs throughout UnitedHealthcare and helps lead the value-based benefits and value-based provider payment programs.

W. Michael Hooten, MD
Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic

W. Michael Hooten, MD, a native of Seminole, Oklahoma, graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelors of Musical Arts in piano, and he later received his M.D. degree from Saint Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Following an internal medicine internship at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1992-1993, he was a resident in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 1993-1995. He was then Chief Resident of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine from 1995-1996, after which he completed internal medicine residency training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, from 1996-1998. After working two years in private practice as a psychiatrist and hospitalist in the greater St. Louis, Missouri area, he developed an interest in pain medicine and pursued further residency training in anesthesiology at Washington University School of Medicine from 2000-2003. He then completed a pain medicine fellowship at Mayo Clinic, Rochester in 2004, and was appointed to the faculty of the Department of
Anesthesiology, Division of Pain Medicine the following year. Since 2014, he has been Professor of Anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

Dr. Hooten’s clinical and research interests are broad, but pertain to the effects of smoking and opioid use on the clinical outcomes of chronic pain. He is author or co-author of more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications, and his research has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research, the Indian Health Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Mayo Clinic Foundation. In addition to his role at Mayo Clinic Proceedings, he is Section Co-Editor for the journal Pain Medicine and Associate Editor for Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. Dr. Hooten has served in various leadership capacities for the American Academy of Pain Medicine, American Society of Anesthesiologists, and the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. Most recently, he accepted a Director-at-Large position on the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Patricia Horoho, MS
CEO, OptumServe, retired United States Army Lieutenant General and former U.S. Army Surgeon General

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Patricia (Patty) Horoho joined Optum in 2017 as chief executive officer of OptumServe™, which supports the health needs of federal agencies serving military members and their families, veterans, and Medicare recipients.

Horoho served the Army for 33 years, and was appointed as the 43rd Army Surgeon General, the first woman and nurse to hold that position. There, she led the Army Medical Command, ensuring readiness and providing health care to service members, their families, and retirees around the globe.

Horoho also served as: Special Assistant to the Commander, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, Afghanistan; Deputy Surgeon General; Chief of the Army Nurse Corps; Commander, Western Regional Medical Command; Madigan Army Medical Center; and Walter Reed Health Care System.

Her citations include: Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, France’s National Order of Legion of Honor, Chevalier (Knight), Japan’s Defense Cooperation Award Second Class, and the President’s Lifetime Achievement award. Other awards include USO Woman of the Year (2009), Tiffany Circle Distinguished Woman Warrior, and one of Family Circle’s most influential moms, among many others.

Horoho earned a B.S. in Nursing from the UNC-Chapel Hill, an M.S. as a clinical trauma nurse from Pitt, and an M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. She also holds five honorary doctorates.

Anne Jackson, MBA
Director of Data Science and Machine Learning, Optum Technology

Anne runs the Boston data science team for Informatics and Data Science in Optum Technology Product Engineering & Data Solutions and has a strong track record building models that measurably impact business outcomes. Anne combines business experience with data and modeling experience to provide strong leadership for complex modeling efforts which require multiple modeling techniques along with pragmatic business acumen. Anne joined ID&S in 2016 and her team has since built a variety of machine learning models from disease models to models that improve operational efficiencies for businesses.
In her previous position, she was Chief Data Analyst for IBM’s analytics platform services business, a multi-billion dollar business. Anne has an undergraduate degree in Chemistry, a Master's in Business Administration from MIT Sloan School of Business and has a Chartered Financial Analyst designation. She has more than 15 years of experience using data to impact business outcomes.

Molly Jeffery, PhD
Research Associate, Health Economics, Mayo Clinic

Dr. Jeffery is the Scientific Director of Emergency Care Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine and a research associate in the Department of Health Sciences Research at Mayo Clinic. She has a PhD in Health Services Research, Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota with training in health economics and biostatistics. Her research interests are the use of administrative data to answer questions of importance to clinicians and policymakers, particularly regarding the care of complex patient populations in acute care settings.

Lewis Kazis, ScD
Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for the Assessment of Pharmaceutical Practices (CAPP), Boston University School of Public Health

Dr. Kazis is Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for the Assessment of Pharmaceutical Practices (CAPP) at the Boston University School of Public Health. He is also Director of the Pharmaceutical Research Program at the Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research at the Bedford VA Medical Center. He received his doctoral degree from Harvard University School of Public Health in 1980. Dr. Kazis joined the Veterans Health Administration in 1992 where he was recipient of the prestigious Research Career Scientist Award from the VA for almost a decade. Dr. Kazis has also been a special consultant to the Office of Quality and Performance in the VA where he was previously director of Functional Status for the Veterans Health Administration and principal investigator of the well-known Veterans Health Study. He is the developer of the Veterans RAND 36 and 12 item health surveys (VR-36 and VR-12), formerly called the Veterans SF-36 and SF-12 (SF-36V and SF-12V) and developed from the MOS SF-36. From 1996 to 2007, close to four million administrations of these surveys has occurred both inside and outside the VA for purposes of monitoring patient outcomes of care. The VR-12 has now been adopted by the Veterans Health Administration for quality improvement purposes and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies (CMS) as part of its national Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) for evaluating the Medicare Advantage Program. The VR-12 was included in 2006 as one of the HEDIS measures by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Dr. Kazis’ research team was the recipient of the esteemed Peter Reizenstein Prize for the best paper published in the International Journal for Quality in Health Care in 2006.

Gary Mendell, MBA
Founder, Chairman and CEO, Shatterproof

Gary Mendell is the Founder and CEO of Shatterproof, the national nonprofit dedicated to reducing the devastation that the disease of addiction causes families. Mendell founded Shatterproof in 2012, after losing his 25-year-old son Brian to a 10 year struggle with the disease of addiction, to spare other families the tragedy his family suffered.
Mendell spent decades as an entrepreneur. Prior to launching Shatterproof, he was the founder and CEO of HEI Hotels & Resorts, a multi-billion-dollar company that oversees a portfolio of 70 hotels. Previously, he was president of Starwood Lodging Trust and a member of its board of trustees. His business-world experience gives him a unique perspective to run a non-profit organization.

Mendell decided to use his decade of experience as a parent of a child with substance use disorder and his 25 years in the business world to tackle how addiction is perceived, prevented, and treated in the US, by founding Shatterproof in 2012. Since then, he has met with White House officials and members of Congress to help them formulate laws and regulations that will save thousands of lives.

Under Mendell’s leadership, Shatterproof has advocated for the passage of life-saving legislation that made law in 13 states, brought advocacy support to encourage the release of the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, for the passage of the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), and $1 billion in funding added to the 21st Century Cures Act, all of which will prevent further lives lost due to the disease of addiction.

Shatterproof provides life-saving resources and evidence-based solutions to families struggling with the disease of addiction through our website, community Ambassador program, workplace tools and soon to launch parent support groups. Shatterproof is uniting families across the nation to support each other, share stories and shatter stigma by creating the only national grassroots event series focused on addiction – Shatterproof Rise Up Against Addiction 5k walk/run and Shatterproof Challenge Rappel.

He is a member of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative and a charter member of President Obama’s Better Building Challenge. Mendell received his B.S. from Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration and his MBA with distinction from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Yngvild Olsen, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Institutes for Behavior Resources, Baltimore and Chair of American Society of Addiction Medicine’s Public Policy Committee

Dr. Yngvild Olsen graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1997, from the residency training program in internal medicine at Boston Medical Center in 2000, and from the Fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 2001. From July, 2000 through June, 2001, she served as Primary Care Chief Resident at Boston Medical Center. During her fellowship, she received a Master’s in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Olsen currently serves as Medical Director of the Institutes for Behavior Resources Inc/REACH Health Services in Baltimore City. This is an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program that provides a broad range of services and includes a health home.

She has previously served as the Vice President of Clinical Affairs for the Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, where she played a central role in the expansion of buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction in both the treatment and medical systems. She also has served as the Deputy Health Officer for the Harford County Health Department, where she oversaw local substance use treatment services, and as the Medical Director for the Johns Hopkins Hospital’s outpatient substance use treatment services.

Dr. Olsen has written and lectured extensively on opioid use disorder and its treatments. She has published in numerous journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Journal of Addictive Diseases, on such topics as smoking in substance use treatment programs, the public health impact of buprenorphine treatment expansion, the stigma associated with medication-assisted treatment, and the dual challenges of pain treatment and addiction.

As an addiction medicine specialist trained in internal medicine, she teaches appropriate opioid prescribing to primary care physicians and instructs on medical co-occurring conditions to psychiatrists and other behavioral health providers.
Dr. Olsen currently serves as an At-Large-Member to the ASAM Board of Directors and as Chair of ASAM’s Public Policy Committee. She is the Immediate Past President of the Maryland Society of Addiction Medicine, Immediate Past President of the Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, and a Board member of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-MD (NCADD-MD).

Darshak Sanghavi, MD
Chief Medical Officer & Senior Vice President of Translation, OptumLabs

Darshak Sanghavi, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Translation at OptumLabs. Prior to his current role, he was the Director of Preventive and Population Health at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he oversaw the development of large pilot programs aimed at improving the nation’s health care costs and quality. In this capacity, he was the architect of numerous initiatives, including the $157 million Accountable Health Communities model, the 3 million Medicare beneficiary Million Hearts Cardiovascular Risk Reduction model, and the certification and design of the $1 billion Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program.

Dr. Sanghavi was formerly the Richard Merkin fellow and a managing director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution, where he directed efforts to better engage clinicians in health care payment and delivery reform. He is also an associate professor of pediatrics and the former chief of pediatric cardiology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, in which role he was charged with clinical and research programs dedicated to children’s heart defects.

Dr. Sanghavi is an award-winning medical educator, who has worked in medical settings around the world and published dozens of scientific papers on topics ranging from the molecular biology of cell death to tuberculosis transmission patterns in Peruvian slums. A frequent guest on NBC’s Today and past commentator for NPR’s All Things Considered, Dr. Sanghavi is a contributing editor to Parents magazine, a health care columnist with Slate, and has regularly written about health care for the New York Times, Boston Globe, and Washington Post. His best-seller, A Map of the Child: A Pediatrician’s Tour of the Body, was named a best health book of the year by the Wall Street Journal.

Dr. Sanghavi has spoken widely on medical issues at national conferences and advised federal and state health departments. He is also a former visiting media fellow of the Kaiser Family Foundation and a winner of the Wharton Business Plan Competition. He previously worked for several years as a U.S. Indian Health Service pediatrician on a Navajo reservation. Educated at Harvard College and Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Sanghavi completed his pediatrics residency and cardiology fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital Boston.

Robert Saper, MD, MPH
Director of Integrative Medicine for the Boston Medical Center Department of Family Medicine and an Associate Professor in the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health

Dr. Saper is the Director of Integrative Medicine for the Boston Medical Center Department of Family Medicine and an Associate Professor in the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Saper attended Brandeis University for his undergraduate education. After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1988, he completed a family medicine residency and chief residency at University of California, San Francisco from 1988-1992 and was in private practice for 8 years in the San Francisco Bay area. While in California, he worked closely with Dr. Ornish’s Program for Reversal of Heart Disease. In 2000, he moved back to the Boston area and retooled professionally by entering the three year NIH-funded Integrative Medicine Research Fellowship at Harvard Medical School, which included an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. As a fellow, he published the first nationally representative survey of yoga use in the United States.
In 2004 he joined the Boston University faculty and medical staff of Boston Medical Center where he directs the Program for Integrative Medicine and Health Disparities. The mission of the Program is to bring evidence-based integrative medicine approaches to all, regardless of ability to pay. Soon after arriving at Boston Medical Center, he received a five year Academic Career Development Grant from the NIH National Center for Complementary Alternative Medicine. With this support, he published a pilot study of yoga for chronic low back pain in predominantly low income minorities recruited from federally qualified community health centers. In 2010, Dr. Saper was funded by the NIH to conduct a randomized controlled trial comparing the effectiveness and cost of yoga, physical therapy, and education for back pain in 320 adults. He is also funded by the NIH to study yoga for back pain in veterans. Other major areas of research include the safety and efficacy of traditional Indian herbal medicines.

Davida Schiff, MD, MSc  
Pediatrician and Perinatal Substance Use Researcher, Massachusetts General Hospital & Harvard Medical School

Davida Schiff, MD, MSc, is a general academic pediatrician and health services researcher focused on understanding how substance use in pregnant and parenting women impacts the health of children and families. She is the medical director of the developing HOPE Clinic (Harnessing support for Opioid use disorder in Pregnancy and Early childhood) at Massachusetts General Hospital, which plans to care for women and families from the time of conception through the first two years postpartum. She completed her undergraduate training at Columbia University, medical training at the Boston University School of Medicine, pediatrics residency in the Boston Combined Residency Program at Boston Medical Center and Boston Children’s Hospital, general pediatrics research fellowship at Boston Medical Center, and master’s program in health services research from the Boston University School of Public Health. Her scholarship has focused on understanding stigma towards pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorder (OUD), creating and implementing a specialized curriculum for trainees caring for substance-exposed dyads, assessing the impact of hospital and professional guidelines around supporting breastfeeding in mothers with OUD, and evaluating a novel police-led addiction treatment referral program in Gloucester, MA. Her work with has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Pediatrics, JAMA Pediatrics, Academic Pediatrics, Journal of Substance Abuse and Treatment, and Substance Abuse journals, among others. She is an Instructor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Kun Zhang, PhD
Health Scientist, Prescription Drug Overdose Health Systems Team, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Kun Zhang, PhD, serves as Health Scientist and Senior Service Fellow on Opioid Overdose Prevention (OOP) Health Systems Team in the Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He obtained his PhD in health services and health policy research from Emory University. Dr. Zhang first joined CDC in 2011 as a guest researcher working on projects utilizing third-party payer claims data to define and study measures of inappropriate prescribing and use of pharmaceutical opioids. He formally joined OOP at CDC in 2014, where Dr. Zhang’s research focuses on identifying, evaluating, and disseminating public health strategies and interventions for addressing the opioid overdose epidemic. His research covers identifying high-risk prescribing and use in health insurance claims data and state PDMPs data, evaluating strategies that enhance state PDMPs, evaluating payer strategies for preventing opioid misuse, and investigating their impact on overdose outcomes. He works internally as well as externally with a few CDC partners on developing and validating measures for monitoring high-risk opioid prescribing and use. He also serves as scientific collaborator for multiple CDC funded extramural research projects on opioid overdose prevention.