Shaping a Social Isolation Strategy for Older Adults

Brief Biographies of Convening Participants

Scott Bane
Scott Bane, JD, MPA, is a Senior Program Officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation. His career, including a decade of experience in philanthropy, has been directed toward helping vulnerable men and women, with an emphasis on ensuring that they have access to effective services. He brings experience in working with public partners and non-profits to improve both access to and quality of care for older adults. Mr. Bane graduated from CUNY School of Law in May 2018. During law school Mr. Bane worked at the Medicare Rights Center, where he counseled Medicare beneficiaries through the organization’s national helpline, and immersed himself in Medicare policies and regulations. Prior to law school, Mr. Bane worked for over ten years in philanthropy, first at the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, which at the time focused on promoting LGBT rights, the arts, and a sustainable environment among other issues. Later, Mr. Bane moved to the JEHT Foundation, where he led that foundation’s then newly created Palliative Care program. Before working on aging and health issues, he helped build JEHT’s nascent criminal justice program, focusing on helping men and women re-enter society after incarceration and on mental health treatment. While at JEHT, Mr. Bane completed Baruch College’s Executive MPA program.

Justin Barclay
A veteran of analytics and program evaluation across for-profit, nonprofit, and government organizations, Justin Barclay, DBA, CAP, is Tivity Health’s Vice President of Analytics, Consumer Research, and Data Strategy. He leads the company’s efforts in these areas and is responsible for overseeing a strategy which effectively captures the voice of the customer and converts actionable insights from data into business outcomes which positively impact millions of seniors each year.

Abigail Barth
Abigail Barth, MPH, is the Research and Innovation Program Manager at Foundation for Social Connection (F4SC). She manages and develops research and innovation initiatives for the F4SC and Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (CESIL).

Abigail has experience with diverse program management, program development, health policy, and qualitative research experience in the health and social care spaces. Most recently, she served as a program manager at AIRnyc, a community health worker community-based organization. Abigail previously conducted social determinants of health-focused research at the National Association of Community Health Centers, provided project management support for federal and state health IT infrastructure projects at EMI Advisors, and conducted policy development and coalition work at Horizon Government Affairs.
Abigail holds a B.A. in religion from Barnard College and a Master of Public Health in Health Policy from the George Washington University School of Public Health, where she received recognition for her Master’s thesis on social isolation and loneliness among young adults.

**Susan Beane**

Susan Beane, MD FACP, joined Healthfirst in 2009, bringing with her extensive professional experience in managed care. As Executive Medical Director at Healthfirst, Dr. Beane leads a team that collaborates with major healthcare delivery systems and with local and national policy experts on the design, implementation, and dissemination of innovative, outcomes-focused models of care. Her research contributions span the health of caregivers, obesity, community health collaboration, chronic care management, and maternal health. In particular, Dr. Beane is an expert in the benefits and challenges of the use of health insurance data to define populations and health outcomes.

Dr. Beane, a dedicated proponent of primary care and a board-certified internist, promotes true partnership with providers and communities with the aim of evolving to an effective, efficient, equitable delivery system that can provide satisfactory access for all. Prior to joining Healthfirst, Dr. Beane served as Chief Medical Officer for Affinity Health Plan for five years—during which time she helped Affinity’s plan become a top performer in quality and member satisfaction. Before that, she worked at AmeriChoice and HIP USA, as Medical Director. Dr. Beane is a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**Gwen Bergen**

Gwen Bergen, PHD, MPH, MS, serves as a Behavioral Scientist on the Home and Recreation Team in the Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention (DUIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Injury Center. She works to prevent older adult falls, to understand older adult mobility issues, and on investigating better sources of surveillance and economic data for unintentional injury.

Prior to serving on the Home and Recreation Team, she was a Behavioral Scientist on the Motor Vehicle Team. She began her career at CDC as a post-doctoral fellow at the National Center for Health Statistics working with the injury group. Prior to starting her career in public health she worked as a computer scientist designing, developing, and testing information systems. Dr. Bergen received her bachelor of science degree in health systems and her master of science in information and computer sciences from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. She received her MPH from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, GA and her doctorate in health policy and management with an emphasis in social and behavioral science from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Arlene Bierman
Arlene S. Bierman, MD, MS, directs AHRQ’s Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement, overseeing four divisions: the Evidence-Based Practice Center Program, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Program, Division of Health Information Technology, and Division of Practice Improvement, and the National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research. As a general internist, geriatrician, and health services researcher, she focuses on enhancing healthcare access, quality, and outcomes for older adults with chronic illnesses in underserved populations. Dr. Bierman's research includes utilizing performance measurement for knowledge translation and increasing policymakers’ evidence uptake.

Previously, she held tenured professorships at the University of Toronto, where she pioneered women's health research and served as principal investigator for the Project for an Ontario Women’s Health Evidence-Based Report Card (POWER) study. Dr. Bierman has contributed to numerous advisory committees and boards, including the Geriatric Measurement Advisory Panel of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and Health Quality Ontario. She earned her M.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and completed fellowships in Outcomes Research at Dartmouth Medical School and Community and Preventive Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Dan Blazer
After serving nine years in academic administration at Duke University School of Medicine, Dan Blazer, MD, PhD, resumed teaching, research, and practice in 1999. He was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University in 2002-03. Dr. Blazer has authored or edited 34 books, over 180 abstracts, and more than 360 peer-reviewed articles, along with over 170 book chapters, primarily focusing on depression, epidemiology, and consultation-liaison psychiatry, especially with the elderly. His research emphasizes the prevalence of physical and mental illness in the elderly.

Dr. Blazer has received numerous honors, including a Research Career Development Award from the National Institute of Mental Health, recognition in WHO’S WHO IN AMERICA and WHO’S WHO IN AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN OF SCIENCE, and listing in THE BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA. He has also been honored as a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and received awards from various psychiatric and geriatric associations. Dr. Blazer has held leadership positions in professional organizations such as Past-President of the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry and past chair of the membership committee of the Institute of Medicine. He currently serves as the editor of Duke Medicine HealthNews and is on the editorial board of the Archives of General Psychiatry.
James A. Coan
James Coan, PhD, is Professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of the Virginia Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of Virginia. An entertaining speaker, he brings cutting edge insights to business and research audiences around the world, working with groups as diverse as the Stanford University Psychiatry Department, the Oregon Social Learning Center, Linkage Inc., the University of Arizona Communication Department, InsightLabs, Cambridge International Consulting, the Kurt Lewin Institute, Creating Connections, and the Mindsight Institute. His work emphasizes the neuroscience of emotion and social relationships. He is co-editor of the Handbook of Emotion Elicitation and Assessment and has authored more than fifty scientific articles. He has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Time Magazine, New Yorker, The Atlantic, BBC News, Discovery Channel, New Scientist, Scientific American, CBS Sunday Morning, and other major media outlets. His work with John Gottman on behavior coding was featured in Malcolm Gladwell’s best-seller, Blink. Dr. Coan received the inaugural Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions from the Association for Psychological Science, and the Award for Distinguished Early Career Contributions from the Society for Psychophysiological Research. He is also a team member at Movius Consulting.

Kelly Cronin
Kelly Cronin, MPH, serves as Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Innovation and Partnership at HHS’ Administration for Community Living. She has been with the HHS since 2001, in a variety of roles at the FDA, CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, which she helped establish as its first employee. For several years, she coordinated health IT programs and policies with health care payment and delivery system reform. In her current role, she oversees programs to support Medicare beneficiaries access to low income subsidies, health insurance counseling on their benefit options, as well State No Wrong Door systems to enable access to long-term services and supports and the state efforts to enable access to assistive technologies. Her Center also leads efforts to develop and integrate networks of community based organizations into health care delivery to address social determinants of health. She holds an MPH with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistics and a master of science in health policy from the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University.

Rafael Campos
Rafael Campos, MPS, MBA/MPP, based in Washington, DC, US, is currently a Deputy Director of Public Engagement, Office of the Surgeon General at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with extensive experience in engagement and brand management. At the Office of the Surgeon General, Rafael advises on branding and public relations matters, focusing on strategic communications, announcement roll outs, event planning, and stakeholder engagement. Recently, he also worked on the COVID-19 response portfolio, working on issues such as health misinformation, health care worker burnout, social isolation and loneliness, well-being at work, and youth mental health. Rafael has 8+ years of experience in the federal government spanning three presidential administrations.
Alexa Cardamone
Alexa Cardamone joined The John A. Hartford Foundation in 2022 as the Office Manager. In this role, she supports the President, Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, and her executive assistant. In addition, she assists with daily office operations, coordinates travel for the executive team, and facilitates the organization’s day-to-day needs. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked mainly in art galleries as a personal assistant. Ms. Cardamone earned her bachelor’s degrees in Anthropology and Art History from New York University in 2020.

Jane Carmody
Jane Carmody, DNP, MBA, RN, FAAN, serves as a Senior Program Officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation, focusing on improving older adult care. She collaborates with Foundation leadership to oversee initiatives in Age-Friendly Health Systems, Family Caregiving, and Serious Illness and End of Life care. Dr. Carmody’s grants support age-friendly public health systems, community-based services for older adults, dementia care programs, and standards in emergency, surgical, and home-based hospital care for seniors.

Prior to her role at the Foundation, she held leadership positions in healthcare systems, including executive director of home health and hospice services, hospital chief nursing officer, and system CNO. Dr. Carmody holds a DNP from Rush University, an MBA from Creighton University, and social work and nursing degrees from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Mercy College, respectively. She is nationally certified in executive nursing practice and board-certified in Nurse Executive-Advanced. Dr. Carmody is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and serves on the ANCC Commission on Pathway to Excellence, representing long-term care settings.

JiHo Chang
JiHo Chang, MPH, MHA, is a Program Officer and Senior Technology Advisor at The John A. Hartford Foundation. As a member of the program team, he works closely with program officers, grantees, and external consultants throughout the grant evaluation and new proposal processes. In his role as Senior Technology Advisor, JiHo contributes to the testing, implementation, and support of IT applications and data management systems used by the Foundation. Before joining The John A. Hartford Foundation, he gained experience in clinical healthcare, healthcare system management, sustainable development, and community-based public health through various organizations. JiHo earned a BA in Economics from New York University, an MPH from the University of Utah, School of Medicine, and an MHA from the University of Utah, David Eccles School of Business.

Katie Clark
Katie Clark is currently pursuing a part-time MPH degree at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Health Policy Analyst for the Office of Interagency Innovation and Office of Network Advancement in the Center for Innovation and Partnership, at the Administration for Community Living. Katie leads Commit to Connect, a cross-sector initiative increasing the availability of programs addressing social isolation and loneliness. She is a
Program Management Specialist with over 5 years of experience in public health, project management, and public policy in a technical and administrative capacity.

**Thomas Cudjoe**  
Thomas Cudjoe, MD, MPH, is the 2021 Caryl & George Bernstein CIM/HAP Scholar. He is an Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology and is investigating a relationship between social isolation and inflammatory biomarkers. His recent findings from a large nationally represented study indicate that social isolation has biological influences and could lead to poor health outcomes such as dementia and premature mortality — a finding of particular import since 1 in 4 community dwelling adults over age 65 are considered socially isolated. Cudjoe’s work points to the importance of developing programs and interventions to address isolation among the aged.

**Sara Czaja**  
Sara J. Czaja, MS, PhD holds a BS in Psychology and an MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering from SUNY University at Buffalo. As Director of the Center on Aging and Behavioral Research at Weill Cornell Medicine, she leads groundbreaking research in applied gerontology, aiming to enhance the quality of life for older adults. With expertise in aging research, cognition, e-health, and caregiving, Dr. Czaja has authored numerous publications and actively promotes aging research nationally. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, Gerontological Society of America, and Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Additionally, she chairs the Health Services Research and Demonstration study section for the Veterans Administration and serves on various NIH committees. Dr. Czaja also holds editorial roles for prominent journals in her field, including Human Factors and ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing.

**George Demeris**  
George Demiris, PhD, FACMI, is a pioneering figure in biomedical informatics, particularly in e-health and patient-centered technologies. His research delves into utilizing technology to support patients and families, especially in home and hospice care settings. Dr. Demiris focuses on designing and evaluating personal health systems, including "smart home" solutions for aging, and wearable devices to enhance independence and quality of life for older adults. He emphasizes user-friendly design for older adults, addressing challenges of privacy and technology integration.

As a co-founder of the Hospice Caregiver Research Network, Dr. Demiris leads initiatives to support family caregivers, including a clinical trial testing a behavioral intervention. He is recognized as a Fellow of prestigious organizations like the National Academy of Medicine and the American College of Medical Informatics. His federally funded research, spanning NIH and NSF projects, contributes significantly to advancing healthcare technology. Dr. Demiris holds joint faculty appointments at the University of Pennsylvania and earned his PhD in health informatics from the University of Minnesota.
Nancy J. Donovan
Nancy J. Donovan, MD, is a geriatric psychiatrist, Director of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Donovan’s clinical-neuroimaging research investigates psychiatric symptoms and social connection during late life and their relationship to Alzheimer’s disease pathologies and cognitive function. She was a committee member and contributing author of the 2020 National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report on the Health and Medical Dimensions of Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults. She was author and senior editor for the textbook Loneliness: Science and Practice published by the American Psychiatry Association Press in 2023. She serves on the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

Robert Espinoza
Robert Espinoza, MPA, is the Chief Executive Officer at the National Skills Coalition, which fights for state and federal policies that promote inclusive, high-quality skills training so that more people have access to a better life and more local businesses see sustained growth. In addition, Robert serves as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and sits on the board of directors for the National Academy of Social Insurance, the FrameWorks Institute, and the American Society on Aging, where he holds the position of Chair Elect. In 2020, Robert was selected for the inaugural CARE100 list, recognizing him as one of the most forward-thinking individuals reshaping the landscape of caregiving in America, and as one of Next Avenue’s 2020 Influencers in Aging. Since 2023, he has hosted A Question of Care, a widely syndicated podcast exploring the many challenges facing our country’s caregiving system.

Amy Eisenstein
Amy Eisenstein, PhD, is passionate about conducting research in the combined fields of public health and aging. She wants her research to advance opportunities toward more equitable health care for older adults. She wants to help older adults achieve and maintain higher levels of dignity and quality of life. She is a Senior Program Office for the RRF Foundation for Aging, the Director of the Leonard Schanfield Research Institute at CJE SeniorLife and an adjunct assistant professor at Northwestern University, Department of Medical Social Sciences, in the Feinberg School of Medicine. She completed her Master’s degree in gerontology and her Doctorate degree in 2011 in public health. Her research interests include using mixed methodologies to understand aging, health, and disease; and methodologies to measure and validate patient-reported outcomes in diverse populations. She has contributed to two PCORI research projects, and three Engagement Awards. She is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) for a Eugene Washington Engagement Award: “Sages in Every Setting: Enhancing an Innovative Model to Incorporate Older Adult Voice into Research.” She has worked collaboratively with academic institutions, and strives to bridge research between academics, community-based organizations, and government organizations. She is active in professional organizations including the Gerontological Society of America and the American Society on Aging.
Erin Emery-Tiburcio
Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP, is a professor of Geriatric and Rehabilitation Psychology and co-director of the Center for Excellence in Aging at RUSH University Medical Center. She completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Bowling Green State University, residency at Harvard Medical School/VA Boston and her fellowship in clinical geropsychology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She is past-president of the Society for Clinical Geropsychology within the American Psychological Association, where she developed GeroCentral.org, a clearinghouse for geriatric mental health resources. She currently serves as chair of the American Psychological Association’s Committee on Aging. Emery-Tiburcio is co-director of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program of Illinois based at RUSH University Medical Center, which is developing multiple educational programs for all levels of professionals who work with older adults, as well as partnering with primary care clinics across the state to transform care for older adults with multiple chronic conditions (www.catch-on.org). She also co-directs the RUSH Center for Excellence in Aging, which integrates RUSH’s foundation of leading-edge research, health care and aging education, evidenced-based clinical practice, community engagement and local and national policy change (aging.rush.edu).

Marcus Escobedo
Marcus R. Escobedo, MPA, serves as Vice President, Communications, and Senior Program Officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation, where he shapes the organization’s communications strategy and manages a grants portfolio for various projects. With a commitment to social change, he has directed initiatives to enhance emergency and surgical care for older adults and geriatrics training programs for physicians. Previously, Mr. Escobedo worked at the Women’s Foundation of California and Communities in Schools of Georgia, focusing on community development and education. He also taught elementary school in Oakland through Teach for America.

Actively engaged in philanthropic and research communities, Mr. Escobedo serves on the boards of Grantmakers in Aging and Hispanics in Philanthropy. He contributes to initiatives like the Aging PCOR Learning Collaborative and the Geriatric Emergency Department Innovations project. His dedication extends to community service, having served on various boards addressing health equity and senior services. Mr. Escobedo holds bachelor’s degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and a master’s in public administration from New York University.
Steve Ewell
Steve Ewell, MBA/MSITS, serves as the executive director of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) Foundation, leading initiatives to connect seniors and people with disabilities with life-enhancing technology. He has been with the foundation since its inception in January 2012.

Prior to his role at CTA Foundation, Steve held leadership positions in various nonprofits. As managing director of the InfraGard National Members Alliance (INMA), he collaborated with the FBI to promote critical infrastructure protection. At Business Executives for National Security (BENS), he expanded membership and engagement in the Metro Washington, DC region. Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts from Drew University, an MBA, and a Master of Science in Information and Telecommunications Systems from Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School. He contributes to the advisory councils of the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) at the University of Colorado and the Enhancing Neurocognitive Health, Abilities, Networks & Community Engagement (ENHANCE) at Weill Cornell.

Maureen Feldman
An authority and advocate on issues facing the aging population, Maureen Feldman, MA, has conducted research, written and produced training videos, and regularly presents on the positive impacts of social connectivity, and the necessity of technology, and of cross-generational mentorships. Maureen developed a course curriculum designed to address communication issues facing aging adults entitled ‘Stay Connected; Communicating in the 21st Century. Her courses are designed for anyone who wishes to learn about, understand, and benefit from new technologies that are impacting day-to-day life.

Maureen has served as a consultant for the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Vice-Chair of the Los Angeles Collaborative for Healthy Active Children, and as an Advisory Board member for the LAUSD Physical Education Department. Most recently she formed and chairs the Los Angeles-based Social Isolation and Loneliness Impact Coalition.
Lori Frank
Lori Frank, PhD, is the inaugural President of Women’s Health Access Matters (WHAM). Her career has focused on incorporating community perspectives in health research and health policy to advance public health and health equity. She serves on the Board of the Personalized Medicine Coalition and on the Medical, Scientific, and Memory Screening Advisory Board of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America. She is Past President of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Research, a professional society devoted to health outcomes assessment. She completed her Health and Aging Policy Fellowship through the Congressional Fellowship Program; before that, she served on executive leadership for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). She has held research and teaching positions with Georgetown University Department of Psychiatry, the National Institute on Aging, the New York Academy of Medicine, MedImmune LLC/AstraZeneca, and the Veteran’s Administration. She completed postdoctoral training in health services research with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Her PhD is in Human Development/Gerontology from Pennsylvania State University and her MA is in biopsychology from Johns Hopkins University.

Alexa Fleet
Alexa Fleet, MPH, is a research assistant at New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her research interests focus on behavioral health integration, social determinants of health, and broader life course and social gerontology topics such as intergenerational relationships and caregiving solutions. Fleet earned an M.P.H. in sociomedical sciences from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where she specialized in the health of an aging society.

Terry Fulmer
Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, is President of The John A. Hartford Foundation, leading efforts to enhance care for older adults. She’s recognized for pioneering the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement and NICHE program. As a trustee for various organizations, she influences policy and research in aging and healthcare. Dr. Fulmer is a National Academy of Medicine member and served on the Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. She holds faculty positions at esteemed universities and is a Distinguished Practitioner of the National Academies of Practice. A renowned expert, she’s received numerous awards for her contributions to geriatrics, elder abuse research, and nursing leadership. Dr. Fulmer is a Fellow of several prestigious organizations and has authored over 150 papers and edited 23 books.
Colleen Galambos
Colleen Galambos, PhD, MSW is Helen Bader Endowed Chair in Applied Gerontology, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She directs the Office of Applied Gerontology, and conducts interdisciplinary research to understand and address health, social, community, and service needs among older adults and caregivers. She served on study sections for NSF and DHHS, participated in National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Consensus Study Committees and the National Academy of Medicine’s Vital Directions project. She was Editor-in-Chief for Health and Social Work and The Journal of Social Work Education and served as the NASW Aging Practice Section Chair. She served on numerous Boards and Advisory Committees including NASW, International Society for Gerontechnology (North America), The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organization PTAC for Long Term Care, and the Missouri Board of Nursing Home Administrators. She co-authored 4 books and published more than 140 journal articles, book chapters, and other publications. She is honored with numerous awards including: Milwaukee Business Journal Women of Influence Award, 2020; Excellence in Research Award, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, 2020; University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing Honorary Alumni Award, 2017; NASW Pioneer, 2016; Gerontological Society of America Fellow, 2013.

Melissa Gerald
Melissa Gerald, PhD, a program director at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), focuses on families' impact on health in midlife and older age. She's developing a research program on animal models of human sociality. Managing aging-related research on sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations and stigma reduction, she represents NIA on the trans-NIH SGM Research Coordinating Committee. Previously, at the Center for Scientific Review, she oversaw scientific review processes. Before NIH, she was an associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico, leading biobehavioral research on nonhuman primates. Dr. Gerald earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from UCLA and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She completed postdoctoral training in behavioral neuroendocrinology at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Robyn Golden
Robyn Golden, MSW, is the Associate Vice President of Social Work and Community Health and Chair of the Department of Social Work at Rush University Medical Center. She co-directs Rush’s Center for Excellence in Aging and the Center for Health and Social Care Integration. Additionally, she leads Rush’s Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program and co-directs the Rush Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging. Ms. Golden spearheads Rush’s Caregiver Initiative, consolidating evidence-based practices to enhance care for older adults and caregivers. With faculty appointments in Nursing, Medicine, Psychiatry, and Health Systems Management, she has over 35 years of experience in service provision, program development, education, research, and policy. Recognized with awards like the Insley-Evans Public Health Social Worker of the Year and the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging, she's also a fellow of prestigious organizations and a NASW Social Work Pioneer. Ms. Golden holds a master’s degree from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor’s degree from Miami University.
Emily A. Greenfield
Emily A. Greenfield, PhD, (she/her/hers) is a Professor of Social Work and Director of the Hub for Aging Collaboration at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her scholarship seeks to bolster community-centered approaches for advancing innovation and equity in social programs for long and healthy lives. Dr. Greenfield’s work has helped to accelerate 21st century models for aging in community, including age- and dementia-friendly community initiatives, housing-based supportive service programs, and village initiatives. Dr. Greenfield also conducts research on how social inequalities from childhood influence later life cognition and well-being. Funders of her work have included the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer’s Association, and philanthropic foundations. She obtained a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Meredith Hanley
Meredith Hanley, MSW, joined USAging in 2016 and currently serves as USAging’s Director, Community Capacity Building. In this role, she oversees engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults, a national effort to increase the social engagement of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers by expanding and enhancing the Aging Network’s capacity to offer social engagement. Meredith also oversees USAging’s role in the Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center, which is led by Generations United in collaboration with five key partners including USAging, to increase the capacity and effectiveness of states, territories, tribes/tribal organizations, nonprofits and other community-based organizations to serve and support grandfamilies and kinship families.

Prior to joining USAging, Meredith worked for the Aging and Disability Services Division of Arlington County, VA, where she oversaw program performance metrics and quality improvement for the Division and worked on a variety of special projects. She has also served as the Co-Director of the Gero-Ed Center at the Council on Social Work and worked as a contractor for the Administration on Aging’s Alzheimer’s disease demonstration grant program through RTI International. Meredith has a master’s degree in social work with a focus in gerontology from Washington University in St. Louis.

Louise Hawkley
Louise Hawkley, PhD, is a Senior Fellow with the Bridge department at NORC, a research center affiliated with the University of Chicago. Hawkley is an international expert on loneliness and co-developed the evolutionary theory of loneliness. She is a co-investigator on the NIA-funded panel study, the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (NSHAP). Her research predominantly addresses loneliness and health during aging, and she consults on this and related topics for community organizations, national and international advisory groups, and academic researchers from institutions across the country.
Maureen Henry
Maureen Henry, JD, PhD, has two decades of expertise spanning health policy, quality improvement, and performance measurement. Currently serving as Deputy Director for the International Longevity Center-US at the Columbia Aging Center, and Deputy Director for Fellowship Programs with the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program, Maureen has held pivotal roles in various esteemed organizations. Previously, she contributed as a Senior Program Officer at the National Academy of Medicine and a Senior Manager at CVP Health. Her tenure at NCQA and as a Health and Aging Policy Fellow in Senator Mark Warner’s office further enriched her experience in healthcare legislation and policy. Notably, as the Executive Director of the Utah Commission on Aging, Maureen led impactful initiatives, including legislative reforms and the establishment of the Utah Aging and Disability Center. Maureen holds a J.D. from the University of California Berkeley Law School and a Ph.D. in Nursing Research from the University of Utah. Her interests include biomedical ethics, person-driven care, and patient engagement in healthcare quality improvement.

Jeremy Holloway
Jeremy Holloway, PhD, is a Geriatric Professor & Director of Geriatric Education at the University of North Dakota. The focus of his research is concentrated on the social determinants of health, specifically self-efficacy, connectedness, and resiliency of individuals, specifically older adults. Dr. Holloway is exploring a curriculum focused on intergenerational programs that include growth mindset, reminiscence therapy, mindfulness, guided imagery, and S.M.A.R.T. goal-setting practices to nourish internal qualities and self-agency of older adults. These best practices address needs related to loneliness and isolation of older adults. Dr. Holloway also presents and facilitates workshops on best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion within educational facilities and professional organizations.

Juliane Holt-Lunstad
Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD, is a professor of psychology and neuroscience and director of the Social Connection & Health Lab at Brigham Young University. She is also the founding scientific chair and board member for the U.S. Foundation for Social Connection and the Global Initiative on Loneliness and Connection.

Dr. Holt-Lunstad is an international scientific expert whose research focuses on the individual and population health effects, biological mechanisms, and effective strategies to mitigate risk and promote protection associated with social connection. Her research has been seminal in the recognition of social isolation and loneliness as risk factors for early mortality. As the lead scientific editor for a US Surgeon General’s Advisory and Framework for a National Strategy, her work also focuses on translating evidence into practice and policy. She serves as a scientific advisor and regularly consults for organizations across sectors aimed at addressing this issue.

Musa Hussain
As a recent political science graduate from the University of Connecticut Honors program, Musa Hussain joined The New York Academy of Medicine as a Research Assistant in 2023.
Narda Ipakchi
Narda Ipakchi, MBA, serves as Vice President of Policy for The SCAN Foundation, bringing extensive expertise in health and aging policy. With prior roles including Medicare & Medicaid Policy Director for the United States Senate Aging Committee, Narda advised on critical issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities. She spent over 15 years in private sector consulting, specializing in Medicare and Medicaid policy at Avalere Health, Manatt Health, and Health Management Associates. Narda holds a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park. Beyond her professional pursuits, she enjoys outdoor adventures, cultural exploration through travel, and refining recipes.

Edna Ishayik
Edna Ishayik, MA, is currently a Associate Director, Science and Policy at Office of the U.S Surgeon General, bringing experience from previous roles at New York Times, New York Magazine, Conde Nast Traveler, VICE Magazine, Obama Foundation, Civic Nation and The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law. Edna Ishayik holds a Master’s Degree in Journalism from New York University.

Ann Mond Johnson
Ann Mond Johnson, MBA, is the CEO of the American Telehealth Association (ATA), a nonprofit association that boasts over 10,000 industry and healthcare leaders in their membership network. Joining several notable women who are already a part of the executive leadership staff at ATA, Ann brings decades of experience along with invaluable insights into the position. Ann’s career in healthcare spans over 20 years. She began her career using healthcare data and information with the Sachs group, then moved on to assist Chicago’s reputation as a major hub for healthcare tech firms. More recently, she served as CEO of Zest Health as well as Board Chair and Advisor to ConnectedHealth. As an entrepreneur, Ann sold her first company Subimo to WebMD in 2006. As the CEO of ATA, Ann will “lead efforts to build ATA’s strategic partnerships and alliances that ensure that consumers – patients, employees, members and others – across the United States and globally can reap the full benefits of advanced healthcare technology to gain access to top-quality care, delivered cost-effectively.”

Elana Kieffer
Elana Kieffer, MBA, is the Director of NYAM’s Center for Healthy Aging. She has nearly 15 years of experience working in a wide range of older adult services, with a focus on project management, program development, and sales and marketing. Prior to her time at the Academy, Elana worked at The New Jewish Home and at MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care. She also worked in affordable and market-rate senior housing for two Boston-based organizations, The Community Builders and Hebrew SeniorLife. Elana has an MBA in nonprofit management with a concentration in aging services from the Heller School at Brandeis University.
Priscilla Ko
Priscilla Ko, PharmD, is a program officer with The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. She is also a director at the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation whose mission is to promote health equity and improve health outcomes of populations disproportionately affected by serious diseases. Priscilla currently leads a national portfolio focused on cardiovascular and immunologic diseases and a global initiative in Brazil on addressing cancer disparities. In addition to her grantmaking responsibilities, she is also responsible for the Foundation’s monitoring and evaluation efforts. Prior to her role, she lived in South Africa working on global health issues including HIV/AIDS, pharmacy education and training, and building capacity for healthcare workers. She received her Pharm.D. from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at UPMC St. Margaret in Pittsburgh with a focus in family medicine and underserved care.

Amalia Korniyenko
Amalia is a Pre-Med Student at New York University. She joined the John A Hartford Foundation as a Health and Aging Research Intern in 2023.

Lesley Krien
Lesley Krien, MPH, is an Advancement Associate with the CDC Foundation. She is a previous COVID-19 first responder and Master of Public Health graduate from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. She has a background in global health and emergency response that has led to a keen interest in the promotion of population health and safety. She is passionate about leveraging partnerships and strategic planning to support global health initiatives.

Ann Kurth
Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, MPH, assumed the presidency of The New York Academy of Medicine in 2023, transitioning from her role as Dean and Professor at Yale University. Her diverse background in epidemiology and nursing midwifery informs her research, which focuses on HIV/reproductive health and global health system strengthening. With over $20 million in research funding, she has led studies funded by prestigious organizations such as the NIH, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and UNAIDS. Dr. Kurth has co-founded initiatives like the Yale Institute for Global Health and contributed extensively to scientific literature with 237 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and monographs. She holds memberships in esteemed organizations like the National Academy of Medicine and is a past chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. Dr. Kurth’s leadership extends to roles on influential boards, including co-chairing the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Board on Global Health and serving on the board of Yale New Haven Hospital.
Abby Levy
Abby Levy, MBA, is a Managing Partner and Co-founder of PrimeTime Partners, an early-stage investment fund focused exclusively on improving the quality of living of older adults, an audience historically underserved by entrepreneurs and the venture community. Abby has spent her career helping businesses and consumer brands grow as an operator, entrepreneur, and advisor, most notably in the wellness sector. Abby has also been a Founder herself, teaming with Arianna Huffington to launch Thrive Global, a behavior change technology company focused on employee productivity and wellness. Abby served as President of Thrive Global and then moved to SoulCycle as an executive to build new revenue streams, including digital fitness. Abby began her career at McKinsey & Company then led product development at OXO International. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School.

Greg Link
Greg Link, MA, is the Director of the Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services with the Administration for Community Living/U.S. Administration on Aging, which oversees programs funded under the Older Americans Act (OAA), including Title III-B in-home supportive services, Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program as well as ACL's Alzheimer's disease programs. Greg and his team also provide general oversight and technical assistance to the aging network on a range of program areas, including Information and Referral, family caregiver support programs and policies, housing, employment, transportation, LGBT aging, and Holocaust Survivors. Before coming to ACL/AoA, Greg worked at the National Association of State Units on Aging where he provided technical assistance and training to states on family care giving, consumer direction, and transportation. Greg has also worked at the community level as a case manager and social services manager at Senior Friendship Centers in Fort Myers, Florida. There, he oversaw the social services staff and the delivery of services funded by the Older Americans Act, state funds and Medicaid waivers. Greg holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Arts in Government from Johns Hopkins University.

Tracy Lustig
Tracy Lustig, DPM, MPH, is a senior program officer with the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. With a background in podiatric medicine and surgery, she transitioned to policy after a congressional fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Since joining the Academies in 2004, her work has centered on healthcare workforce and aging issues. She has directed consensus studies on geriatrics workforce, oral health, and ovarian cancer research, and organized workshops covering various healthcare topics. Dr. Lustig played a key role in launching the Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence, which she now directs. She holds a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine from Temple University and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in health policy from George Washington University.
**Sandy Markwood**
Sandy Markwood, MA, CEO of USAgeing since 2002, is a prominent advocate for aging issues, striving to ensure older adults have robust support for aging well in their homes and communities. With over 30 years of experience in aging, health, and human services, Sandy spearheads initiatives advocating for legislation supporting older adults' access to vital services and caregiver support. Under her leadership, USAgeing has launched campaigns combating social isolation, promoting healthy aging, supporting caregivers, and creating dementia-friendly communities. Sandy fosters partnerships to enhance the role of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI programs, advocating for independence and quality of life in aging. With a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Virginia, Sandy sets strategic direction, oversees policy implementation, and leads fundraising efforts at USAgeing. Her vision is to add life to the years of older adults, emphasizing maximizing independence and quality of life.

**Earl Millett**
Earl Millett joined the Weinberg Foundation as a program officer in 2018, and he currently is Managing Director of Program Team Operations responsible specifically for leading the Foundation’s aging strategy and managing key collaborations and grantee relationships across the Foundation’s priority communities with particular focus on Northeastern Pennsylvania. Nationally the Foundation focuses on expansion of the CAPABLE and PACE model as well as capital investment in supportive housing for older adults with a particular interest in LGBTQ Affirming housing.

**Adrianna Nava**
Adrianna Nava, PhD, MPA, MSN, RN, is a Research Scientist at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) where she serves as the scientific lead for the development of measures addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH). She is also the President of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), where she is an advocate for addressing health disparities through the advancement of nurses in leadership, research, and policy. She is an Adjunct Instructor at Emory University’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and Capstone Faculty for the Safety, Quality, Informatics and Leadership (SQIL) Program at Harvard Medical School. Previously, she served as the Chief of Quality at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL. Adrianna has an MPA’20 from Harvard University; a PhD’19 in Nursing and Health Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston; an MSN’12 in Health Leadership and Policy from the University of Pennsylvania; and a BSN’09 from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. She was recently named one of the Top 25 Emerging Healthcare Leaders of 2023 by Modern Healthcare.
Kevin McIntyre
Kevin McIntyre is a Government Relations Manager at TFAH, where he works to advance the organization’s legislative priorities on age-friendly public health systems environmental health and other issues. Before joining TFAH, Mr. McIntyre worked at the Alliance for Health Reform as a Program Assistant for Health Policy & Congressional Outreach, providing support for the group’s events on Capitol Hill. Prior to that, he held internships with Sen. Bob Casey, Jr. (D-PA) and Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA). Mr. McIntyre graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Maryland in 2013 with a BA in Government & Politics.

Berenice Medina
Berenice Medina, MPH, CHES® is a Research Associate for The New York Academy of Medicine. Prior to joining the Academy in 2021, she worked for The Idaho Foodbank as their Health Initiatives Coordinator where she was able to partner with health systems, non-profits, community leaders and food bank partners to strengthen Idaho communities and educate others about the impact of food insecurity in Idaho. In her work, Ms. Medina is passionate about building a Culture of Health and she is eager to continue fostering and nurturing community relationships. Fluent in Spanish, she has experience working alongside marginalized communities to better understand their needs and hopes for their community. Ms. Medina holds a bachelor's degree from American University and a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University.

Sarita Mohanty
Sarita A. Mohanty, MD, MPH, MBA, serves as the president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. The SCAN Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the United States focused on improving the quality of health and life for older adults. Its mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. Previously, Mohanty served as the vice president of care coordination for Medicaid and vulnerable populations at Kaiser Permanente. Mohanty was previously assistant professor of medicine at USC; chief medical officer of COPE Health Solutions, a health care management consulting company; and senior medical director at LA Care, the largest US public health plan. Mohanty completed her internal medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and research fellowship at Harvard Medical School. She earned her MD from Boston University, MPH from Harvard University, and MBA from UCLA. She completed undergraduate work at UC Berkeley. She currently is an associate professor at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine and is a practicing internal medicine physician with Kaiser Permanente.

Jeremy Nobel
Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH, specializes in designing and evaluating healthcare management systems focusing on cost, quality, and user engagement. He collaborates with various stakeholders to develop value-based care models, leveraging technology to improve information flow and enhance patient outcomes. Nobel's work has led to significant improvements in acute and chronic care, diabetes, cardiovascular management, and hospital quality and safety. He
integrates emerging technologies with personalized health insurance benefit designs to promote user engagement and behavior change among healthcare consumers. Nobel also emphasizes community-level care delivery and person-centered care aligned with individual attitudes and beliefs. He serves as Medical Director of the Northeast Business Group on Health and is affiliated with Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. Nobel is also the founder and president of the Foundation for Art and Healing, exploring the relationship between creative arts expression and health. He is a published poet with board certifications in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine and master's degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Mary O’Donnell
Mary O’Donnell, MA, is the president of RRF Foundation for Aging (RRF) in Chicago, IL. RRF is a national grantmaking organization and one of the few private foundations in the U.S. devoted exclusively to aging issues and improving the quality of life of older people. Mary oversees all Foundation operations, the annual distribution of more than $7.5 million to grantee partners, and the implementation of a strategic plan that calls for proactive and solutions-focused grantmaking, funder collaboration, and knowledge sharing. RRF’s funding strategies seek to amplify and positively impact four priority areas. These include family caregiving, older adult housing, social and intergenerational connectedness, and economic security in later life. Mary’s leadership ensures a top-level commitment to this work. She joined the RRF Foundation for Aging in 2009, leading various aspects of its grantmaking, planning, and strategic advancement efforts before stepping into her current role in 2020. Nationally, Mary served on the Board of Directors of Grantmakers in Aging for several years, and Grantmakers in Health named her an Emerging Leader in Health Philanthropy. Locally, she has been active within Forefront and Chicago Foundation for Women. Mary received her master’s degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, with concentrations in geriatric social work and nonprofit management.

Emmeline Ochiai
Emmeline Ochiai, MPH, is a Senior Advisor in Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). During Emmeline’s tenure at HHS, she has led large scale activities to implement the nation’s disease prevention and health promotion goals. She is credited with creating strategic public-private partnerships, serving as the DFO for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030, leading efforts to address the social determinants of health and health equity, being the architect of a leading online evidence-based resources tool, guiding the production of Healthy People’s mid-decade assessments and final reviews, spearheading Healthy People 2030’s wellbeing activities, and securing over $8 million in intra-agency funds for collaborative projects to advance the health and well-being of the nation. In 2021, the White House recruited Emmeline to serve a Special Advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and Supervisory Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (PACAANHPI). During her tenure with WHIAANHPI, Emmeline
served to operationalize and launch the WHIAANHPI and the PACAANHPI. Emmeline is a graduate of Harvard University and Bryn Mawr College.

**Renee Pepin**
Renee Pepin, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in Community and Family Medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She is trained in geropsychology and is interested in expanding access to mental health services for older adults in community-based settings. She conducts community partner ed research examining the implementation of evidence-based interventions for social connectedness and depressive symptoms. She is focused on brief and practical strategies to delivery through a combination of community-based aging service providers and technology.

**Carla Perissinotto**
Carla Perissinotto, MD, MHS, serves as the first Associate Chief for Geriatrics Clinical Programs at UCSF since 2017. In this role, she oversees both inpatient and outpatient programs, including Care at Home, outpatient geriatrics consultation, and the Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) unit at Moffitt-Long Hospital. She is an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, and is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Perissinotto is dedicated to community and academic work, particularly in UCSF Care at Home and embedded geriatrics consult practices. She has received numerous teaching awards and focuses on enhancing internal medicine residents' training in elderly patient care. Dr. Perissinotto’s research on loneliness in older adults, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine in 2012, has gained international recognition, prompting discussions on its health effects and interventions. She is exploring future research and policy initiatives on loneliness and strives to integrate geriatrics training into general medicine practices, offering community electives and housecalls programs for residents.

**Cheryl Phillips**
Cheryl Phillips, MD, is a Senior Program Consultant at The John A Hartford Foundation. She is the immediate past president and CEO of the Special Needs Plan Alliance, a national leadership association for special needs and Medicare-Medicaid plans serving vulnerable adults. She has extensive experience in health policy, Medicare Advantage and the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). As a fellowship-trained geriatrician her clinical practice focused on the long-term care continuum.

Dr. Phillips is a past president of the American Geriatrics Society and is also a past president of the American Medical Directors Association, the society for post-acute and long-term care medicine. She continues to serve on multiple technical advisory groups for chronic care, long-term care quality, home and community-based services, and person-centered measures, and has provided multiple testimonies to the U.S. Congress. She served as a primary care health policy fellow under Secretary Tommy Thompson, and is a board member for SCAN Health Plan and board chair of The SCAN Foundation.
Harold Pincus
Dr. Harold Alan Pincus, MD, a Professor in Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry, holds roles at the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and New York Presbyterian Hospital. He is also a Senior Scientist at RAND Corporation and adjunct professor at Weill-Cornell, UCLA, and USUHS. Previously, he directed health programs at RAND and the University of Pittsburgh and held leadership positions at the American Psychiatric Association and the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Pincus graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and earned his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar, he contributed to mental health policy at the White House and Congress. With over 400 publications, his research focuses on evidence-based medicine, quality improvement, and integrating mental health into primary care. He leads national committees on quality measurement and patient safety and consults for various federal and international agencies.

Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier
Jillian Racoosin, MPH (she/her) is the Executive Director of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. In her role, Jillian is responsible for leading the direction of the Coalition’s operations and programs, including advancing awareness and advocacy efforts to address social isolation, loneliness, and connection. She regularly speaks to national audiences about the crisis of social isolation and loneliness in the U.S. and was a contributor to the U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on Loneliness and the Healing Power of Connection. Jillian has been featured in a variety of media outlets, including The Messenger, Atlanta Business Chronicle, and Vanity Fair.

Previously, Jillian spearheaded enterprise go-to-market strategy for Force Therapeutics, a leading healthcare technology company, and care management platform. Focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes, Jillian has partnered with several high-profile organizations including leading healthcare systems, health plans, and cross-sector federal agencies.

Jessica Retrum
Jessica Retrum, PhD, is the chair of the Department of Social Work at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Retrum has eight years of clinical social work experience in health and mental health related settings, including hospice, home inpatient care, in-home therapy and developmental disabilities. She was a recipient of the John A. Hartford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Award in 2006. Through her own research and affiliation with the Institute of Gerontology from 2005-2009, Retrum worked with many community non-profit organizations that serve the social, health and mental health needs of older adults and their families. She was also the partner postdoctoral fellow in Public Health Systems and Service Research (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) at the University of Colorado Denver, School of Public Affairs from 2010-2013. Her research background includes addressing the needs of underserved at-at-risk isolated seniors; LGBT seniors using support to age in neighborhoods; and geriatric social work. She served as lead researcher for the AARP’s “Framework for Isolation in Adults Over 50.” Retrum received her doctorate in social work from University of Denver in 2010, Master of Social Work from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997 and Bachelor of Social Work from Illinois State University in 1996.
Judith A. Salerno
Judith A. Salerno, MD, MS, is President Emeritus of The New York Academy of Medicine where she led its strategic vision to advance health equity from 2017 - 2022. She is currently a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in healthy aging at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) medical school. A physician executive and one of the nation’s pre-eminent leaders in health and healthcare, Dr. Salerno served as President and CEO of Susan G. Komen™, the world’s largest breast cancer organization prior to leading NYAM. She also served as the Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Officer of the Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine), Deputy Director of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health, and Chief Consultant for Geriatrics and Extended Care for the U.S. Veterans Health Administration nationwide. Dr. Salerno is board-certified in internal medicine and holds an MD degree from Harvard Medical School and a Master of Science in Health Policy from the Harvard School of Public Health. She was elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine in 2018.

Lucy Savitz
With over 30 years of experience in health care delivery and research, Lucy Savitz, PhD, MBA, is a newly appointed professor of health policy and management at Pitt Public Health. She also directs external affairs for the department and serves as a senior advisor to the UPMC Health Plan, Center for High-Value Health Care. Previously, Dr. Savitz held leadership roles at Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region and Intermountain Healthcare Institute for Healthcare Delivery Research. She was elected to the Board of Directors for the High Value Healthcare Collaborative, focusing on driving transformational change in quality and payment reform. Her diverse background includes work as an economist, financial planner, rural health researcher, and faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Savitz has led numerous projects in health care settings, focusing on quality measurement and system improvement. She is recognized for her leadership in advancing the science and workforce in embedded, learning health systems.

Clara Scher
Clara Scher, LMSW, MSC, is a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the Rutgers School of Social Work Hub for Aging Collaboration and consultant for the New York Academy of Medicine. She is a licensed social worker in New Jersey. Clara’s research interests focus on the use of participatory research methods to develop systems-level, community-based supports for individuals living with dementia and their care partners.
Vicki Shepard
Vicki Shepard, MSW, MPA, has been deeply involved in health innovation since the inception of Health Datapalooza. With Tivity Health since 2004, she brings a wealth of experience from both government and the private sector. In her role, Vicki leads business development, maintains relationships with government officials, strategic partners, and industry associations, and manages the company’s political and policy agenda.

Previously, Vicki served as Vice President of the Healthcare Industry Group and Government Solutions for North America at a major IT company. She also spent five years as a presidential appointee, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In California, she held leadership positions in aging and long-term care, as well as health and human services at the state and local levels. Additionally, Vicki was a professor of graduate social work at San Jose State University. She holds Master’s Degrees in Social Work and Public Administration and is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Alya Simoun
Alya Simoun, MPH, is a research assistant at New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her research interests focus on behavioral health integration, culturally competent care advancement, access to care for underserved populations, and arts-based participatory action research. Simoun earned an M.P.H. in the department of Health Promotion and Policy at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

Rani Snyder
Rani Snyder, MPA, serves as Vice President, Program at The John A. Hartford Foundation, driving initiatives aimed at ensuring high-value, evidence-based health care for older adults while prioritizing their dignity and preferences. With over 25 years of experience, Rani has a track record of identifying and guiding pioneering health care programs across the nation.

Before joining The John A. Hartford Foundation, Rani spent 14 years at the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, overseeing substantial grants to major medical institutions nationwide, particularly in Aging and Quality of Life Programs and Cardiovascular Clinical Research. She collaborated with leading educators and health care providers to advance patient care, notably at institutions like Duke University and Johns Hopkins University.

Rani is actively engaged in several boards and organizations, including the American Society on Aging and Grantmakers in Aging. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration in Health Care Policy from NYU and pursued a doctoral program in Health Services Research at UCLA. Rani’s career focuses on enhancing health care access, delivery, education, and caregiver training for older adults, aligning with The John A. Hartford Foundation’s mission to improve care for this population.
Joy Solomon
Joy Solomon, JD, is an attorney well-known for her leadership in combating the growing problem of abuse of the elderly. She is currently the director and managing attorney for the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale and has spearheaded public awareness about this growing epidemic. The Weinberg Center has earned national and worldwide recognition as a replicable model, the nation’s first comprehensive emergency shelter for victims of elder abuse, and best practices for the care of victims.

Brigitta Spaeth
Brigitta Spaeth-Rublee, MA, is a research associate at New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her research interests focus on behavioral health integration (general medical and serious illness care), behavioral health quality measurement (U.S. and internationally), and improvement of access to care for underserved populations. She also serves as the program manager of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program at NYSPI. Spaeth-Rublee earned an M.A. in political science and sociology from the University of Hagen, Germany.

Carolyn Stem
Carolyn Stem is a Healthy Aging Project Assistant and ReServist. She has been with NYAM’s Healthy Aging team since 2008, first as a volunteer and then as a ReServist. She helped manage questionnaire and survey responses and aided in sector roundtable discussions and community forums and frequently gives presentations about the initiative. Prior to her time at NYAM, she worked with the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) as a ReServist in the Intergenerational Division, encompassing the Intergenerational Work-Study Program and the Volunteer Support Program. She also edited and prepared Good Practices in Intergenerational Programming for publication, a PDF version of which can be found on the DFTA website. She attended Mannes College of Music and was a Fulbright Scholarship recipient to Vienna, Austria. She received her Diploma from the Hochschule der Darstellende Kunst. She is currently a member of the JASA/JPAC Advisory Committee, a graduate of the Institute for Senior Advocacy (IFSA), a member of NYSigN-New York State Intergenerational Network, and was formerly a member of the Manhattan Borough President’s Senior Advisory Committee.
Diane Ty
Diane Ty, MBA, serves as Managing Director for the Milken Institute Future of Aging, driving strategic initiatives in healthy longevity and financial wellness while leading efforts to enhance dementia care. At Georgetown University's Business for Impact, she advises on health and financial security, having previously led projects at the AgingWell Hub and Portion Balance Coalition.

With a background in marketing and strategy, Ty's career includes roles at Service Year Alliance, Generations United, and AARP, where she pioneered under-50/Millennial strategies and developed innovative tools like Social Security calculators. At AARP Services, she crafted cross-organizational partnerships, while at Save the Children, she managed impactful programs and campaigns targeting millennials.

Ty's career began at American Express, where she held marketing leadership positions. She holds an MBA from the Wharton School and an MA from the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was a Lauder Institute fellow. Ty also serves on the board of Capital Caring Health and the Maryland State Commission on Aging as a gubernatorial appointee.

Julio Urbina
Dr. Julio Urbina, PhD, is the vice president and director of the Healthy Aging program at The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. He earned his master's degree from the Yale School of Public Health and his PhD in Social Policy from the Heller School of Brandeis University.

Eric Weakly
Eric Weakly, MSW, is the Branch Chief of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Lauren Weisenfeld
Lauren Weisenfeld, MBA, has been at The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation (the Samuels Foundation) for over twenty years. While at the Foundation, Lauren has been able to use her business experience to assist not-for-profits to develop programs that not only enhance the quality of life of older adults but also have a model for sustainability once grant funding has expired. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Director of Business Development at Mount Sinai Medical Center. For most of her six-year tenure at Mount Sinai she was in the Office of Health System Development working on projects related to building Mount Sinai’s base of services outside of the main hospital campus. Lauren received her BS in Economics and MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
Nancy Wexler
Nancy Wexler, DBH, MPH, a Program Officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation, brings over 16 years of experience in enhancing integrated care delivery and population health models. Before joining the Foundation in 2019, Dr. Wexler spearheaded innovative care programs at Banner University Health Plans, focusing on older adults with complex needs and fostering payer-provider partnerships. At the University of Arizona, she pioneered primary care at home and interdisciplinary co-management programs for older adults with medical and behavioral health conditions.

Dedicated to advancing care for high-need populations, Dr. Wexler has contributed to advisory boards at Arizona State University and initiatives like the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. She also serves as a Faculty Associate at Arizona State's College of Health Solutions.

Previously, Dr. Wexler led programs at Federally Qualified Health Centers and directed community collaboratives in family support. She holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Arizona, a Doctorate of Behavioral Health from Arizona State University, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Meghan Wolfe
Megan Wolfe, JD, is the Senior Policy Development Manager at TFAH, where she works with the Policy Development team to advance a modernized, accountable public health system. Ms. Wolfe has been engaged in public policy and advocacy for over 20 years and has represented Fortune 500 and non-profit organizations. Most recently she served as Government Relations Manager for ASCD, an international education association. Prior to her association with ASCD, she served as Government Relations Manager for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, coordinating and leading all their federal advocacy efforts, including their annual lobby day, public policy agenda, and state affiliate advocacy efforts. She also has Capitol Hill experience, serving as a staff member for the Senate Judiciary Committee working on the federal judgeship confirmation process.

Ms. Wolfe received her undergraduate degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and earned a J.D. from the Antonin Scalia Law School (formerly the George Mason University School of Law).

Serena Worthington
Serena Worthington, MAAT, is a Program Officer with the RRF Foundation for Aging. Ms. Worthington has significant experience in aging services and advocacy at the national level, but also has strong ties to local communities. In her most recent role as Director of U.S. and Global Collaborations at SAGE, Ms. Worthington oversaw a broad network of affiliate organizations, forged coalitions, and launched successful collaborative efforts to catalyze policies and programs in support of LGBTQ older people. Prior to joining SAGE, Ms. Worthington was the Senior Director of Public Programs of Chicago's Center on Halsted. She frequently presents at national conferences and forums, sharing her passion and expertise on aging issues.