

*Laura Gordon:* Good afternoon, everyone. This is Laura Gordon. Again, I'm Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. The National Forum has evolved from a meeting in 2002 into a recognized convener of public, private, and nonprofit sector organizations, the chair commitment to improving cardiovascular health. Our convenings often spark cross sector collaborations that lead to improved health.

Today's virtual convening takes place on World Hypertension Day, and we're very pleased to have the World Hypertension League as a partner. Three organizations that have achieved success in blood pressure control will share their strategies today with us, and we hope that these best practices will be useful to you in your own organization.

I'm also thrilled to note that we are welcoming Dr. Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States, as one of our speakers today.

After presenting the success stories, we'll finish with an update from the office of Representative Rosa DeLauro, who is Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education.

Before we begin, I wanted just to point out two WebEx features for you. You can download today's handouts by going to the File menu in the upper left corner of the screen and select Save Document. We encourage, you as Ted mentioned earlier, to submit written questions at any time during the presentation using the Q&A panel located at the bottom right of your screen. And I just wanted to let you know that today's session is being recorded.

For those of you who are active on social media and would like to share the information from today's call in any way through these channels, you can see here the various handles and hashtags to use when you're doing so.

According to the 2019 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics from the American Heart Association, 46 percent of U.S. adults have hypertension. And in 2016, more than 82,000 deaths were primarily attributable to high blood pressure. So, clearly, helping more prevent and control hypertension is a top cardiovascular and public health priority.

With that in mind, we have a program that talks about these exact challenges and how a variety of programs have helped to address them.

Our speakers today will be Jared Hymowitz, who is Director of the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and he'll talk about their Hair & Health Program.

We'll also have Victoria Liquori and Jacqueline Dunning. They are a Patient Navigator and a Pharmacist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and they'll talk about development of a remote, non-physician led hypertension management program.

As I mentioned earlier, we'll have Dr. Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States, who will interview Patricia Dyer. Patricia is COO of the 2018 Million Hearts Hypertension Control Champion: Mountain People's Health Councils.

We'll also hear from two of our member organizations. From the American Heart Association, we'll have Preeti Kolankarai, and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we'll have Dr. Betsy Thompson, who is Director of the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention there.

And finally, we'll get an update from the—on the 2020 appropriations from Caitlin Peruccio, she's a Legislative Assistant to Representative Rosa DeLaura.

And then, at the end, John Clymer, our Executive Director, will make an announcement about the National Forum's 17th annual meeting.