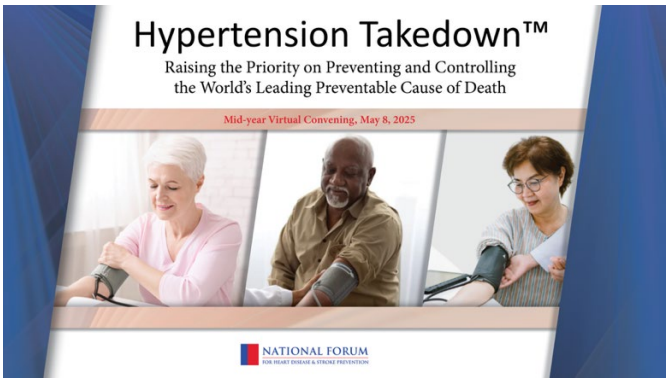


May 8, 2025

Pre-meeting NETWORKING
11:30 – Noon pm EDT

Mid-Year Convening, MAIN EVENT
Noon – 2:30 pm EDT

Agenda

Welcome

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, APR-CNP @BernMelnyk
Chair, National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Hypertension: The World's Leading Preventable Cause of Death

Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc
Show Chwan Health System Endowed Chair in Global Public Health
Tulane University Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

How Can We More Effectively Communicate about High Blood Pressure?

Policymakers, the public, and health systems prioritize hypertension below its enormous human, economic, and societal impact. One result is that the U.S. is losing ground on hypertension control.

Attendees will gain language (words that work) and skills to meet the public and other stakeholders where they are and drive meaningful change.

John M. Clymer @JohnClymer
Executive Director
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Interviews

Frank Luntz, PhD @FrankLuntz
Renowned Communication Researcher & Pollster
Questions this interview will answer:

- How can we strengthen our messaging about raising the priority on hypertension prevention and control?
- How can we close the perception gap between the death and disability caused by the "silent killer" and the priority people put on it?

Rosy McGillan
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
American Red Cross

Interviews

Laura Ries @lauraries
Chairwoman
Ries Positioning Pioneers

Questions this interview will answer:

- How can we position hypertension as a high priority for action with patients and consumers?
- How can we position hypertension as a high priority for action with healthcare leaders and health system decision makers in mind.

Raising the Priority on Hypertension Management and the Potential of Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP)

Some health systems have significantly improved hypertension control in their patient populations. SMBP is massively under-utilized even though it increases the proportion of patients with blood pressure at goal, and it is cost-effective.

Attendees will learn about replicable successes and lessons that systems can apply to HTN control across the U.S. and how we can enable more people to benefit from SMBP.

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH @Meharryglobal
Professor of Public Health Practice
Meharry School of Global Health

Crystal Decuir, BSN, RN-BC @ForSwla
Chief Nursing Officer
SWLA Center for Health Services

Question this panel will answer:

- What clinical and systems strategies represent easily implementable actions to improve hypertension control?

Q & A with Celeste Philip and Crystal Decuir

Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing: How They Relate to Hypertension

Hypertension is influenced by several of the Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing. Vital Conditions are community-level properties of places and institutions everyone needs to reach their full potential.

Attendees will learn how hypertension control can be improved by addressing fundamental needs such as health and safety, humane housing, meaningful work and wealth, lifelong learning, reliable transportation, a sense of belonging and civic engagement, and a thriving natural world.

Questions this panel will answer:

- How could strengthening vital conditions reduce the prevalence of hypertension and support better health outcomes?
- How can we use the Vital Conditions to craft multi-solving initiatives (which generate multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, hypertension)?
- How could we change conditions to improve blood pressure management in the Stroke Belt and other regions with high hypertension prevalence?
- How can we successfully implement strategies to lower salt consumption?

Facilitator:

Becky Payne, MPH @RippelHealth
President and CEO
Rippel Foundation

Panelists:

The Honorable Angie Nelson Deuitch, MPA @MyMichiganCity
Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana

Dan Lackland, DrPH @MedUnivSC
Professor of Epidemiology
Medical University of South Carolina

Q & A with Becky Payne, Hon. Angie Nelson Deuitch, and Dan Lackland

Reactions to Hypertension Takedown™ and Key Takeaways

John M. Clymer @JohnClymer

Modele O. Ogunniyi, MD, MPH @modeldoc
Prof. of Medicine and Master Physician, Division of Cardiology, Emory University
Associate Medical Director, Grady Heart Failure Program

Make America Healthy

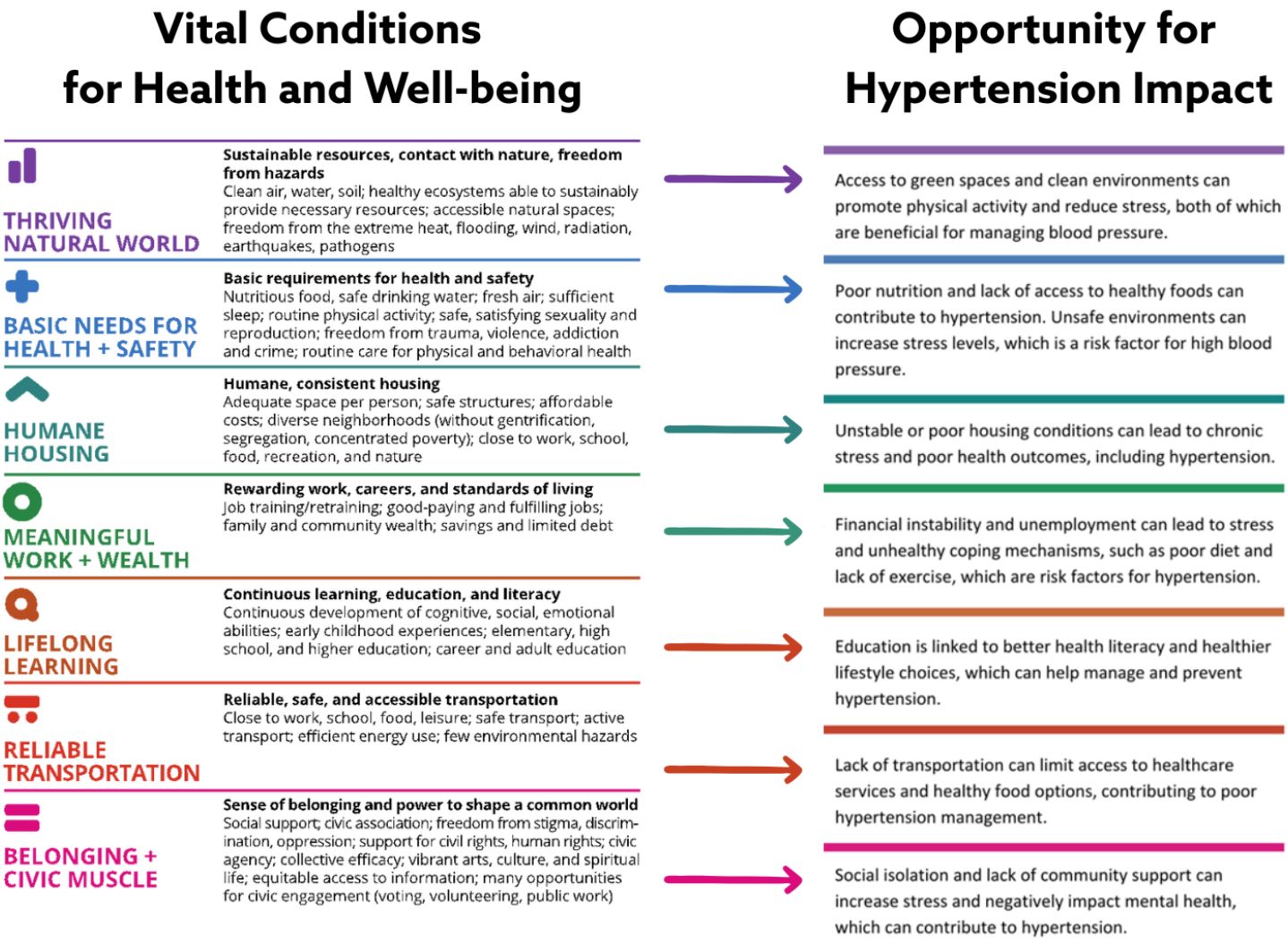
John M. Clymer @JohnClymer

Interviews

Stephanie Haridopolos, MD
Acting Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor
Office of the U.S. Surgeon General

Closing and Adjournment

John M. Clymer @JohnClymer



Resources

Hypertension: World's Leading Preventable Cause of Death

- American Heart Association: What is High Blood Pressure?
- American Medical Association: Hypertension
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: High Blood Pressure
- Million Hearts: Estimated Hypertension Prevalence, Treatment, and Control Among U.S. Adults
- 2025 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Update Fact Sheet, At-a-Glance

How Can We More Effectively Communicate about High Blood Pressure?

- Words That Work – It's not what you say, it's what people hear. By: Frank Luntz
- Books by Laura Ries

Raising the Priority on Hypertension Management and Potential of Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP)

- National Association of Community Health Centers: (Video) Integrating SMBP Into Hypertension Management: A Clinician Success Story
- National Association of Community Health Centers: (Video) Making SMBP Work for Your Patients: Tips for Community Health Centers
- National Association of Community Health Centers: (Journal Article) Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from Community Health Center Clinicians
- National Association of Community Health Centers: Accelerating Hypertension Control Guide

Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing: How They Relate to Hypertension

- The Vital Conditions for Health & Well-Being (Video)
- Background on Vital Conditions
- Background on Belonging & Civic Muscle
- PLOS One Article: "How can the United States Make a Great Stride Toward Multi-Racial Well-Being?"
- Health Affairs article: "Organizing Around Vital Conditions Moves the Social Determinants of Health Into Wider Action"
- National Association of Community Health Centers Interactive Webpage

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Speaker Biographies

(in order of presentation)

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, EBP-C @BernMelnyk
Chair, National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Dr. Melnyk is an inspirational speaker, author, leader, innovator, entrepreneur and recognized expert in evidence-based practice, mental health, population health and well-being, intervention research and organizational culture change. She also is CEO and founder of COPE2Thrive, LLC.

For the past 13 years, she served as Vice President for Health Promotion and Chief Wellness Officer at The Ohio State University, the first at an institution of higher learning in the nation, where she also was the Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Evidence-based Practice (EBP) in the College of Nursing and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry in the College of Medicine. In addition, she founded the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare.

Dr. Melnyk is a frequent keynote speaker on EBP, mental health, organizational culture change, intervention research, leadership, and health and wellness throughout the nation and globe. She is editor of 8 books focused on EBP, child and adolescent mental health, intervention research, evidence-based health assessment, and leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Melnyk has more than 600 publications and over $36 million dollars of sponsored funding from NIH, AHRQ and foundations as a principal investigator. She is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Nursing that has recognized her three times as an Edge Runner, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academies of Practice, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Dr. Melnyk served a four-year term on the United States Preventive Services Task Force, the National Advisory Council for the National Institute for Nursing Research, and the Behavioral Health Standing Committee of the National Quality Forum.

In addition, she served as dean of The Ohio State University College of Nursing and Arizona State University's College of Nursing and Health Innovation where she led the colleges to top U.S. News & World Report and NIH research funding rankings. Dr. Melnyk currently serves as the chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and received honorary doctoral degrees from the State University of New York and Frontier Nursing University. Her evidence-based COPE cognitive-behavioral skills building programs for depression and anxiety are being used in primary care practices in all 50 states with reimbursement, K-12 schools, and universities across the country as well as five other countries.

Dr. Melnyk is editor-in-chief of Sigma's top ranked journal *Worldviews on Evidence-based Nursing*. She was appointed to the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on

Clinician Well-being and Resilience in 2017 on which she still continues to serve, on the advisory board for the ANA's Healthy Nurse Healthy Nation initiative and is the founder and immediate past president of the National Consortium for Building Healthy Academic Communities. She received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from West Virginia University, her Master of Science in nursing degree and pediatric nurse practitioner education from the University of Pittsburgh, and her PhD in clinical research and psychiatric nurse practitioner education from the University of Rochester.

Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc
Show Chwan Health System Endowed Chair in Global Public Health
Tulane Univ. Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Dr. Paul Whelton's research interests include cardiovascular and renal disease epidemiology, prevention, clinical trials, health policy, and global health. He has led many of the major NIH-funded blood pressure intervention trials, including the Trials of Hypertension Prevention (TOHP, Phases I and II), the Trial of Nonpharmacologic Intervention in the Elderly (TONE), the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT), and the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT).

He chaired the 2017 ACC/AHA Guideline Writing Committee for Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure, as well as many working groups and committees for institutes at the NIH, the American Heart Association, the Institute of Medicine, the Irish Government, and the Show Chwan Health System in Taiwan. Amongst many awards and honors, he received the American Heart Association Population Research Prize. He has published more than 400 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 70 books, book chapters, supplements, or monographs.

John Clymer @JohnClymer
Executive Director
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

John Clymer is executive director of the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, an independent, nonprofit catalyst for collaboration. Additionally, he is an adjunct assistant professor at Loma Linda University School of Public Health, guest lecturer at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and member of the U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force.

During his tenure as president of Partnership for Prevention from 2001-2008, the organization won passage of landmark Medicare policy changes; established the National Commission on Prevention Priorities; was recognized by Harvard Business Review for a "Breakthrough Idea"; and quadrupled its income.

John is the TEDMED Thought Leader for prevention and has served as a subject matter expert at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. He has conducted numerous Congressional briefings, appeared on NBC Nightly News, Fox News, CNBC, public radio, and in print media such as The New York Times, and authored book chapters, articles and commentaries on prevention.

Dr. Frank I. Luntz, PhD @FrankLuntz
Renowned Communication Researcher & Pollster

Frank Luntz is one of the most honored communication professionals in America today. "The Nostradamus of pollsters," said Sir David Frost, while Time magazine named him one of "50 of America's most promising leaders aged 40 and under," Newsweek magazine identified him as No. 24 on their American Power Elite survey, and a New York Post headline declared, "Frank Luntz is the world's most influential man in politics." He finished 87th in a Time magazine global poll of the "most influential people in the world." Frank was named one of the four "Top Research Minds" by Business Week, "the hottest pollster" by The Boston Globe, "pollster extraordinaire" by the BBC, and was a winner of The Washington Post's coveted "Crystal Ball" award for being the most accurate pundit, and "the person you turn to for the truth" by Bloomberg News. His focus groups have become so influential that Barack Obama had this to say following the PBS presidential debate: "When Frank Luntz invites you to talk to his focus group, you talk to his focus group."

More media outlets have turned to Dr. Luntz to understand the hopes and fears of Americans than to any other political pollster; he is also among the most quoted pollsters globally. The "Instant Response" focus group technique he pioneered has been profiled on 60 Minutes, Good Morning America (on Election Day), the BBC, and on PBS's award-winning Frontline. He has been a guest on virtually every talk show in America, including multiple appearances on Meet the Press, Nightline, The Today Show, HBO, The PBS News Hour, Face the Nation, Good Morning Britain, and Bill Maher.

For more than a decade, Frank was the "Focus Group Czar" for Fox News. In both 2011 and 2015, Frank was the only non-journalist invited to host a debate of the GOP presidential contenders. Frank also served for five years as a news analyst for CBS News, focusing on corporate and business communications, moving to ABC News in 2017. He was a consultant to the NBC hit show The West Wing as well as the popular CBS drama Bull.

Dr. Luntz was a debate, election day and impeachment commentator on Bloomberg, CNBC and the BBC in 2020, CBS in 2016, Fox News in 2008 and 2012, and MSNBC in 2000. His reoccurring segments on MSNBC/CNBC, "100 Days, 1000 Voices" won the coveted Emmy Award in 2001. Frank has conducted focus groups for all three broadcast networks, two of the three cable news channels and PBS, as well as for The Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, The Times

of London, the LA Times, and the BBC. He has worked in every British General Election from 1997 through 2015 and in the Brexit referendum, where he conducted the most accurate final poll of UK voters.

Dr. Luntz has written, supervised, and conducted more than 2,500 surveys, focus groups, ad tests, and dial sessions for more than 50 Fortune 500 companies and CEOs in more than two dozen countries and six continents over the past 30 years. His political and communication knowledge and skills are recognized globally, and he has served as a consultant and commentator in Canada, Britain, Israel, the UAE, Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Ukraine. Over the past two years, Frank has visited more than a half-dozen countries on behalf of the U.S. State Department.
Frank is the author of three New York Times Best Sellers. Words that Work: It's Not What You Say it's What People Hear, explores the art and science of language creation. His second book, What Americans Really Want … Really, addresses the private hopes, dreams and fears of the American people; it reached No. 18 on the bestseller list. His most recent book, WIN, reached No. 2 on Amazon and No. 3 on The New York Times Business Best Seller List in its first month in print. He has written about the power of language for The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Financial Times, The Times of London, The Washington Post, and Time.

From 1989 until 1996, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also taught at Harvard University and George Washington University. Since 2018, he has taught two courses a year at NYU Abu Dhabi, and he is visiting professor for USC in 2021. Frank graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an honors BA degree in history and political science. He was awarded a Thouron Fellowship and received his Doctorate in Politics at the age of 25 from Oxford University. He spoke for 24 straight hours as part of the Oxford Union Society's Guinness World Book of Records debate. In 1993, Frank was named a Fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics, the second-youngest individual ever to receive this honor at that time.

Rosemary McGillan
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
American Red Cross

Rosy McGillan currently serves as chief marketing and communications officer for the American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization that prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies; sheltering, feeding and providing comfort after disasters; supplying about 40% of the nation's blood; teaching skills that save lives; providing international humanitarian aid; and supporting military members, veterans and their families.

She has spent 25 years developing and implementing integrated communications and marketing programs around a variety of health and social issues, including a special focus on

mental health and issues impacting older Americans. Her specialties include developing strategies for industry, government and non-profit organizations seeking to change behavior around topics like chronic disease, health care quality and access.

Rosy previously worked at Porter Novelli, a global communications and marketing agency known for its work driving social change. As an Executive Vice President and Global Purpose Practice Director, she represented federal government agencies like the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Her pharmaceutical industry experience includes work for leading international corporations and includes FDA approvals, issues management and advocacy. She directed a multi-year initiative with the Administration for Community Living, including development of Alzheimers.gov as part the National Alzheimer's Action Plan. Rosy also served as executive lead for the American Psychiatric Association, the Coalition to Transform Advanced Illness Care and a host of other non-profit organizations.

While with MSL PR, Rosy worked with the American Heart Association and global industry partners on a multi-year health education program to reduce diabetes-related cardiovascular disease. Other work included a major campaign for The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a healthcare quality initiative born out of the Institute of Medicine's To Err is Human report. While on staff at the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, Rosy provided communication and marketing support for national transportation safety programs on behalf of General Motors and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and poison prevention efforts for Johnson & Johnson.

She received her B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and her M.A. in journalism and public affairs from American University.

Laura Ries @lauraries
Chairwoman, Ries Positioning Pioneers

Laura Ries is a world-famous positioning consultant and bestselling author.

In 1994, Laura joined her father Al Ries, the legendary positioning pioneer, to form the company now known as RIES. With RIES, Laura has consulted with leading companies and entrepreneurs around the world on brand strategy.

She has traveled to over 60 countries teaching the fundamental principles of positioning and visual hammers.

Books Laura Ries co-authored with Al Ries

- *The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding*
- *The 11 Immutable Laws of Internet Branding*

- *The Fall of Advertising & the Rise of PR*
- *Origin of Brands*
- *War in the Boardroom*

Books by Laura Ries

- *Visual Hammer*
- *Battlecry*
- *The Strategic Enemy* (Sept 2025)

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH @Meharryglobal
Professor of Public Health Practice, Meharry School of Global Health

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH, is a physician leader with two decades of public health and medical experience in local, state, federal, and international settings. She is President and CEO of Unboxable Health Consulting LLC with clients that include the American Public Health Association. Dr. Philip is double board-certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine and in Family Medicine.

She recently served as the Deputy Director for Non-infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for three years and as acting director for CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (CSTLTS). During her tenure at CDC, she deployed to CDC's COVID-19 response several times, and created a model to operationalize data modernization efforts across the four national centers under her leadership that ultimately was utilized across the agency due to its success.

Just prior to joining CDC, Dr. Philip served as Health Officer for Sonoma County, California, during a period of unprecedented response efforts, including the 2019 Kincade Fire, provision of health services for several hundred unhoused people, and identification of the first cases of COVID-19 in the county.

Previously, Dr. Philip spent 10 years with the Florida Department of Health (department) serving in numerous local and state capacities before being appointed by the Governor to serve as Florida's Surgeon General and Secretary of Health from 2016-2018. As chief executive of the department, she was responsible for over 13,000 full time employees and a $3 billion annual budget. Dr. Philip led the state's efforts to identify and eliminate local spread of Zika virus in South Florida and oversaw the state's public health and medical efforts during several hurricanes, including Irma and Michael.

Under her direction, every county health department in Florida began providing preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV transmission. Through her leadership, the department was awarded a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation and collaborated with Trust for America's Health and other partners to create a novel public health framework to support

healthy aging in communities; this led to the state becoming the largest state to be designated as Age-Friendly by AARP in April 2019.

Dr. Philip received bachelor's degrees from Howard University in Washington, DC, and both a Master of Public Health in maternal & child health and a Doctor of Medicine from Loma Linda University. She completed family medicine residency at Advent Health in Orlando and trained at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and preventive medicine resident while a commissioned officer of the US Public Health Service.

Crystal Decuir, BSN, RN-BC @ForSwla
Chief Nursing Officer, SWLA Center for Health Services

As the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Crystal Decuir provides executive leadership and strategic planning for the Clinical Services and Nursing Operations. Crystal has over 30 years of experience in nursing leadership and clinical education. She has a passion for delivering nursing excellence in the community health setting. During her tenure with SLWA, she implemented a team-based care model remote patient monitoring program to reduce hypertension and combat disparities at the height of the pandemic. As a result, the hypertension control rate increased from 44% to 70% improving quality outcomes.

Crystal obtained her degree from Nicholls State University and a master's in nursing with a dual concentration in Healthcare Leadership from Western Governor's University.

Becky Payne, MPH @RippelHealth
President and CEO, Rippel Foundation

Over the last two decades, Becky has served in a variety of leadership roles within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she was responsible for designing and launching new, large-scale initiatives.

Prior to joining Rippel she led the development of an all-of-government plan for the equitable recovery and resilience of U.S. communities following the Covid-19 pandemic, based on the Vital Conditions framework originated by Rippel in partnership with other changemaking organizations.

Previously, as CDC's Deputy Chief of Staff, Becky established corporate partnerships and coordinated agency responses to significant crises, including international Zika and Ebola outbreaks and the contaminated water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Her many assignments allowed her to have a significant impact on the direction of numerous CDC activities, including global

health security, healthy communities, racial and ethnic approaches to community health, adolescent and school health, and public private partnerships. In 2012, she was recognized with a CDC Honor Award for Excellence in Front Line Public Health for her leadership of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work program. Prior to joining CDC Becky was integral in establishing the Healthy Communities Program, serving as the first Director of Workforce Development in the Louisiana Office of Public Health.

Becky serves on the board of directors for the Decatur Education Foundation and has been recognized by the Atlanta City Council for her community service. She holds an MPH in community health sciences with a minor in evaluation from Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine and a BS in interdisciplinary studies in social science: health policy with a cognate in psychology from Michigan State University. In her free time, she loves to run, travel, and spend time with family.

The Honorable Angie Nelson Deuitch @MyMichiganCity
Mayor, Michigan City, Indiana

Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch leads Michigan City with a commitment to progress, collaboration, and community-driven leadership. As mayor, she oversees a municipal workforce of nearly 400 full-time employees and manages a city budget of approximately $68 million. Elected in 2023, she made history as the first African American and second female mayor of Michigan City.

A proud Michigan City native, Mayor Angie earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Florida A&M University and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA).

With over 25 years of leadership experience in telecommunications, utilities, and the nonprofit sector, Mayor Angie built a successful career at SBC Communications (now AT&T) and NiSource before launching her own consulting firm, I&D Squared, in 2018. Her firm has been instrumental in workforce development, expanding childcare capacity, and supporting high school graduates in their transition to careers and higher education.

Deeply engaged in community service, Mayor Angie serves on the boards of Indiana United Way, the Unity Foundation, and the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Inc., and The Greater Michigan City Drifters, organizations dedicated to service and empowerment.

Guided by her mission to enhance the quality of life in Michigan City, Mayor Angie prioritizes strong municipal support systems to ensure exceptional service for residents, businesses, nonprofits, and visitors. Under her leadership, Michigan City is advancing as the premier destination to live, work, and thrive in the Region.

Daniel T. Lackland, DrPH @MedUnivSC
Professor of Epidemiology, Medical University of South Carolina

Daniel T. Lackland is Professor of Epidemiology and Neurology at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is a Fellow in the American College of Epidemiology and American Heart Association. He directs the Division of Translational Neuroscience and Population Studies, and the Master of Science in Clinical Research Program. He was appointed to the work group for the NHLBI Clinical Guidelines for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction (Global Risk Assessment) and served on the Evidence Rating Committee of the ACC/AHA Clinical Practice Guidelines (Hypertension).

He was appointed chair of the Executive Committee and Steering Committee for NHLBI Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) Study. He is the principal investigator for the NIH-funded Black Pooling Project assessing the disparities in cardiovascular diseases and hypertension.

His research interest involves the population risk assessment of cardiovascular disease, stroke and hypertension. His research spans all stages of life from the fetal and early life origins of high blood pressure to hypertension awareness at sporting events. He is Past-President of the World Hypertension League and current Editor-In-Chief of the World Hypertension League Newsletter.

Modele O. Ogunniyi, MD, MPH @modeldoc
Professor of Medicine and Master Physician, Division of Cardiology, Emory University, Associate Medical Director, Grady Heart Failure Program

Dr. Modele Ogunniyi is a Professor of Medicine and Master Physician with the Division of Cardiology at Emory University. She also serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Grady Heart Failure Program.

After receiving her medical degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, she obtained a Master of Public Health and a Certificate in Health Finance and Management from Johns Hopkins University. Her postgraduate training includes a preventive medicine fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control, residency in internal medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine and cardiology fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Ogunniyi's research focuses on examining social determinants of health and eliminating disparities in cardiovascular disease, diversity in clinical trials, palliative care in heart failure, and cardiovascular disease in women. She is passionate about mentorship and creating equitable pathways to diversify the workforce in Medicine. In recognition of her efforts, she has

received several awards including the Emory School of Medicine Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award, the R. Wayne Alexander Research Mentoring Award, AMWA INSPIRE Award, EMPACT Outstanding Attending Mentor and the Outstanding Research Mentor Award by the Emory Internal Medicine Residency Program.

She serves as Principal Investigator for several clinical trials and on the advisory board for the Metro Atlanta Heart Failure Collaborative, the National Forum Board of Directors, and the editorial board of Clinical Cardiology. She is an active member and volunteer of many professional organizations including the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, and the Association of Black Cardiologists, where she serves on the Board of Directors. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, American College of Cardiology, and American Heart Association.

Dr. Ogunniyi serves/has served on several national committees, including as Co-Chair of the ABC Membership Committee and the National Hypertension Control Roundtable. She is also a member of the Cardiovascular Disease in Women and Diversity and Inclusion Committees of the ACC. She is the Vice President of Health Awareness Initiative, Africa, a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to promote healthy lifestyles in African communities by creating health awareness through screening and education.

Stephanie Haridopolos, MD
Acting Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor
Office of the U.S. Surgeon General

Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos is a distinguished board-certified family medicine physician who completed her residency training at Albany Medical Center. She is a medical writer, philanthropist, and public health advocate. She currently serves as Acting Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor in the Office of the Surgeon General, where she provides strategic guidance and leadership on public health initiatives aimed at improving the health of the American people.

With over 20 years of medical experience, Dr. Haridopolos is a family physician focused on preventive and primary care, serving as a medical home for her patients to ensure comprehensive continuity of care. She has dedicated her life's work to empowering patients with knowledge to live a healthier lifestyle.

Her dedication to public health was recognized when she was honored as Florida's Outstanding Woman in Public Health by the University of South Florida's College of Public Health. This accolade highlighted her leadership as Chair of the Board of Directors for Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, which offers income-based healthcare coverage for children in Florida.

Dr. Haridopolos led a successful effort to have the Florida legislature increase eligibility for subsidized coverage under the federal poverty level for children in Florida KidCare. Signed into

law, House Bill 121 established a glidepath for families by allowing them to keep subsidized coverage as they earn more, enabling the pursuit of financial stability without losing government assistance. This measure underscores Dr. Haridopolos's dedication to making a difference for families and children. She continues to focus on improving healthcare access for children on a national scale as part of her role in the Office of the Surgeon General.

Her work extends beyond direct patient care as she has fought to advocate for her patients and to enact legislation that puts patients first. Dr. Haridopolos has had a significant impact on healthcare policy, particularly in expanding access to affordable healthcare for children.

Dr. Haridopolos also played a pivotal role in addressing the opioid epidemic in Florida. She supported the enactment of Florida's Pill Mill law, which imposed stricter regulations on pain management clinics to reduce the number of "pill mills" that were contributing to the opioid crisis. This legislation included mandatory registration with the state Department of Health, physician ownership requirements, and tightened prescribing and dispensing guidelines.

Dr. Haridopolos has contributed her expertise to several high-profile commissions addressing critical public health issues. She has served on the Florida Department of Health's Tobacco Advisory Council, the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns, and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Foundation. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve on the Florida Board of Medicine where she served as chair of both Rules and Legislation, and Probation committees. She also participated in the South Probable Cause Panel. Additionally, she is a member of both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Haridopolos holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Stetson University and a medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine completing her medical school elective/selective courses in London, England.

Conference Production

Julie A. Harvill, MPA, MPH
Director of Operations
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Julie Harvill, MPA, MPH is the director of operations for the National Forum. She oversees and manages the daily operations of the organization. Working with the management team, she contributes to the development and implementation of organizational strategies, programs, policies, and practices in support of the National Forum's strategic plan. She provides strategic, logistical and management support to the Forum's Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, and manages the Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Convenings.

A native of Illinois, Ms. Harvill received a bachelor's in psychology and social service from Bradley University in 1985, a master's in public administration from Sangamon State University in 1993 and a master's in public health from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2001. She was formerly the administrator of the Illinois Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program.

Ms. Harvill was president of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in 2004-2005. She was co-chair of the Cardiovascular Health Council in 1998, president of the Illinois Society for Public Health Education in 1995, and Executive Council member of the Illinois Public Health Association from 1992–1995. She was co-chair of the National Chronic Disease Conference in 2004 and chair of the Great Lakes Regional Cardiovascular Conference in 2003. Ms. Harvill received the Community Service Award from the Illinois Department of Public Health in 1997, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in 2006, and the National Forum Chair Recognition Award for her leadership and actions to increase the effectiveness of the organization in 2010. From 2012-2020, Ms. Harvill served dual roles with the American Heart Association on the Million Hearts® Collaboration.

Stacy Rezendes
Operations Consultant
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Stacy Rezendes is the Operation Consultant for the National Forum. In this capacity, she provides support for educational and organizational programs, maintains records of program actions, copy editing, tracks timelines and milestones, coordinates Office 365, and responds to member needs. Before working with the National Forum, Ms. Rezendes was a surgical coordinator for a busy practice for eleven years and has served as a physician's personal assistant. Stacy was born and raised in Wisconsin but has lived in several states, most recently moving from Virginia to Texas. She is passionate about healthy, flavorful cooking and tries to be physically active every day.

John Bartkus
Program Management Consultant
Pensivia

John Bartkus – Program Management Consultant of Pensivia, LLC – specializes in enterprise performance improvement and project/program management. His 25+ years in project management across a variety of industries (broadcast, travel, software, healthcare, behavioral health, architecture & engineering, learning development, telecoms, legal, non-profit) and disciplines (marketing, sales, operations, IT, OD, consulting) working with companies such as British Airways, SITA, Freese & Nichols, Jacobs Engineering, Carter & Burgess, Carstens & Cahoon, DFW Airport, WFAA, AbleTo, ForeFront Telecare, and the American Heart Association.

John is a Project Management Institute (PMI) Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a Certified Professional Facilitator (CPF) with the International Association of Facilitators. His formal education includes a bachelor's in applied technology and performance Improvement (BAAS-ATPI), and he is a former president of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Project Management Institute and was named PMI Chapter Leader of the Year (globally) in 2013. John has supported the National Forum with project management for the annual convening and production services to make it engage and broaden the reach/impact.

Whitney Webber, Event Coordinator
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Whitney Webber is an Event Coordinator for the National Forum. She has a BA in Communications from the University of Kansas and an MBA from Baker University. She has worked for the past decade in event planning and marketing for various associations and companies. Whitney lives in Lawrence, Kansas, with her daughter Grace and spends her free time cooking and traveling.