



The Evolving and Essential Role of Interdisciplinary Care of the Mouth, Ears and Eyes of Older Adults

Thursday, November 11, 2021 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Faculty Biographies

Moderator:



Tricia Neuman, ScD
Senior Vice President
Executive Director, Program on Medicare Policy
and Senior Advisor to the President
Kaiser Family Foundation

Patricia Neuman is a senior vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Executive Director of KFF's Medicare Policy Project, and senior advisor to the President. Dr. Neuman focuses on a broad range of policy issues pertaining to Medicare and the population it serves. Dr. Neuman is widely regarded as a Medicare policy expert, with broad knowledge of issues associated with coverage, financing and care of older Americans and people with disabilities, and proposals to sustain Medicare for the future. Dr. Neuman enjoys giving guest lectures at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown University and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Hygiene and public Health. She has been invited to present expert testimony before Congressional committees and other key audiences on numerous occasions and has published numerous extensively on topics related to health coverage and financing for the Medicare population. Dr. Neuman has appeared as an independent expert or been quoted in various media outlets, such as NPR, NBC Nightly News, CBS Evening News, Today Show, NewsHour, New York Times, Washington Post, Vox, Politico and Huffington Post. Before joining the Foundation in 1995, Dr. Neuman served on the professional staff of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health in the U.S. House of Representatives, and on the staff of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging working on health and long-term care issues. Dr. Neuman received a Doctorate of Science degree in health policy and management and a Masters of Science degree in health finance and management from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Panelists:



Kira N. Baldonado, MPH

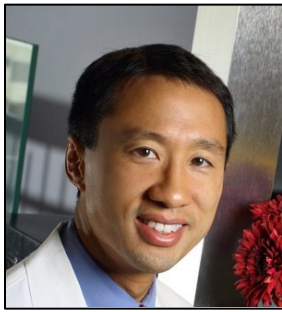
Vice President of Public Health and Policy
Prevent Blindness

Kira Baldonado, MPH is the Vice President of Public Health and Policy for Prevent Blindness- responsible for the mission-based work of the organization, focusing on program outreach, education, and policy directives. Kira, and her team of 7 staff members are working to improve our nation's vision and eye health system by leading consensus-driven initiatives, creating accountability and improved surveillance for vision, while reducing disparities in each step of the continuum of vision care.

Kira has grown the impact of Prevent Blindness through development of strategic partnerships and advancement of the knowledge base available for vision nationally. Examples of her successes include:

- Secured and managed three Federal grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration resulting in state and national-level best-practices in children's vision
- Led a panel of experts in the peer-reviewed publication of three joint papers outlining a national system for vision promoting early identification, treatment, data collection procedures, and measures of accountability
- Developed consensus among diverse professional associations resulting in a shared statement on the importance of early detection and treatment of vision disorders in children
- Established the Center for Vision and Population Health in response to a 2016 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine as well as emerging national vision needs
- Established a patient engagement program called A.S.P.E.C.T. in 2020 that seeks to empower patients and their caregivers to be an active partner in their eye health, vision policy development, and research opportunities.
- Guided the development of partnership with key national organizations resulting in their implementing new professional development, policies, and program interventions related to vision health
- Published 8 peer-reviewed articles, 9 whitepapers, and has provided more than 40 national conference presentations

Prior to her current position at Prevent Blindness, Kira was the Director of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) at Prevent Blindness from 2011 to 2018. In that role, she was responsible for providing direction and leadership to early detection efforts and other essential public health interventions related to children's vision and eye health systems in the U.S. Kira coordinated the strategic and programmatic efforts of the NCCVEH, including the work of the National Expert Panel, the NCCVEH Advisory Committee, program initiatives in seven states, and Federal agency relationships. Kira initiated her career with Prevent Blindness at Prevent Blindness' Ohio affiliate for eight years as Director of Marketing and Community Services where she implemented statewide programming through more than 2,000 partnering organizations and engaged in legislative initiatives to preserve sight. Additionally, she launched the *Ohio Aging Eye Public Private Partnership* which brought together diverse stakeholders to address the growth of age-related eye diseases in the state through education, early detection and treatment, and promotion of research to find cures.



Frank Robert Lin, MD, PhD

Director, Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Professor of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Frank Lin, MD, PhD, is the Director of the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health and a Professor of Otolaryngology, Medicine, Mental Health, and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. As an otologic surgeon & epidemiologist, Dr. Lin has translated his clinical experiences caring for patients with hearing loss into foundational public health research and federal policy in the U.S. His epidemiological research from 2010-2014 established the association of hearing loss with cognitive decline & dementia, and his research served as the direct basis for the 2017 and 2020 Lancet Commission on Dementia conclusion that hearing loss is the leading modifiable risk factor for dementia. Based on this early research, he now leads two ongoing, NIH-funded randomized trials that are investigating the efficacy of hearing interventions for mitigating cognitive decline and other functional outcomes in older adults. In parallel, Dr. Lin has collaborated with the National Academies, White House, and Congress to develop policies to ensure hearing loss can be effectively and sustainably addressed in society. These efforts directly resulted in bipartisan passage of the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 on which Dr. Lin testified before Congress.



Michèle J. Saunders, DMD, MS, MPH, FGSA

Adjunct Professor and Director
South Texas Geriatrics Education Collaborative
Departments of Psychiatry and Periodontics
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA)
GSA Past-president

Michèle J. Saunders, DMD, MS, MPH is Adjunct Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Periodontics, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX. Dr. Saunders directs the South Texas Geriatric Education Collaborative and the first Development Board Professor of Clinical Dentistry at that institution. She is also cross appointed in the Department of Periodontics Division of Dental Hygiene, and has taught a variety of health professions students on-site in community nursing facilities. A triple alumna of the University of Pennsylvania (B.A. 1973, D.M.D. 1980, and M.S. 1981), she was one of the first in the U.S. to be awarded a two-year geriatric fellowship by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1982. During the two-year fellowship, she earned an MPH degree in Health Services from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Dr. Saunders is a national and international expert in geriatrics health professions education; faculty training in education, curriculum and program development, and evaluation; minority elderly health promotion; and is a consultant to a number of

state and federal programs and national associations. She has conducted research on the oral health status of minority and veteran elders, and from 1993-2000, directed the \$3.7 million-dollar Research Center on Oral Health in Aging to study oral health among San Antonio's elderly population entitled "Oral Health: San Antonio Longitudinal Study of Aging (OH:SALSA)." Dr. Saunders is a past President of The Gerontological Society of America, a past President of the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. She is also a Fellow or Diplomate of a number of professional organizations (FACD, FICD, FASGD, FGSA, DABSCD, FAGHE). Currently, Dr. Saunders is Chair of the Governor-ordered Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee to the Department of Aging & Disability Services and the Department of Health and Human Services. She is also a co-convenor for the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, representing the Gerontological Society of America.



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References and Resources

[Coverage of Dental, Vision, and Hearing Services in Medicare](#)

[The Window of Opportunity Is Open](#)

[JAMA. Published online September 27, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.13291](#)

[Dementia Policy Is A National Priority. That’s Why Congress Needs to Expand Medicare to Cover Hearing Aids.](#) By Frank Lin and Marilyn Albert

[Making hearing aids affordable isn’t enough. Older adults also need hearing care services](#)
By Frank Lin, Charlotte Yeh and Christine Cassel

[FDA Issues Landmark Proposal to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Technology for Millions of Americans | FDA](#)

[Dental, Hearing, and Vision Costs and Coverage Among Medicare Beneficiaries in Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage](#)

[Lacking Dental Coverage, Many People on Medicare Forgo Dental Care, Especially Beneficiaries of Color](#)

[Medicare and Dental Coverage: A Closer Look](#)

[Policy Options for Improving Dental Coverage for People on Medicare](#)

The Gerontological Society of America Oral Health Initiative: www.geron.org/oralhealth

- What’s Hot “Interrelationships between Nutrition and Oral Health in Older Adults”
- What’s Hot “Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging”
- White Paper: “Interprofessional Solutions for Improving Oral Health in Older Adults”
- White Paper: “Pandemic-Driven Disruptions in Oral Health: 10 Transformative Trends in Care for Older Adult”
- “Geriatric Oral Health and COVID-19: Old Problems, New Challenges” Two-part webinar series

ACL Community Dental Program Database and Oral Health Guide: <https://oralhealth.acl.gov>

Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum

National Network of Oral Health Access – Teledentistry User Guide

Vision References and Resources:

[2018 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey](#)

[2016 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey](#)

Wittenborn, J. and Rein, D. (2014) “The Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems.

https://www.preventblindness.org/sites/default/files/national/documents/Future_of_Vision_final_0.pdf

Morse AR, et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2019;doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2019.0446; Accessed from “Hospital costs higher in those with vision loss;” Healio, 22 May 2019

Saydah S, Gerzoff RB, Taylor CA, Ehrlich JR, Saaddine J. Vision Impairment and Subjective Cognitive Decline–Related Functional Limitations — United States, 2015–2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:453–457. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6820a2>

Prevent Blindness Policy and Advocacy Overview: <https://preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-2022-Policy-and-Advocacy-Overview.pdf>

Medicare benefits and Vision: <https://preventblindness.org/medicare-benefits-your-eyes/>

Flaxman A, Wittenborn J, Robalik T, et al. Prevalence of Vision Loss or Blindness in the US. JAMA Ophthalmology. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2021.0527. Published online May 13, 2021