

# Looming Challenges of COVID-19 Immunization: Preparing the Immunization Infrastructure

Hosted by NEHI with support from Avalere, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Johnson & Johnson, Kaiser Permanente, Pfizer and STChealth.

## Participant Bios



### Troy Brennan, MD

*Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer  
CVS Health*

Troyen A. Brennan, M.D., M.P.H., is Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of CVS Health. In this role, Brennan provides oversight for the development of CVS Health's clinical and medical affairs and health care strategy. Previously, Brennan was Chief Medical Officer of Aetna Inc. Prior to that, Brennan served as president of Brigham and Women's Physicians Organization. In his academic work, he was Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Professor of Law and Public Health at Harvard School of Public Health. Brennan received his M.D. and M.P.H. degrees from Yale Medical School and his J.D. degree from Yale Law School. He has a master's degree from Oxford University and earned a BS from Southern Methodist University. He

completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

### Kevin Cranston MDiv

*Assistant Commissioner; Director*

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH); MDPH Bureau  
of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science*

Kevin Cranston is an Assistant Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Director of the MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. Kevin previously served as the Director of the MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau and was HIV/AIDS Program Director at the Massachusetts Department of Education. Prior to government work, Kevin was an adolescent HIV prevention specialist at The Children's Hospital, Boston. He is past Chair of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and served as a technical advisor to national, state, and provincial AIDS control programs in Nigeria, Brazil, and South Africa. Kevin earned his Master of Divinity degree at Harvard Divinity School. Kevin serves as a member of the Massachusetts Special Legislative Commission on LGBT Aging, member of the Harvard Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Executive Committee, and was a former member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).





## **Katherine Dallow, MD, MPH**

*Vice President and Medical Director, Clinical Programs and Strategy  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts*

Dr. Katherine Dallow is Vice President and Medical Director, Clinical Programs and Strategy for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA). Throughout her career, Dr. Dallow has held executive leadership positions within both health plans and accountable care organizations. Prior roles have included Vice President of Clinical Affairs and Quality for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and Medical Director for Managed Care for the Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO). She is an experienced physician executive and leader with a proven track record in value based contract management, quality metrics analysis and performance, practice pattern variation analysis, pharmacy cost management, high risk care management and care coordination, and risk adjustment. She is a board certified internal medicine physician who practiced for 15 years in the Beth Israel Deaconess system in Boston and several of its surrounding suburban communities. She earned a Masters in Public Health in health care policy and management from the Harvard School of Public Health, a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and a Bachelor's of Arts in English and American Studies from Princeton University. Dr. Dallow also serves as Chair of the New England Chapter of the American Diabetes Association Community Leadership Board.

## **Richard Hughes IV, JD, MPH**

*Managing Director  
Avalere*

Richard Hughes IV, JD, MPH, is Managing Director and Vaccines and Preventive Services leader at Avalere Health. A nationally recognized public health thought leader, Hughes has led efforts to improve US vaccine coverage, expand vaccine access, and enact policies that increase vaccine uptake, including championing school-entry requirements, expansion of pharmacist scope of practice, and the elimination of vaccine cost sharing under Medicare Part D. Prior to joining Avalere, Hughes practiced with the Washington, DC, health law firm, Epstein, Becker and Green. His previous roles include associate director of policy with the Merck Vaccine Division, director of state health policy and immunization policy with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and gubernatorial appointee to the Arkansas State Board of Health. Hughes previously held an academic faculty appointment as a professorial lecturer in health policy and management at the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health. He earned his JD from the George Washington University Law School and MPH from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. During law school, he served as research assistant to renowned health law and vaccines scholar Professor Sara Rosenbaum. He is a member of the National Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health and the District of Columbia Bar.





## Brian Isetts, RPh, PhD, BCPS, FAPhA

*Professor*

*University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy*

Brian Isetts is a Professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and a pharmacist with over 25 years of experience working as a nursing home consultant, and in community and institutional practice. Dr. Isetts has distinguished himself as a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist to improve medication effectiveness and safety for patients of all ages. Brian received his undergraduate degree in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin, and his PhD in Social and Administrative Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota. Honors include selection as a Hubert H. Humphrey Award recipient in 2015 for government service, a Bowl of Hygiea recipient in 2005 for service to the profession and the community, two Pinnacle

Awards from the APhA-Foundation, and as a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association. At the national level, Brian has worked with the American Medical Association (AMA) to recognize and report pharmacists' medication therapy management (MTM) services within official Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) health reporting and billing nomenclature. Brian has been appointed by the Pharmacy Health Information Technology Collaborative, and approved by the AMA Board of Trustees, to serve as Pharmacy's Primary Advisor to the CPT Editorial Panel. In addition, he completed a two-and-a-half year sabbatical as a health policy fellow in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services working on improvements to the Part D MTM Drug Program, and serving in the CMS Innovation Center to reduce adverse drug events nationwide.

## Vincent Nelson, MD

*Vice President, Medical Affairs and Interim Chief Medical Officer  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association*

Vincent Nelson, M.D., is vice president of Medical Affairs in the Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA) for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), a national federation of 36 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) companies. The BCBS System is the nation's largest health insurer covering one in three Americans. Dr. Nelson provides clinical leadership across multiple disciplines, including quality management, provider recognition, medical policy, innovations of service delivery and strategic market opportunities. He ensures that the OCA and BCBSA incorporate clinical guidance that aligns with market demand and positively impacts the quality of healthcare while maintaining BCBS System leadership with members, providers and stakeholders. Prior to BCBSA, Dr. Nelson was a senior medical director/market chief medical officer for the Central/West U.S. Region at United Healthcare, where he partnered with senior leadership teams to lead market level programs, integrate clinical functions and drive results for clinical affordability, quality and population health measures. Previously, Dr. Nelson held the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care, and Pain Medicine, at the University of Texas Health Science Center, McGovern Medical School in Houston, Texas. His interests and activities were in clinical care, teaching residents, and supporting department collaborations with industry sponsored pharmaceutical and medical device clinical trials. Before his careers in academia and industry, Dr. Nelson worked as a private practice clinician for 12½ years. He was a founding physician partner and board member of United States Anesthesia Partners (USAP). Dr. Nelson obtained his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Stanford University. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Rice University, Jones School of Business, and a medical degree from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed his Clinical Residency and Fellowship training at Harvard Medical School, in the Department of Anesthesiology, Pain Management, and Critical Care Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.





**Mike Popovich, MS**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
STChealth

Mike Popovich founded Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC) / STChealth, in 1988 and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer. He has been a thought leader and idea generator in the health information technology domain for nearly three decades. Mike has authored articles and white papers on topics ranging from disease registries to empowering consumers with actionable immunization intelligence. He is a noted guest speaker at national health IT conferences and provides innovative ideas and solutions for the next generation of technology in population health. Founded as an information technology services company providing solutions to local governments, Mike quickly evolved STC to a focus on public health solutions and services in support of

both population-based and event-based registries. His leadership propelled STC to serve as a global public health services company providing consulting internationally to ministries of health ranging from Hong Kong to Senegal. Over the past three decades, Mike has been an increasingly active advocate for the value of immunizations and the use of information to support healthcare providers, pharmacies, and consumer empowerment efforts. He is leading STC in the development of the next generation of the public health ecosystem to support innovation and the acceleration of technology and individual empowerment to disrupt traditional public health processes, to advance the impact of pharmacy immunization efforts, and to integrate consumers into this ecosystem to reduce the risk of disease and increase the health and welfare of families and communities.

Mike received his M.S. in Systems Engineering and B.S. in Engineering Mathematics from the University of Arizona. He has worked across domains from transportation, environmental and urban planning... to national defense efforts — but it is the population health domain that drives him to achieve greater goals towards achieving a healthy community for all.



**Denise Octavia Smith, MBA, CHW, PN**  
*Executive Director*  
National Association of Community Health Workers

Denise Octavia Smith, MBA, CHW, PN is the founding Executive Director of the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) whose mission is to unify and strengthen CHWs to support communities in achieving health equity and social justice. Mrs. Smith has over 15 years of experience advancing working in collaboration with individuals, communities and organizations to advance equity, innovation and accountability in health and social needs services, programs and policy. Denise serves as an advisor to SAMHSA National network to Eliminate Disparities, American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, UPenn PCORI Patient Governance project, and the CT Office of Health Strategy. Denise is a Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leader and

Universal Health Care Foundation Leader in Action.



## Anjanette Wyatt, PharmD

*Chief Executive Officer; Director*

*Clinical Care Pharmacy, LLC; American Pharmacists Association*



Dr. Anjanette Wyatt is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Clinical Care Pharmacy, LLC. She also serves as the consultant pharmacist for the Mother of Many Children's Home in Houston, Texas. Dr. Wyatt obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy from Texas Southern University (TSU) College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Wyatt is a member of the American Pharmacy Association (APhA), the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP), the Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas (AIP), the Association of Black Health System Pharmacists (ABHP), the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA), the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW), the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA), the Texas Association of Independent Pharmacy Owners (TAIPO), and the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists (TSHP). Her local affiliations include Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GCSHP), Houston Area Pharmacy Association (HAPA), Lake Houston Pharmacy Association (LHPA), North Houston Area Pharmacy Association (NAPA), and the Houston Speakers Bureau. She is a community and pharmacy advocate and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. Her leadership experience includes serving as President of ABHP, AIP, TAIPO and the TSU Pharmacy and Health Sciences Alumni Association and on the Board of Directors and Executive Boards of APhA Foundation, TPA, TPA Foundation, TSHP, TAIPO, GSHP, NPhA, TAIPO, TPA, and TSU Pharmacy and Health Science Alumni Association. Dr. Wyatt has received numerous awards including the Top 50 Influential Women of Houston by Houston Woman Magazine, Top 30 Health, Medical and Wellness Professionals in Houston by DMARS Magazine, Top 30 Woman of Power and Purpose by The Houston Sun Magazine, Humanitarian Award by Top Women of Distinction, Who's Who in Black Houston, the Unsung Hero Alumni Award by the University of Texas at Austin Texas Exes, and the Texas Pharmacy Association Distinguished Service Award. She was recognized by the National Association of Professional Women in Business and received the 2011 Woman of the Year Award. Dr. Wyatt was also honored by the Texas Women's Empowerment Foundation (TWEF) as one of the leading National Business and Community Woman in Houston, Texas. Dr. Wyatt was selected to participate in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program, a 25 Million Dollar initiative and collaboration between Goldman Sachs and the City of Houston. The program allowed Dr. Wyatt to expand her pharmacy services and hire new employees through the Hire Houston First Plan. She also was selected through the Greater Houston Partnership as a Center for Houston's Future Forum Leader. In 2019, Dr. Wyatt was nominated and selected a s Finalist for the prestigious Pinnacle Award by the Houston Black Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Wyatt is a true community and pharmacy advocate who has dedicated her life to helping others!

## Thank You To Our Sponsors

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## Meagan Elam

*Senior Health Policy and Program Associate*

NEHI

Meagan Elam supports NEHI’s high-priority program areas and advances the implementation of innovative health solutions through her work on research, policy, and events. Ms. Elam has extensive experience in research and program development and implementation. Prior to joining NEHI, Ms. Elam was the Community Health Program Manager for the U.S. Army in Bavaria where she led the implementation and management of several health initiatives to support the military community in Germany. Previously, she also worked as a Health Division Research Analyst for IMPAQ International where she provided programmatic and research support to projects with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Ms. Elam received her bachelor’s degree in Biology from Johns

Hopkins University and a master’s degree in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University. She is currently completing her Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree at Boston University of Public Health.

## Tom Hubbard

*Vice President of Policy Research*

NEHI



Tom Hubbard leads NEHI’s projects on coverage and payment for innovative biopharmaceuticals, comparative effectiveness research policy, Real World Evidence, medication management and patient medication adherence. Mr. Hubbard leverages his policy and technology experience to examine ways the country’s health care system can be transformed, focusing on the promotion of medical innovation and the improvement of quality and efficiency in clinical care. Mr. Hubbard came to NEHI after seven years at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), where he led industry-focused projects and supervised the annual publication of the MTC Index of the Massachusetts Innovation Economy. Previously, Mr. Hubbard served as Executive Assistant for Economic Affairs to U.S. Senator John Kerry and as Deputy Director of Development for Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Mr. Hubbard graduated from Harvard College and holds a masters in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

## Wendy Warring

*President & CEO*

NEHI



Wendy Warring, J.D. became President and CEO of NEHI in January 2020. She is focused on strengthening NEHI’s role in advancing innovative care models and technologies that improve access to effective health care, especially by lowering individuals’ health care costs. Warring previously served as Senior Vice President of Network Development and Strategic Partnerships at Boston Children’s Hospital. She was responsible for developing strategies and executing operational initiatives to strengthen relationships between Boston Children’s and primary care physicians, hospital systems, and other providers locally, regionally, and nationally. She has also held positions as Executive Vice President & COO at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and EVP of UMass

Memorial Health Care, both positions involving the implementation of strategies to strengthen the organizations’ ability to deliver accessible and affordable care. Warring received her J.D. from Yale University and her Bachelors Degree from Brown University.