



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Nasim Afsar-manesh, M.D., SFHM

Dr. Afsar is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Neurosurgery. Over the past several years, she has designed, implemented and sustained numerous innovative interventions in quality improvement (QI). As the Associate Chief Medical Officer for UCLA Medical Center, she leads the Health System's Readmission Reduction Initiative. She has created the Health System wide QI curriculum for our 70 ACGME accredited training programs. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Quality and Safety for the Departments of Medicine and Neurosurgery. In this role, she has successfully designed and implemented over 40 initiatives in quality, safety, patient satisfaction, utilization, efficiency, and cost. Nationally, she served as the past Chair of Society of Hospital Medicine's Quality and Safety Committee and currently serves on the Board of Directors. She is a national mentor for project BOOST and has taught QI in various venues. She has been a member of National Quality Forum's Surgical Endorsement Steering Committee as well as the American College of Chest Physicians' Patient Safety Collaborative.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Silvia Austerlic

As HSCC's Latino Cultural Liaison, Silvia provides culture and language liaison to Spanish-speaking patients and families of the Hospice and Transitions Programs; and offers culturally and linguistically sensitive grief support to monolingual Spanish adults and children, in individual and group settings. As part of her outreach work, she provides community presentations (English and Spanish) on hospice services, grief support, and advance care planning. She is the editor of *El Mensajero*, an electronic newsletter, networking and collaborating with local agencies serving the Latino community.

She has provided culturally relevant Spanish translations of Hospice related legal forms and informational materials, and has produced other educational materials, including HSCC's photonovella "A Hospice Caring Story."

She is a member of the Bioethics Committees at HSCC and the Watsonville Community Hospital.

Silvia holds a B.A. in Graphic Design (University of Buenos Aires), a Masters of Counselor Education (San Jose State University), and in 2008 she completed an End of Life Care Practitioner Program (Metta Institute).

39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Debra Bakerjian, PhD, RN, FNP

Debra Bakerjian, PhD, RN, FNP received her nursing degree from Evergreen Valley College and her nurse practitioner training from University of CA, Davis. Subsequently, she received her master's in Family Healthcare Nursing and doctoral degree in Gerontology and Health Policy from UC, San Francisco.

Dr. Bakerjian's area of research focuses on nurse practitioners in their role in improving the quality of care and quality of life of nursing home residents. She is particularly interested in collaborative practice of nurse practitioners and physicians, focusing on resident centered care, nursing home quality improvement and patient safety.

For the past twenty years, her clinical practice is in providing care to nursing home residents. She has an extensive background of educating and speaking to local, state, and national long term care audiences, having presented over 200 talks on clinical, organizational, and cultural issues associated with long term care.

Dr. Bakerjian is an Assistant Adjunct Professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis and Vice Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine for FNP/PA Programs. She serves on the Technical Expert Panel for National Quality Forum Common Format Committee. She is active in several state and national professional organizations including, Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Home Campaign, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, American Geriatrics Society, Gerontological Society of America, and California Association of Long Term Care Medicine.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Nancy Beecham, RN-BC, FACDONA/LTC

Nancy Beecham is a veteran of Long Term Care with more than 38 years of experience as a director of nursing in public and private facilities with an emphasis on leadership development in nursing, competency training, person-centered care and interdisciplinary team approach. Nancy was the first Certified Director of Nursing Administration in the state. Most recently she served as Director of nursing for Edgemoor, a five star county run 192 resident care DP/SNF in San Diego. She serves the community through local, state and national organizations where she takes a leadership role including the Board of Registered Nurses, where she served four years as the only LTC Nurse Administrator to do so. She is active in multiple state and national organizations including the immediate past president of the Nurse Council of CAHF and past president of the Coalition of Women in Long term Care (COWL) and she is the current President of the California Chapter of NADONA (National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration).



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Joseph M. Bestic, BA, NHA

Mr. Bestic has more than 17 years of experience in nursing home and assisted living executive management. He is currently licensed as a Nursing Care Institution Administrator and Certified as an Assisted Living Facility Manager in the State of Arizona. He also holds an active Nursing Home Administrator's license in the States of Ohio and Wisconsin.

In his role at HSAG, Mr. Bestic leads the CMS QIO program nursing home quality improvement activities for Arizona and California. He has created, organized and facilitated several HSAG nursing home quality improvement projects and learning sessions in the QIO program's 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th SoWs.

In addition to the above, Mr. Bestic has authored peer-review journal articles on physical restraint and pressure ulcer reduction in skilled nursing facilities. Mr. Bestic also conducts nursing home quality improvement presentations on a state and national level.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Flora Brahmbhatt, PharmD, CGP

Flora Brahmbhatt received Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Midwestern University in 2000. In 2002 she attained certification as a geriatric pharmacist from the *Commission for Certification of Geriatric Pharmacists*. She currently works in the San Francisco Bay Area as a self-employed long-term care pharmacist consultant. Dr. Brahmbhatt is actively involved in the *California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CaITCM)*. Over the years, Dr. Brahmbhatt has conducted presentations on regulatory changes in skilled nursing, psychotropic medication management, pain management, and Medicare Part D. Most recently, Dr. Brahmbhatt has spoken on behalf various organizations including CAHF on changes to the state operations manual.

39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Kenneth Brummel-Smith, MD

Dr. Brummel-Smith is the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor of Geriatrics and the founding chair of the Department of Geriatrics at the Florida State University College of Medicine. He is a past-President of the American Geriatric Society.

Dr. Brummel-Smith has been a leader in geriatrics for over 20 years. He served as chief of the division of geriatrics at two medical schools (University of Southern California and Oregon Health Sciences University). He is a co-editor or author of five textbooks, *Geriatric Rehabilitation* (Pro-Ed Press, 1990), *Practical Ambulatory Geriatrics* (Mosby Year Book, 1998, 2nd ed), *Interviewing and Patient Care* (Oxford Univ Press, 1996), and *Geriatric Assessment* (McGraw-Hill, 2000), and *Reichel's Care of the Elderly* (Cambridge University, 2009). His research has addressed the effect of a support group on caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's disease, the effect of routinely discussing preferences for CPR upon admission to a rehabilitation hospital, methods of assessing pain in persons with Alzheimer's disease, and the use of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. This year he is an Health and Aging Policy Fellow, serving on the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

He graduated from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, did a residency in family medicine at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, and a fellowship in the Department of Medical Education at the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

He is board certified in Family Medicine and has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics. He is a past-president and Fellow of the American Geriatrics Society.

39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Mira Cantrell, MD, AGSF

Mira Cantrell, M.D., is the Clinical Professor of Medicine and Geriatrics at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Chief Medical Officer of the California State Veterans Home GLAVC (Greater Los Angeles and Ventura Counties). She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine.

Dr. Cantrell's contributions have been in the development and implementation of innovative educational, clinical and administrative programs in academic long-term care settings. She is a frequent consultant to university-affiliated and private groups around the country who seek to establish comparable units. She is a member of several national VA working groups on establishing and organizing long-term care programs and policies. Dr. Cantrell has authored several book chapters and many peer-reviewed research papers in the area of infectious diseases in the elderly and in the pathogenesis and management of pressure sores.

Dr. Cantrell is currently a Chair of the Education Committee of the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) and, in this role, assists in organizing and presenting annual CALTCM conference.

For four years in a row (2005-2008), Dr. Cantrell was elected "Teacher of the Year" by the Multicampus program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, UCLA/VA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship program.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Ron Cohn, Ed.D

Dr. Ron Cohn is a Senior Consultant with the Ralston Consulting Group, an organization development firm whose primary focus is helping organizations manage the change process. For over 30 years, he has specialized in team building, work process redesign, executive coaching, leadership development, third party conflict interventions, small and family run business transitions, strategic planning, executive selection, and helping all levels of employees deal with the messiness of change. He has been a university dean, has published many journal articles, is a frequent conference speaker, and has worked with health care organizations and medical groups to include; Wellpoint Health Networks, Premera Blue Cross, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, SCAN, Medical Associates of Iowa, Becton Dickinson, HealthInsight, Talbert Medical Group, Brown & Toland, and Utah Cancer Specialists.

Dr. Cohn received his bachelors degree in philosophy and history from Clark University and his doctorate in clinical and developmental psychology from the University of Northern Colorado.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Lisa Contreras, RN, BSN, MBA, NHA

Lisa Contreras, RN, BSN, MBA, NHA has seventeen years of health care experience in nursing and management. Lisa received her B.S.N from the University of Hawaii and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. In 2012 she obtained a Nursing Home Administrator License. Experience in home health, skilled nursing, sub-acute, medical surgical, and hospital management has provided her with a unique perspective in a rapidly changing skilled nursing environment. Originally from California, Lisa moved with her parents and siblings to Hawaii when she was 2 years of age. Returning to California in July of 2012 provided the opportunity to reunite with her numerous cousins, their children, and her 97 year-old grandmother. Lisa is currently the Director of Nursing Services at New Orange Hills, a 145-bed skilled nursing sub-acute facility in Orange, California. In addition to spending time with family, Lisa enjoys hiking in the outdoors, kayaking, swimming, and exploring new areas of California. Lisa currently resides in Corona with her husband and their youngest daughter. She can be contacted at: lcontreras@neworangehills.com.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Rebecca Ferrini, MD, MPH, CMD

Rebecca L. Ferrini, MD, MPH, CMD is the full-time medical director of Edgemoor Hospital DP SNF in Santee, California, a government run 192-bed facility which cares for a younger long-term care population with extensive physical, psychosocial and psychiatric challenges. She was honored in 2009 as the AMDA Medical Director of the Year for her role in improving the quality of care at the facility. She has special interest in consent and capacity, Huntington's Disease, and behavioral management.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Tim Gieseke MD, CMD

Dr. Gieseke graduated AOA from UCI in 1976 and then completed a straight Internal Medicine at UCD, Sacramento Medical Center. Since 1979, he has practiced internal medicine in Santa Rosa with an emphasis in gerontology. He left his office practice in 2005 to focus full time on care of the Frail Elderly predominantly in the nursing home setting. He teaches nursing home medicine at the Sonoma County UCSF affiliated Family Medicine Residency where he is an Associate Clinical Professor. He is also an Associate Medical Director for Sutter VNA Hospice.

He was President of CALTCM (California Association of Long Term Care Medicine) July 2005-2007, and was the Chair person of the Education committee July 2008 to July 2010. He is a local and state physician champion for the Ca POLST and a member of the state taskforce for developing the CARE recommendations for LTC in the state of California. CARE stands for Compassion and Respect at the End of Life. He has presented on the POLST and Care Recommendations locally and at CALTCM annual meetings as well as at AMDA annual meetings. He is involved in Care Transition projects in Sonoma County and has been a faculty participant in the INTERACT workshops.

He is interested in International Medicine. He first participated in a Medical Project in Ecuador in 1990. Since 1992, he has completed 15 medical educational teaching projects in Albania and 2 in Pristina, Kosovo.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Janice Hoffman, PHARM.D. CGP, FASCP

Dr. Janice Hoffman is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacist. She is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration for Western University of Health Sciences and her clinical practice sites are S+AGE clinic and at Jewish Home for the Aging where she is a clinical consultant. She received her Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California and completed a specialty Residency in Clinical/Administrative Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice with an emphasis in geriatrics from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She is currently President-Elect for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists – California Chapter and Chair of the Academy of Long-Term Care Pharmacists and on the Editorial Review Committee for the California Pharmacists Association. Her areas of interest and research include: geriatric psychiatry, interdisciplinary health care teams and complementary herbal medications.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Kim W. House, MD

Dr. House is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology. She graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology (BS) and received her MD from the Mercer University School of Medicine. Dr. House completed her residency in internal medicine and geriatrics fellowship at Emory University. Dr. House is board certified in geriatrics and she is a certified medical director. She has been appointed Medical Director of the VA Community Living Center, Acting Medical Director for the VA Home Based Primary and Palliative Care program, clinical director of Atlanta Wound Care Clinic at the VA, and provides medical oversight for the contract nursing home program.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

James E. Lett II, M.D., C.M.D.

Dr. Lett is a board-certified Family Physician with a Certificate in Added Qualifications in Geriatrics and is a Certified Medical Director (CMD). He has held leadership positions in local, state and national medical organizations including presidency of the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) in 2003-2004. Dr. Lett has served on workgroups to improve Care Transitions for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA), the National Quality Forum (NQF) and National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC), serving on the NTOCC National Board, He is now Medical Director/VP for Medical Services for the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, a 34 acre campus with 1,000 seniors in various levels of care including 55 SNF beds, in Rockville, MD.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Jay S. Luxenberg, M.D., F.A.C.P, A.G.S.

Jay S. Luxenberg, M.D., F.A.C.P, A.G.S.F is Chief Medical Officer of On Lok. On Lok is the prototype Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. They provide comprehensive health care to indigent and low-income nursing home eligible seniors in the San Francisco Bay Area. Until 2011, he was Chief Medical Officer at the Jewish Home, San Francisco. He is Clinical Professor, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. He is currently the editor of the web page and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Psychogeriatrics Association. He edits the CALTCM electronic newsletter, The Wave.

Faculty Bios

James McGregor, MD, ACQHPM

Dr. McGregor graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario in 1978. He completed his Family Practice residency in 1980 and started practice in Owen Sound, Ontario. While in Owen Sound, he helped establish the Palliative Care Service at the Grey-Bruce Regional Health Center. In 1992, he completed a Clinical Fellowship in Oncology and Palliative Care at The University of Western Ontario. In 1993, he joined the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, as a Palliative Care Specialist. He remained there until 1997, when he moved to Northern California working as a Primary Care Physician and the Medical Director of Sutter Auburn Faith Hospice and VNA and Sutter Roseville VNA until 2006. In February of 2005, Dr. McGregor became the Medical Director of Sutter VNA and Hospice Roseville and Sutter Sacramento Hospice, working fulltime in Hospice and Palliative Care. Dr. McGregor is presently the Medical Advisor to the Palliative Care Service at SAFH and Medical Director for Sutter Care at Home the Roseville and Sacramento branches and is involved in the Hospice, Home Health and AIM programs. He is a member of the Board of the CHAPCA and Chairman of the CHF Education Committee as well as serving on the Board of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

James Mittelberger MD, MPH CMD

Dr. James Mittelberger MD, MPH CMD FACP is Chief Medical Officer of Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care, President of the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine and Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF School of Medicine. He served for over 20 years as the Chief of Geriatrics and Palliative Care at the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC) in Oakland. Among relevant clinical experiences, he developed a referral Alzheimer's Disease and Related Diseases clinic at the ACMC, ran an inpatient and outpatient clinical consult and primary care practice for complex geriatric patients, and was the founding medical director for approximately 20 years of a skilled nursing facility licensed neurobehavioral unit as well as numerous other clinical programs nationally. Special interests include innovative geriatric program development in geriatrics and long term care. His educational experiences include a BA From Brown University, an MD from UC San Diego School of Medicine, and an MPH from the University of Washington School of Public Health. He has also completed faculty development fellowship programs in Ethics, Quality Improvement and a Health Care Leadership fellowship from the California Health Care Foundation.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Jocelyn Montgomery, RN, PHN

Jocelyn Montgomery is a nurse with over 30 years' experience as a provider in long term care. She joined the Department of Health Services as a Licensing and Certification surveyor in 1998, and held various positions at Licensing including that of technical support consultant to licensed health facilities, and state-wide Disaster Preparedness Coordinator. In current her role as the Director of Clinical Affairs at the California Association of Health Facilities, she is responsible for quality of care and clinical issues related to skilled nursing facilities. She is staff to the CAHF state-wide Nurses Council and Quality Improvement Committee, as well as the CAHF representative to the California Culture Change Coalition where she sits on the board of directors.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Vincent D. Nguyen, DO

Dr. Vincent Nguyen is a Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Specialist with Board Certifications in Geriatrics and Family Medicine. He earned his Medical Degree from Western University of Health Sciences in 1992.

He currently serves as the Program Director of CARES, a Palliative Service at HOAG Memorial Hospital, providing clinical and administrative oversight in the inpatient and post-acute-settings. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UC Irvine School of Medicine.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Vincent Nguyen was the Medical Director of Geriatrics and Palliative Care Services at MONARCH HealthCare for over 5 years. During his tenure, he developed the post-acute service in the Skilled Nursing Facility settings, implemented a training program for mid-career Physicians the art of Hospice and Palliative Medicine through UC Irvine, and developed a home-based palliative care service.

Dr. Nguyen was a recipient of a 4-year Grant from the California Health Care Foundation to champion the POLST implementation in Orange County. He currently co-chairs the Orange County POLST Coalition to advance this effort.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Dan Osterweil, MD, FACP, CMD

Dan Osterweil, MD, FACP, Msc Ed., CMD, Vice President/Medical Director, SCAN Health Plan and Professor of Medicine at UCLA, completed a geriatrics fellowship at UCLA. Dr. Osterweil is the founder and Medical Director of the Specialized Ambulatory Geriatric Evaluation (S+AGE™) Clinic, a community-based, geriatric assessment center in Sherman Oaks. He is the Emeritus-editor of the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA) in which he has founded. He is a member of the editorial board of *Caring for the Ages*. Dr. Osterweil co-authored two editions of *Medical Care in the Nursing Home*, is the co-editor of *Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment*, and has published over 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals. His areas of expertise include cognitive and functional assessment, management of dementia, and continuous quality improvement in the nursing home, planning and implementation of the work processes in the nursing home, in-depth knowledge of nursing home state and federal regulations, and practice innovations. Dr. Osterweil is Director of a UCLA training program entitled Leadership and Management in Geriatrics (LMG) and Associate Director of the Multicampus Program in Geriatrics and Gerontology at UCLA (MPGMG).



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Glenn Panzer, MD

Dr. Glenn Panzer is Chief Medical Officer of The Elizabeth Hospice. He has been affiliated with The Elizabeth Hospice for over 8 years. He was Medical Director for three years prior to being given the title of Chief Medical Officer two years ago. He is guiding a team of 9 physicians and 4 nurse practitioners. He has strongly encouraged his team of physicians to pursue board certification. Six physicians are board certified in hospice and palliative care medicine and 4 more are taking the boards this year.

Dr Panzer prides himself as being a Certified Medical Director through the American Medical Director's Association. As medical director and now as Chief Medical Officer he helps promote the quality of care. Dr Panzer is a Board certified Family Physician with added qualifications in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine by the American Board of Medical Specialties. He also has added qualifications in Geriatrics and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Family Practice.

Dr Panzer presently is working with Palomar Pomerado Health to develop their palliative care program. He serves as medical Director of Villa Pomerado and chairs the ethics committee of Palomar Pomerado Health. He is a graduate of the Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa. He completed his residency in Family Medicine at The Wyoming Valley Family Practice Residency Program in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania where he practiced for > 20 years. Dr. Panzer moved to San Diego with his wife Lori in 2003.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Cheryl Phillips, MD, AGSF

Cheryl Phillips, M.D. is the Senior VP for Advocacy and Public Policy at LeadingAge in Washington, D.C. Prior to this role she was Chief Medical Officer of On Lok Lifeways, the originator of the PACE (Program of All-Inclusive care for the Elderly) model based in San Francisco, CA. She has also served as the Medical Director for Senior Services and Chronic Disease Management, for the Sutter Health System, a network of doctors, hospitals and other health providers in Northern California. As a fellowship-trained geriatrician her clinical practice focused on nursing homes and the long term care continuum. In addition to being a hands-on medical director of multiple nursing homes in California, she oversaw the network development and quality oversight for Sutter's Sacramento-Sierra region post-acute care. Dr. Phillips is the past president of the American Geriatrics Society, the organization representing health care professionals committed to improving the health of America's seniors; and is also past president of the American Medical Directors Association, the physician organization for long-term care. She serves on multiple national boards and advisory groups for chronic care including the CMS Quality Assurance and Process Improvement (QAPI) Technical Expert Panel in Long Term Care, the National Quality Forum MAP Coordinating Committee, and has provided multiple testimonies to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. She served as a primary care health policy fellow under Secretary Tommy Thompson, and was appointed by the Governor as a California Commissioner on Aging and appointed to the Olmstead Advisory Committee for California. Currently, Dr. Phillips is the co-chair of Advancing Excellence, the campaign for quality improvement in nursing homes.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Debby Rogers, RN, MS

Debby Rogers is the Deputy Director for the Center for Health Care Quality (CHCQ) at the California Department of Public Health. Debby oversees CHCQ, Licensing & Certification, and the Healthcare Associated Infections programs. Her purview includes units such as the Professional Certification Branch, Fiscal & Administrative Services Branch, the Systems Technology & Research Branch, the Policy & Enforcement Branch, the Life Safety Preparations & Disaster Response Branch, and the statewide Field Operations Branches. As Deputy Director, Debby actively combines her experience with clinical care, quality improvement and public policy.

Debby came to CDPH from the California Hospital Association where she was the Vice President for Quality and Emergency Services. She focused on quality improvement, patient safety and the CHART process in her role at CHA.

Prior to CHA, Debby was with the California Health and Human Services Agency where she was the Associate Secretary for Legislative Affairs and responsible for coordinating all legislation within the agency. She spent 10 years with the Legislature as a consultant on Health and Human Services issues.

She also has many years of experience as a registered nurse, base hospital coordinator, emergency clinical nurse specialist and nurse manager. In addition, she remains actively involved in nursing education as a faculty member at the University of Phoenix. She has a B.S. in Nursing from San Jose State University and an M.S. in Emergency-Trauma Nursing from the University of California San Francisco.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Timothy C. Schwab, M.D., F.A.C.P., M.H.A.

Dr. Schwab joined SCAN Health Plan in 1990 and now serves as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Schwab sets all of the SCAN medical policies and is responsible for strategic initiatives designed to enhance the health care experience for members. He manages pharmacy and oversees the medical directors within SCAN. Dr. Schwab also supervises the departments in charge of PACE and Medicaid development, and Independence at Home, which operates the largest MSSP site in California. Dr. Schwab served as site director in the Social HMO demonstration project activities and the ESRD Medicare demonstration program. He also participated in the development and implementation activities of 2nd generation Social HMO sites until the end of the demonstration in 2007.

Prior to joining SCAN Health Plan, Dr. Schwab served as Medical Director of Physicians of Greater Long Beach, an independent physicians association. He also practiced internal medicine for 10 years as a Partner with Harriman Jones Medical Group based in Long Beach, California.

Dr. Schwab participates in several professional organizations and formerly served as President for both the California Society of Internal Medicine and the Long Beach Society of Internal Medicine. Dr. Schwab serves on the California Olmstead Committee; was a delegate to the 2005 “White House Conference on Aging”; and has also played an active role in several committees of the American Society of Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Schwab was on the Board of Directors of Front Porch, a NFP senior housing organization until 2012.

Dr. Schwab received a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Colorado and completed his residency in internal medicine at St. Mary Medical Center, part of the UCLA system, in Long Beach. Dr. Schwab holds a Master’s Degree in health administration from the University of La Verne and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

June Simmons, MSW

June Simmons, MSW, is nationally recognized for her leadership in the administration of health care organizations. She is the founding President and CEO of Partners in Care Foundation and a visionary in developing innovative approaches to health care delivery in the 21st century. Throughout her distinguished career, she has been instrumental in creating, funding and operating forward-looking health and social services research and programs.

Ms. Simmons takes an active role in developing initiatives and proactive programs, which meet the mutual needs of patient populations, providers and health care delivery networks to encourage cost-effective, patient-friendly integration of care from hospital to home and community. Ms. Simmons is currently a member of the National Advisory Council to the National Institute on Aging. Other national roles have included the Practice Change Fellows - a national mentoring initiative for physicians, nurses and social workers in health funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies to advance innovations in the development of managed care models for caring for the aging population. This includes major medical providers from across the country. She also served on the National Board of the American Society on Aging. Ms. Simmons is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars and is recognized for her leadership in innovation and management by academic and national professional organizations. Ms. Simmons holds an MSW from the University of Southern California.



39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Karl Steinberg MD CMD

Dr. Steinberg is a past CALTCM President who has spent a majority of the last 15 years as a full-time SNFologist in San Diego County, and has been a CALTCM/CAMD member since about 20 years. He serves as medical director for Kindred Village Square and Life Care Center of Vista, and has been a nursing home medical director and a hospice medical director since 1995. Dr. Steinberg got his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Harvard and his M.D. from The Ohio State University, then completed his family medicine residency at UCSD in 1990. Dr. Steinberg serves as voluntary faculty and community preceptor for UCSD and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton's family medicine residency programs as well as for Samuel Merritt's P.A. program, Point Loma Nazarene's Clinical Nurse Specialist program, and others. He is the Editor-in-Chief of AMDA's Caring for the Ages, vice chair of AMDA's Public Policy Committee, and vice president of the Compassionate Care Coalition of California. Dr. Steinberg is also CEO of Stone Mountain Medical Associates, Inc., a consulting company, and serves as an expert consultant in legal, regulatory, quality and risk management matters. In his extensive spare time, Dr. Steinberg enjoys playing tennis and guitar, traveling, photography, hanging out with his dogs, and running on a treadmill while playing Words With Friends and listening to classic rock.

39th Annual Meeting

Mastering Person-Centered Care

Through Improved Communication, Care Transitions and Palliative Care

Faculty Bios

Eric Widera, M.D.

Eric Widera is a clinician-educator in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). His main goal is to improve the care provided to elderly patients with severe chronic and/or terminal conditions through program development and educational innovations. Eric accomplishes this through various leadership roles, including Director of the Hospice & Palliative Care Service at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and Program Director for the Geriatrics Fellowship at UCSF. Eric received his medical school training at UCSF and his internal medicine training at Mount Sinai Hospital. He returned to UCSF to complete a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. He joined the faculty at UCSF in August of 2006. Since then, Eric has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards including a Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA) and the Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Award. He has also been selected by the Hartford Foundation as a Center of Excellence Faculty Scholar.
