



Speakers

Advancing Understanding of Health Care Delivery Using the AHRQ Compendium of U.S. Health Systems

January 2021



Genna Cohen, Mathematica

Genna Cohen's research focuses on understanding the effects of health care delivery and payment reform efforts as well as the organizational determinants that shape providers' success in responding to them. Her work centers on adoption of electronic health records, particularly variations in how primary care practices use them, and patient-centered medical home transformation. She leads the evaluation of health information technology vendor participation in the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus model and the evaluation of the effects of health information technology use on practices' success in the model. She is a researcher for Mathematica's Coordinating Center for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Comparative Health System Performance Initiative and also aids in Mathematica's reports on proposed Physician-Focused Payment Models for the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. Cohen's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Health Affairs*, the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*. She holds a Ph.D. in health services organization and policy from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.



Michael Furukawa, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Michael Furukawa is a senior economist and director of the Division of Healthcare Delivery and Systems Research at the Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He directs the agency's Comparative Health System Performance Initiative, which funded three Centers of Excellence and a Coordinating Center to study how vertically integrated health systems achieve high performance by disseminating patient-centered outcomes research. Prior to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, he served as director of economic analysis, evaluation, and modeling at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, where he led research on adoption of electronic health records and oversaw the evaluation of the HITECH programs. His research has appeared in journals such as *Health Affairs* and *Health Services Research*, among others. He earned a Ph.D. in health economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and a graduate certificate in management of technology, an M.S. in health system engineering, and a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech.



David Jones, Mathematica

David Jones is an associate director at Mathematica. His research focuses on evaluating the impact of public health programs and policies, examining the composition of health care systems in the United States and the quality and cost of care delivered by systems, and assessing health policies and programs more broadly. Jones leads Mathematica's work with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Comparative Hospital System Performance Initiative to develop the Compendium of U.S. Health Systems and leverage the Compendium to study the formation of health systems and how they deliver care. Past work for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality includes an analysis of the methods used to calculate the agency's quality indicators, with a focus on how to improve the methods to better facilitate comparisons across types of hospitals. Before joining Mathematica in 2008, Jones held positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Abt Associates; and Duke University, where his research focused on issues related to preventive care for children. Jones holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Rachel Machta, Mathematica

Rachel Machta's research focuses on delivery system reform, including the evaluation of new payment models and other delivery system redesign efforts geared at improving quality and reducing costs. She has expertise in primary care transformation, incentive designs, and the changing landscape of U.S. health care systems. Machta currently serves as a researcher on Mathematica's evaluation of the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus initiative for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. She is a member of the practice team and leads the quarterly analysis of the initiative's care delivery requirements. She is also a researcher for Mathematica's Coordinating Center for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Comparative Health System Performance Initiative. In addition, she contributes to the evaluation of Medicaid Section 1115 waiver demonstrations. Machta's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Annals of Family Medicine*. She holds a Ph.D. in health policy and management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Eugene Rich, Mathematica

Eugene Rich, a senior fellow at Mathematica, is an expert on sources of practice variation in medical care with a focus on the influence of the policy, payment, and practice environments on health professionals' decision making. As a practicing general internist, he has a longstanding interest in improving the delivery of primary care and the policies needed to accomplish this. Since joining Mathematica in 2010, Rich has led a number of projects, including an effort to collect policy-relevant national data on clinicians and their practices for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and is currently project director for their Coordinating Center for Comparative Health System Performance, which supports efforts to enumerate and describe U.S. health systems. He is the author of more than 140 peer-reviewed publications and a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. Past recognition includes coauthorship on the 2001 AcademyHealth Article of the Year, a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship working on physician payment reform with the House Committee on Ways and Means, past presidency of the Society of General Internal Medicine, and serving as a scholar in residence at the Association of American Medical Colleges. He holds an M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.



Danielle Whicher, Mathematica

Danielle Whicher is a health services researcher and health policy professional with expertise in learning health systems, health information technology, health system delivery and financing reform, and bioethics. She specializes in qualitative research evaluations, policy research, and stakeholder engagement. Whicher, who joined Mathematica in 2019, is part of the implementation teams for several large-scale evaluations of national and state health payment and delivery reform initiatives. She also helps evaluate health information technologies and health system performance. In her previous role at the National Academy of Medicine, she completed several policy projects on the topics of leveraging artificial intelligence to improve health and health care; health data sharing, linkage, and use to support learning health systems; and treatment heterogeneity and personalized medicine. Whicher also held positions at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute for Bioethics, and the Center for Medical Technology Policy. She serves as a coeditor for the journal *Value in Health*. Her work has been published in a variety of reports and peer-reviewed journals, including *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Medical Care*, *PharmacoEconomics*, *Clinical Trials*, and the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. She has a Ph.D. and an M.H.S. in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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