



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

CAREER ADVISING HOSTS: ALTERNATE CAREERS IN MEDICINE FORUM

POLITICS, POLICIES, AND ADVOCACY

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM



Stephen Aji, MD

Child Abuse Medical
Provider



Richard Besser, MD

President and CEO of the
Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation



Thomas R. Burklow, MD

Acting Director, Office of
Clinical Research Training
and Medical Education
and Director, Medical
Research Scholars
Program at the NIH



Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS

Commissioner of the New
York State Office of
Addiction Services and
Supports



Holly Humphrey, MD, MACP

President of the Josiah
Macy Jr. Foundation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94927134791?pwd=SjAzdIJQNVZUSnJuNzZxdG5BRm5Mdz09>

Stephen Ajl, MD

Stephen Ajl is a pediatrician with more than 40 years of experience and expertise in child abuse. He was the Director of Pediatric Ambulatory Care and Chairman of the Child Abuse Committee at the Brooklyn Hospital Center.

The priority of his career has been the care of the inner-city child and family which he did initially at Mt Sinai, followed by SUNY Downstate and subsequently at Brooklyn Hospital. While here at Downstate Dr. Ajl, with Dr Ken Bromberg, started a lactation/breastfeeding clinic both at University Hospital (UHB) and Kings County Hospital (KCH). Subsequently Dr. Ajl was an integral founder and Medical Director of two Child Advocacy Centers – The Jane Barker Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center and The Staten Island Child Advocacy Center. These centers provide co-located interdisciplinary coordinated care for the physically and or sexually abused child.

He has been certified by The American Board of Pediatrics in General Pediatrics and has a sub-specialty board in Child Abuse Pediatrics. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the subcommittee on Child Abuse and Neglect. He is also a member of the New York Professional Society on Abuse and Neglect. He received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine. He then came to New York for his Pediatric Residency at New York Hospital-Cornell University School of Medicine.

Richard Besser, MD

Dr. Richard Besser is President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the nation's largest health philanthropy.

Under his leadership, the Foundation works to help build a national Culture of Health rooted in equity; a culture that provides every individual with a fair and just opportunity to thrive, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. RWJF is focused on identifying, illuminating, and addressing the barriers to health caused by structural racism and other forms of discrimination, including sexism, ableism and prejudice based on sexual orientation.

Dr. Besser has been a leader in the national call for equitable COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and is co-chair of the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

Before joining the Foundation, Dr. Besser served for eight years as Chief Health and Medical Editor for ABC News, and as a leader at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he worked for 13 years. He served as Acting Director of the CDC during the initial response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

Dr. Besser recently retired from pediatric practice after more than 30 years of volunteering in community clinics and he currently sits on the Howard University Board of Trustees. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Besser received his undergraduate degree in economics from Williams College and his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed a residency and chief residency in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore. He and his wife Jeanne, a food writer, have two adult sons, Alex and Jack.

Thomas R. Burklow, MD

Dr. Burklow received his AB from Washington University in St. Louis, and then graduated from Washington University School of Medicine where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

He completed his residency in pediatrics at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and his cardiology fellowship at Children's National Medical Center, Washington DC.

He served for 30 years in Army medicine, including as Chief of Pediatrics from 2003 to 2011 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he was actively engaged in undergraduate and graduate medical education program development and management. Dr. Burklow's military career culminated as the Director for Healthcare Operations and the director for population health programs. He deployed to Saudia Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq in the course of his military career.

Dr. Burklow joined the NIH in 2017 where he now serves in directing the Medical Research Scholars Program, the country's premier in-resident medical student research program, overseeing a program of 50 medical students competitively selected to spend a year at the NIH to engage in basic, translational, and clinical research. He is board-certified in pediatric cardiology, supporting consults in children as part of the NHLBI Cardiology Consult Service.

He is active as the curriculum director for medical student education programs at the Clinical Center.

Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS,

Dr. Cunningham was appointed as Commissioner of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). Dr. Cunningham is a physician, researcher, and public health professional who brings over 20 years of expertise in substance use treatment to OASAS. Prior to joining OASAS, she served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, was a practicing physician at Montefiore Health System, and a Professor of Medicine, Family and Social Medicine, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Cunningham is trained in internal medicine and addiction medicine and has spent over 20 years providing care, developing programs, and conducting research with people who use drugs. For decades, she has also collaborated with community-based harm reduction organizations. Her research has focused on improving access to care, utilization of health care services, and health outcomes. Dr. Cunningham has authored over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, has been the principal investigator on numerous federally-funded grants, and has been recognized by local and national awards for her mentorship and scientific contribution to the field of addiction.

Dr. Cunningham has also served on and chaired numerous local and national advisory committees, guideline committees, and grant-review study sections. She and her work have also been featured on many major media outlets.

Dr. Cunningham received a B.A. in psychology from Northwestern University. She received a M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco. She continued her training as an intern at San Francisco General Hospital before moving to New York City for her Residency in Internal Medicine at New York University. Dr. Cunningham received an M.S. in clinical epidemiology from Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Holly J. Humphrey, MD, MACP

Dr. Humphrey is president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Immediately prior to her appointment, she served for 15 years as the Ralph W. Gerard Professor in Medicine and Dean for Medical Education at The University of Chicago, where she oversaw medical education for students at the Pritzker School of Medicine and for residents and fellows at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

In 1989, Dr. Humphrey and a colleague delivered the country's first White Coat Ceremony address at The University of Chicago. The Gold Foundation later adopted and formalized this ceremony and today supports similar events in medical and nursing schools across the country. Her initiatives at the University have included curriculum reform, enhancing professional standards, and the creation of the Bowman Society, which explores healthcare disparities and provides mentoring for minority students, residents, and faculty.

She is Chair of the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine's Board of Directors. She is Chair Emeritus of the American Board of Internal Medicine and of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation and a past President of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM).

Dr. Humphrey earned her MD degree with honors from The University of Chicago. Following an internal medicine residency, pulmonary and critical care fellowship, and Chief Residency all at The University of Chicago, she served a 14-year tenure as Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, which provided the foundation for her career in medical education.