



PROTECT  
**MY DOCTOR & ME**

**What Does the Independent Payment Advisory Board  
Mean to Medicare Beneficiaries?**

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***Speaker Biographies***

**Mary R. Grealy**

**President**

**Healthcare Leadership Council**

Mary Grealy is president of the Healthcare Leadership Council, a coalition of chief executives of the nation's leading healthcare companies and organizations. The HLC advocates consumer-centered healthcare reform, emphasizing the value of private sector innovation. It is the only health policy advocacy group that represents all sectors of the healthcare industry. She was appointed to the position in August 1999.

Ms. Grealy has an extensive background in healthcare policy. She has led important initiatives on the uninsured, improving patient safety and quality, protecting the privacy of patient medical information and reforming the medical liability laws. She testifies frequently before Congress and federal regulatory agencies.

She is a frequent public speaker on health issues and has been ranked many times by *Modern Healthcare* as one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare and has been named to *Modern Healthcare's* list of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009.

**Alex B. Valadka, M.D., FACS**

**President-Elect**

**American Association of Neurological Surgeons**

Alex B. Valadka, MD FACS, serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Virginia Commonwealth University. He maintains a strong clinical and research interest in neurotrauma and critical care, including numerous papers, presentations, research grants, courses, seminars, and visiting professorships. Dr. Valadka co-edited the textbook *Neurotrauma: Evidence-Based Answers to Common Questions*.

He has served in a number of leadership positions in medicine including Chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care and Chair of the Neurosurgical Specialty Group of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma; and on the Boards of Directors of the Coalition for American Trauma Care and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He also chaired Washington Committee for Neurosurgery. Dr. Valadka currently serves as President-Elect of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and as a Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

Dr. Valadka graduated from the University of Dallas and went on to medical school at the University of Chicago. His interest in neurotrauma and critical care led him to pursue his neurosurgical residency at the Medical College of Virginia. He returned to Texas in 1993 to join the faculty of the Department of Neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine. In 2006, he accepted a position as Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. In 2009, he moved to Austin to help lead the newly created Seton Brain and Spine Institute, where he served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. He returned to Richmond in 2015.

**Robert B. Blancato****Executive Director****National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs**

Bob Blancato is the President of Matz, Blancato and Associates, the National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition, and the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP).

Bob has more than 20 years of service in the Congressional and Executive branches, including the senior staff of the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging and an appointment by President Clinton to be Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. Most recently, Bob is the Chair of the Board of the American Society on Aging. He also serves on the Board of the National Council on Aging and the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. He was recently selected by Next Avenue as a 2016 Influencer in Aging.

Bob is a contributing blogger to the Huffington Post and Next Avenue, writing on aging issues. He holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MPA from American University. Bob has won numerous awards for advocacy including being knighted by the Italian Republic in 2011.

**William K. Atkinson, Ph.D., MPH, MPA, FACHE****Former President & CEO****WakeMed Health & Hospitals**

Dr. Bill Atkinson has been a leader and a champion for change in healthcare from his early days as a member of the first class of paramedics in North Carolina, through his tenure as President and CEO of Raleigh, NC - based WakeMed Health & Hospitals, and beyond. He has served as a hospital and healthcare CEO for more than 30 years. In every leadership position, Atkinson brings economic and system-wide growth, innovation in services and practices, and award winning advances in patient care and workforce development.

Atkinson's leadership style is characterized by a focus on organizational mission, building highperformance teams, establishing first-to-market advances, forging strong strategic partnerships and ensuring physician, staff and community engagement. Actively committed to assuring meaningful state and national healthcare public policy, Atkinson has worked consistently toward access to appropriate care and to maintain fair reimbursement for physicians and healthcare organizations. He does so, while championing advances in quality, safety, patient-centered care and education.

Passion, strong leadership, innovation and a resilient work ethic are central to Atkinson's profile. Bill Atkinson, a native of Greensboro, NC, is married to Allison Knight Atkinson. They are the parents of three sons. The Atkinson family resides in North Carolina's capital city of Raleigh.