First Step to Healthcare Success:  
Placing Patients at the Center of Care Models  

Speaker Biographies

Mary R. Grealy  
President  
Healthcare Leadership Council

Mary R. Grealy is president of the Healthcare Leadership Council, a coalition of chief executives of the nation’s leading healthcare companies and organizations. 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 regularly 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.

Julie Cerese, Ph.D., RN  
Group Senior Vice President, Performance Management and Solutions Delivery  
Vizient, Inc

Julie Cerese leads performance management programs and solutions delivery for Vizient. In this role, she oversees quality, safety and clinical leadership programs, technical sales and solution delivery, and data science and member insights.

Having begun her career in nursing, Cerese has focused the majority of her professional work on clinical quality and performance improvement. She has conducted extensive studies on the factors that differentiate top performers and works with
clinicians and health system executives to achieve their objectives regarding organizational performance and patient experience. In addition, she is the author of many journal articles on quality, performance improvement and clinical topics.

Cerese previously led the University HealthSystem Consortium’s extensive performance improvement products and services. She oversaw its Intelligence™ suite of performance improvement platforms, including informatics, analytics, quality programs and research, and nursing and physician leadership activities. Cerese also provided direction for the Quality and Accountability Study, which was the basis for the nationally recognized Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award, presented by Vizient to the top-performing academic medical centers each year.

Cerese’s substantial knowledge of clinical quality improvement was supplemented by her role as director of quality and infection control at Chicago’s Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where she leveraged her clinical quality improvement experience. Prior to that, she served as senior director of University HealthSystem Consortium’s clinical process improvement area.

Cerese holds a doctorate from Loyola University with a focus on interprofessional education and collaboration. She also holds a master’s degree and bachelor’s degree in nursing, both from the Loyola University Chicago Niehoff School of Nursing.

Andrei Gonzales, M.D.
AVP, Product Management, Value-Based Payments
Change Healthcare

In this role, Dr. Gonzales is responsible for product management of HealthQx, providing strategic context and input to the Change Healthcare portfolio. Prior to assuming this role, Dr. Gonzales was Director, Value-Based Reimbursement Initiatives, leading strategic customer engagements to develop and implement McKesson’s risk-based payment capabilities. He also managed customer engagements and provided expert guidance to help customers develop and establish pilot programs using the McKesson Episode Management solution. Dr. Gonzales has been with Change Healthcare, formerly McKesson for twelve years, first managing physician-oriented acute care solutions at McKesson Provider Technologies.

Prior to joining McKesson, he led product management for Medtronic Navigation’s cranial image guided surgery team and physician solutions at Thomson Micromedex. He received his MD from the University of Washington, School of Medicine.