Taking Bold Action to Achieve Health Equity

Speaker Biographies

Mary-Ann Etiebet, M.D., MBA
Lead & Executive Director, Merck for Mothers
Merck

Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet has two decades of experience improving healthcare outcomes for vulnerable populations and transforming healthcare delivery at the frontlines. She is the Lead & Executive Director of Merck for Mothers*, Merck's $500M global health initiative to help create a world where no woman has to die giving life. Since 2011, Merck for Mothers programs and partnerships have resulted in healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries for over 11M women in 48 countries.

Building on her experiences as a physician, researcher, implementer, funder and advocate across the public, private and global development sectors, Dr. Etiebet brings a diverse set of perspectives to this work. Under her leadership, MSD for Mothers is catalyzing partnerships that leverage private sector capabilities to strengthen health systems, deliver respectful, high quality care for women, and improve maternal health outcomes.

Dr. Etiebet holds an MD and MBA from Yale University. She is a member of the Center for Global Development Board of Directors and the UCSF Institute Health Sciences Global Health Group Advisory Board. She also serves as the private sector representative on the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Board and the Investors Group of the World Bank’s Global Financing Facility.

*Merck for Mothers is known as MSD for Mothers outside of the U.S. and Canada.
As Chief Community Health Officer, Alexander Garza, MD, is responsible for deepening SSM Health’s focus on social determinants of health, equity and social justice, as well as supporting the work of SSM Health’s transition to population health.

Headquartered in St. Louis, SSM Health is a Catholic not-for-profit health system serving communities across the Midwest through a robust and fully integrated health care delivery system. The system includes 23 hospitals, nearly 300 physician offices and other outpatient and virtual care services, 10 post-acute facilities, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a pharmacy benefit company, a health insurance company and an accountable care organization. The nearly 40,000 employees and 11,000 providers at SSM Health are committed to delivering exceptional health care services and revealing God’s healing presence to everyone they serve.

Dr. Garza has decades of experience in public health, quality and safety and policy development. He has organized and led SSM Health’s overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic before assuming the role of Incident Commander for the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, overseeing the region’s coordinated response efforts.

Dr. Garza became Chief Community Health Officer in August 2020, after serving as Chief Medical Officer since 2018, overseeing quality, patient safety, clinical analytics. Prior to this role, he served as SSM Health’s Chief Quality Officer, as well as Chief Medical Officer for the St. Louis region.

Board-certified in emergency medicine, Dr. Garza has over 13 years practicing and teaching in higher education. Before joining SSM Health, he was an Associate Dean and Professor at the Saint Louis University College of Public Health and Social Justice. He has published numerous scientific papers on original research in peer reviewed journals and lectured nationally and internationally.

Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary and Chief Medical Officer to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He legislated health, medical and biodefense authority for the DHS and played a critical role in protecting the US from threats of terrorism. Dr. Garza is also a Colonel with over 20 years of service in the US Army Reserves. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and serves as the Command Surgeon for the 352 Civil Affairs Command. He has received numerous awards for his service including the Bronze Star and the Combat Action Badge.

Dr. Garza received a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, a medical degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and a master’s degree in Public Health from Saint Louis University.
Eve Gelb, MPH
Senior Vice President, Member and Community Health
SCAN Health Plan

Eve Gelb joined SCAN in 1997. As Senior Vice President, Member and Community Health, Ms. Gelb is responsible for all care management and care coordination for all of SCAN’s products including special needs plans, Medicare Advantage and SCAN’s community service organization, Independence at Home. These are the areas that deliver the SCAN Model of Care, caring for the whole person.

Ms. Gelb has more than 20 years of healthcare experience, previously working at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston where she built asthma education programs and primary care networks for low income children.

Ms. Gelb earned her Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.