Leadership Scholars' Biographies



Barrett Bowling, MDDuke University
Research/Evaluation Group

Barrett Bowling, MD, is a geriatrician with research training in population health and chronic disease epidemiology. He is an investigator with the Durham Veterans Affairs Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center and an Assistant Professor in the Geriatrics Division at Duke University. His research focuses on kidney health and disease as we age. Much of his work uses large clinical and administrative databases. Dr. Bowling has partnered with nephrologists to develop the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment for Chronic Kidney Disease program in the VA designed to provide geriatric care for older adults with kidney disease.



Crystal Burkhardt, PharmD, MBAUniversity of Kansas
Clinical Group

Crystal Burkhardt, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, serves as the geriatric clinical pharmacist at the University of Kansas Medical Center's Geriatric Clinics. She earned her PharmD and MBA from Drake University and completed a Geriatric Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC).

Dr. Burkhardt entered academia at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy with a practice at the Kansas City VAMC. She was instrumental in developing a wide variety of ambulatory practices, ranging from Geriatric Chronic Disease Management (CDM) services to consulting in Community-based Nursing Home Facilities. In 2012, she transitioned to a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Kansas City VAMC and implemented CDM services in new practice areas. Dr. Burkhardt returned to academia in 2014 at the University of Kansas. She provides consultative and Chronic Care Management services for ambulatory geriatric patients. Her teaching responsibilities include required and elective didactic instruction pertaining to geriatric pharmacotherapy concepts to pharmacy and medical students. She precepts pharmacy students and residents, and numerous interprofessional learners during their geriatric clinical rotations. Her research interests include interprofessional teaching and practice models centering on the care of the geriatric patient.





Sevdenur Cizginer, MD

Brown University Education Group

Dr. Sevdenur Cizginer is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and a geriatrician practicing at the Brown University affiliated hospitals in Rhode Island. She initiated a novel collaboration between the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and the Department of General Surgery at The Miriam Hospital as the leading geriatrician, to care for elderly surgery patients thorough multidisciplinary patient-centered care. This program has decreased length of hospital stay. complications and costs and recently received the Certification of Recognition, Barnet Fain Quality Award given to innovative works at one of the Brown-affiliated hospitals. Dr. Cizginer is a winner of PBN 40 Under Forty award, selected based on career success and community involvement among young professional leaders. She has conducted clinical research studies as a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School, resulting in many peer-reviewed articles. Her research focuses on optimization of care for elderly colorectal surgery patients and postoperative delirium. In addition to her clinical and research work, she is also working towards her Master of Public Health at the Brown University School of Public Health.



Stephanie Garrett, MD

Emory University Research/Evaluation Group

Dr. Garrett is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine. She was recently awarded a National Institute on Aging, Grants for Early Medical /Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research (GEMSSTAR Award) to support research of an **E**thnoculturally **A**ppropriate **S**trategy for the **E**arly identification of Cognitive Impairment in African Americans, --or *EASE* study. Her Tides**well** Practicum will involve creating the clinical infrastructure for an innovative model of early identification and care delivery for patients exhibiting signs of early cognitive and functional impairment. This *Cognition Recognition & Research in Special Populations* – or *CRRSP*-program, with special emphasis for African Americans, will align tools identified through *EASE* with timely use in the primary care environment.

Dr. Garrett serves on the Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research Scientist Alumni Advisory Group, and currently as Co-Chair of the American Geriatrics Society Clinical Research in Dementia Special Interest Group. Dr. Garrett also coordinates Emory University Geriatrics Journal Club Conferences.





Elizabeth Goldberg, MD

Brown University Research/Evaluation Group

Dr. Goldberg is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and a board-certified emergency physician practicing at Rhode Island and Miriam hospitals in Providence, Rhode Island. She completed her internship, residency, chief residency, and Masters of Epidemiology at Brown University. Currently, she is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Center of Gerontology and Healthcare Research at Brown University (AHRQ T32).

Her research interests lie in aging, health services research, and hypertension screening and management in the Emergency Department. Her work in aging and health services research has included evaluating whether managed care approaches are beneficial to patients, an evaluation of nursing home - Emergency Department transfer communication, and readmission trends in New England. Her Tideswell project will focus on initiating and testing an Emergency Department fall prevention intervention.

Dr. Goldberg is the instructor for the Brown University undergraduate course, Introduction to Conducting Clinical Research. She is also the Vice President for Education of the Academy for Women in Academic Emergency Medicine and the Geriatric Faculty Champion for the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brown University.



Kathi Heffner, PhD

University of Rochester Research/Evaluation Group

Kathi Heffner is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Broadly, her bio-behavioral research centers on understanding the links between stress and health in older adulthood. She is particularly interested in how social, psychological, and behavioral factors promote or impair physiological stress adaptation and immune regulation. Her scientific contributions fall into three areas: (1) implications of stress for healthy immune aging, (2) the influence of sleep on stress physiology and inflammation, and (3) the role of social relationships in stress and health links. Across these areas, her goal is to identify behavioral interventions that can affect multiple domains of older adults' well-being, including mood and anxiety, cognitive function, pain, and risk for chronic aging-related diseases.





Wanda Horn, MD

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center Education Group

Dr. Horn is an assistant professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Director of the Geriatrics Inpatient Service at Montefiore Medical Center. She completed her medical education at Carol Davila Medical School in Bucharest, Romania, followed by an internal medicine residency at Jacobi Medical Center and a fellowship in Geriatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Horn's interest in care of geriatrics hip fracture patients started in 2010 with the introduction of the geriatrics-orthopedics comanagement. She presented her data at the 2013 American Geriatrics Society Meeting. Other interests include transition of care, safe hospital discharge, and improvement of inpatient care for elderly adults. In 2015 Dr. Horn started co-managing all trauma patients admitted to the orthopedics service at Wakefield campus. She provides preoperative assessment and postoperative evaluation. In 2017 she undertook the role of co-managing the elective joint replacement patients at Wakefield campus. She directs a service that provides outpatient preoperative assessments for joint replacement patients and then co-manages the same patients postoperatively in an effort to reduce complications and provide more satisfactory care for patients admitted to the Joint Replacement Center.



Allison Kaup, PhD

University of California, San Francisco, VA Medical Center Research/Evaluation Group

Dr. Kaup is a Clinical Research Psychologist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and an Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She is a neuropsychologist and clinical researcher who studies cognitive aging. She obtained her PhD in Clinical Psychology (emphasis in neuropsychology) in 2012 from the San Diego State University/University of California San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. She completed her clinical internship year with the University of California San Diego/San Diego VA Psychology Internship Training Program (2011-2012). From 2012-2015, Dr. Kaup completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) at San Francisco VA / UCSF, during which she learned and applied epidemiological methods to the study of cognitive aging and dementia and received additional training in clinical neuropsychology. In 2015, she received a VA Career Development Award (CDA) and advanced to her current positions. Dr. Kaup's research has investigated dementia risk factors, factors that



protect against cognitive decline in aging such as cognitive reserve, and neural correlates of cognitive aging. Her current research focuses on understanding potential long-term cognitive effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in aging. For example, she is currently conducting a pilot trial investigating whether mobile neuroscience-based cognitive training can be utilized to improve cognitive functioning among older veterans with past TBI. In her clinical role at San Francisco VA, Dr. Kaup conducts neuropsychological evaluations with veterans and supervises clinical psychology trainees.



Nidhi Mahendra, PhD
San Jose State University
Education Group

Nidhi Mahendra is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders & Sciences at San Jose State University. Her clinical expertise and research interests are in adult neurocognitive disorders including dementia and aphasia, multicultural issues influencing patient-clinician interactions, and palliative care. She is a licensed bilingual speech-language pathologist and directs the Spartan Aphasia Research Clinic (SPARC) at SJSU. She was the 2006 recipient of the American Journal of Speech Language Pathology Editors Award, and the 2012 recipient of a Certificate of Recognition for significant contributions to multicultural affairs, awarded by the American Speech Language Hearing Association.



Dallas Nelson, MDUniversity of Rochester
Clinical Group

Dallas Nelson, MD CMD FACP is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of the Rochester in the Division Geriatrics and Aging. She is Medical Director of the University of Rochester Medicine Geriatrics Group, serving about 3000 patients across the spectrum of long term care in the Rochester Metro Area. She is also the Medical Director of four nursing facilities. Dr. Nelson is the primary care physician for residents in The Friendly Home, St. Johns Meadows, Legacy at Victor, and Bridges of Mendon. She is also Chair of the American Medical Directors Association Education Committee, where she is able to pursue her main academic interests in practicing physician education and improving health care delivery across the long term care continuum.





Ugochi Ohuabunwa, MDEmory University
Clinical Group

Dr. Ohuabunwa is an Associate Professor at Emory University, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics. She is the Geriatrics Service Line Chief at Grady Memorial Hospital, where she is also the Medical Director of the Acute Care for the Elderly Service (ACE). She has been instrumental in care process changes and curricula design for medical students, residents, fellows and hospital staff including Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, Rehabilitation Services on the care of the hospitalized older adult which focuses on best practices during hospitalization to transitions across care settings for the hospitalized older adult. Her research has focused predominantly on health services and health disparities research in care transitions.



Stephanie Rogers, MDUniversity of California, San Francisco
Clinical Group

Stephanie E. Rogers, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the UCSF Division of Geriatrics. Her academic focus is on geriatric program building particularly in the area of making hospitalizations and transitions safer for older adults. She is currently working with health system leaders to design and make UCSF an Age-Friendly Health System. She is the medical director of the UCSF Delirium Reduction Campaign which is transforming the way the hospital assesses risk for, prevents and treats delirium in the inpatient setting. She is also the medical director of the Hip Fracture Geriatrics-Orthopedics Comanagement service as well as the UCSF Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit.





Heather Schickedanz, MD

University of California, Los Angeles, Olive View Medical Center Clinical Group

Heather Bennett Schickedanz, MD, is the Director of Primary Care at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. A California native, she was born and raised in Southern California, and earned a B.A. in Psychology with High Honors and a minor in English from the University of California. Berkelev (1998). Her clinical training was completed at the University of California, San Francisco. She graduated from the School of Medicine with the "Golden Headed Cane Award" (2010), Family and Community Medicine residency with the San Francisco General Hospital "Hearts Award" (2013), and Clinical Geriatrics Fellowship (2014). After fellowship Heather joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles Division of Geriatrics (2014-2015), and she continues to work on the UCLA-Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) as the Curriculum Coordinator. She has served as a family physician and geriatrician and administrative leader in primary care at Olive View since July 2015, and Chair of the Geriatrics Workgroup at Los Angeles County Department of Health Services since January 2017. Heather has a passion for both patient care and teaching, and continues to serve on the UCLA clinical faculty and work closely with trainees in pediatrics, internal medicine, family medicine and geriatrics. Through her participation in the Tideswell program and leadership of the Geriatrics Workgroup, Heather's vision is to promote clinical programs and workforce development to improve the care of vulnerable older adults within the LA County safety-net.



Mattan Schuchman, MDJohns Hopkins University
Clinical Group

Mattan Schuchman, MD, leads the Johns Hopkins Home-based Medicine program, which provides primary care services to older adults in the Baltimore area who cannot leave their homes. He is a graduate of the geriatrics fellowship at Johns Hopkins and completed residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland. His clinical project is to develop best practices for a multidisciplinary house call team with the intention to make a reproducible model that can spread to other sites in the Johns Hopkins system. He is interested in how healthcare delivery models can affect patient outcomes.





Lauren Welch, PharmD
University of Wisconsin, VA Medical Center

University of Wisconsin, VA Medical Center Education Group

Lauren Welch is a Geriatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Veterans Affair (VA) Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) in Madison, WI with a primary practice in Geriatrics Primary Care and Anticoagulation Clinic. She holds a Clinical Assistant Professor position in the School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. She received her PharmD degree in 2008 from the University of Purdue. She then completed both a PGY1 and PGY2 Ambulatory Care with Geriatrics emphasis at the Madison VA Hospital in 2010. Dr. Welch currently serves as a clinician educator on the Wisconsin Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program through HRSA grant funding aiming to design an adaptable, competency-based learning experience that develops "geriatrics-equipped" interprofessional team members. She also serves as a clinical coordinator of the Madison VA Geriatric Scholar Program in training current VA primary care practitioners in the field of geriatric care through completion of a clinical practica. She is a well-established clinician educator for interdisciplinary geriatric trainees in the area of geriatric pharmacotherapy and appropriate prescribing in older adults for the internal medicine residency, pharmacy residency, geriatric fellows and VA Geriatric Scholar programs within the Madison VA. Dr. Welch is actively working on academic initiatives on appropriate medication prescribing and deprescribing in the older Veteran population through enhanced education of primary care providers across a VA network.



Megan Young, MDBoston University
Education Group

Dr. Megan Young is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of Geriatrics at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM). She received her MD degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She then went on to complete a primary care residency in Internal Medicine at Boston Medical Center and a clinician-educator fellowship in Geriatrics at Boston University. She is currently an Assistant Dean in the office of student affairs and the course director for one of the doctoring courses at BUSM. She has also served as the assistant clerkship director for the 4th year geriatrics ambulatory clerkship. She is the faculty advisor for the geriatric student interest group. Clinically she provides home base primary care to frail elders in the community surrounding Boston Medical Center.



Program Advisors' Biographies



Anna Chang, MD
Program Advisor
Anna.Chang@ucsf.edu

Dr. Anna Chang is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She is an educator, a clinician, and a leader of educational and clinical programs. Dr. Chang practices geriatric medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. She is the Associate Director for Education and Leadership of Tideswell at UCSF. Dr. Chang directs the Foundations of Patient Care clinical skills course for first and second year medical students and leads curricular innovations in the School of Medicine. She is PI of the UCSF Reynolds Education Grant and Interim Associate Chief for Education in the Division of Geriatrics. She served as an associate editor of the JAMA Care of the Aging Patient series and the Current Diagnosis and Treatment for Geriatric Medicine, 2nd edition. She is a board member of the National Board of Medical Examiners, and Chair of the Teachers Section of the American Geriatric Society.



Mindy Fain, MDClinical Group Advisor
MFain@aging.arizona.edu

Dr. Mindy Fain is the Anne & Alden Hart Professor of Medicine and Division Chief of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine in the College of Medicine, at the University of Arizona. Dr. Fain is a board certified geriatric and palliative medicine physician, and co-director of the University of Arizona Center on Aging. She has over 25 years of experience in team-based primary care, the development of high value models of care for older adults, and guiding health system change. She is a leader in geriatric workforce education and training. In 2004, she was named the John A. Harford Geriatrics Leadership Scholar, and she is the President of the American Academy of Home Care Medicine.





William Hall, MD, MACP
Education Group Advisor
William Hall@URMC.Rochester.edu

Dr. William J. Hall is an internist-geriatrician, Professor of Medicine, and Director of the Center for Healthy Aging at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He received his MD degree from the University of Michigan and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Yale University. His major current professional interest is in developing and teaching strategies for successful aging. Dr. Hall is the founding Medical Director of the Center for Lifetime Wellness, a non-profit fitness and educational program for adults over age 50 in Rochester. Dr. Hall has been very active in the American College of Physicians, serving as President in 2001-2002. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of AARP. Currently he serves as a Commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), the only Geriatrician to ever serve in that capacity. His first love is teaching. He has been commended by the graduating classes at the University of Rochester School Of Medicine as "best teacher". He is also the recipient of the Jahnigen Award from the American Geriatrics Society for his national contributions to geriatric education.



Ted Johnson, MD, MPHEvaluation/Research Group Advisor tmjohns@emory.edu

Dr. Ted Johnson is a Professor in Medicine and Epidemiology and serves as the Family and Preventive Medicine Department Chair and General Medicine and Geriatrics Division Chief at Emory University. He holds the Paul W. Seavey Chair in Medicine and is Medical Director for Emory Primary Care. He is board certified in internal medicine and geriatrics. He received his MD from Northwestern University and his MPH from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

Dr. Johnson started at Emory University and the Atlanta VA Medical Center in 1997. He is the Atlanta Site Director and Associate Director of the Birmingham/Atlanta VA Geriatrics Rehabilitation, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC).

Dr. Johnson's clinical research program focuses on delivering the appropriate care to elderly patients and quality of life issues facing adults as they age, and in particular bladder dysfunction in the elderly. He has been supported by Federal research grants (VA and NIH), HRSA educational funding, and by the John A. Hartford Foundation programs in geriatric medicine. Dr. Johnson sees patients needing specialty care for lower urinary tract disorders at the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, GA, and at the Wesley Woods Center of Emory University.





Nancy Lundebjerg, MPA
Program Advisor

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Nancy Lundebjerg, MPA is the Chief Executive Officer for the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). For years as its Chief Operating Officer, Lundebjerg oversaw AGS public policy, communications, professional and public education programs, membership, and grant-funded projects. Today, she leads the efforts that led to the landmark CMS decision to include payment for Advance Care Planning in the proposed 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Lundebjerg represents AGS in a variety of venues, including the 2015 White House Conference on Aging and as the founding Co-Convener of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance. She earned a BA in English Literature from Connecticut College and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Hartford where she was a Woodruff Scholar. She was also a fellow in the Office of Legislative Research of the Connecticut State Legislature.



Christine Ritchie, MD, MSPH, FACP, FAAHPM

Program Advisor Christine.Ritchie@ucsf.edu

Dr. Christine Ritchie is the Harris Fishbon Distinguished Professor in Clinical Translational Research and Aging in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and Director of Tideswell at UCSF. Dr. Ritchie is a board certified geriatrician and palliative care physician with long-standing experience in clinical care delivery and advanced illness research. At UCSF, Dr. Ritchie is creating an implementation science program for the care of those with serious illness and is facilitating the growth of clinical programs and research that focus on quality of life and health care delivery models for those with chronic serious illness and multimorbidity. She is developing national quality-of-care metrics and a national database to evaluate quality of home-based primary and palliative care for home-limited patients and their families. With Dr. Jean Kutner, she is the co-Chair of the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group (PCRC) and directs the PCRC Investigator Development Center. Dr. Ritchie serves as medical director of Clinical Programs in the UCSF Office of Population Health and Accountable Care. She is also a past-President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.



Speakers' and Guests' Biographies



Carol BergmannFounder, Quantum Wise Solutions, Inc. cbergmann@earthlink.net

Carol Bergmann is founder of Quantum Wise Solutions, LLC, a company that provides coaching, training and facilitation to augment the internal management development efforts of the organizations she serves. She began her professional career as a software engineer and has over 35 years of business experience spanning a unique combination of business management, quality management, and human resource development in both manufacturing and service organizations. She has extensive experience coaching corporate leaders, from mid-management to executive levels. Carol is a certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) coach and trainer for Wiley's Everything DiSC® programs.



Sharon Brangman, MD, FACP, AGSF

President, Association of Geriatric Academic Program Directors (ADGAP)

brangmas@upstate.edu

Dr. Sharon Brangman is a graduate of Syracuse University and earned her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She completed internship, residency, and geriatric fellowship programs at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. She is board certified in internal medicine, geriatric medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine.

Dr. Brangman is a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and Division Chief of Geriatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University. She serves as fellowship director for geriatric medicine. She is director of the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease, is also Medical Director of the Transitional Care Unit on the Upstate Community Campus, and is Medical Director of Greenpoint/The Hearth Senior Living Communities in Syracuse, New York.

Dr. Brangman has received many honors, including Best Doctors of Northeast Region, the Chancellor's Award for Faculty Service and Hartford Geriatrics Leadership Scholars Award. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society for ten years, and completed terms as President and Chair of the Board. She currently serves as the President of the Association of Geriatric Academic Program Directors (ADGAP).





Tim Ritchie, JD, MPA

President and CEO, The Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose tritchie@thetech.org

Tim Ritchie has transformed The Tech Museum of Innovation into a vital community resource that excites and engages people of all ages with programs that help them discover their own problem-solving power. Under Ritchie's leadership, The Tech has developed new partnerships with schools, created new teacher training programs, and increased its focus on equipping girls and low-income students to engage positively with science, technology, engineering and math. As a result of this work and more, The Tech in 2015 won the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest honor an American museum can earn.

Ritchie joined The Tech in 2011 after serving as the president and CEO of the McWane Science Center in Birmingham, Ala. Prior to leading science centers, he practiced law, led education programs in a large public housing community, and led an organization that creates employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. He earned his bachelor's degree from Davidson College, his law degree from Duke Law School and his master's in public administration from Harvard University.



Debra Saliba, MDS, MPH

University of California, Los Angeles President, American Geriatrics Society

Dr. Saliba is the Anna and Harry Borun Endowed Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); Director of the UCLA/Jewish Home Borun Center for Gerontological Research; Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Los Angeles VA; and Senior Natural Scientist at RAND Health, Dr. Saliba has more than 20 years of experience leading geriatrics research across the continuum of care. She has developed tools and approaches to improve care for older adults. One focus of this work has helped advance assessment protocols for linking frail older adults to more targeted care and services. Dr. Saliba led a nationwide team that developed a new Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment tool—a tool now used more than 14 million times a year to identify the needs of persons in nursing homes, allowing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to generate care quality measures and to determine reimbursement for post-acute care in U.S. nursing homes.

Among other noteworthy career highlights, Dr. Saliba developed the Vulnerable Elders 13-item Survey (VES-13), a survey that uses individuals' reports of function and health to efficiently identify older



adults at risk for decline or death. The VES-13 has been translated into eight languages and is used in clinical practice, research, and health systems around the world. Recently, the Volunteers of America organization has been using the survey to identify health and support needs for persons entering its senior housing. Dr. Saliba also has collaborated with the California Health and Human Services Agency to create an integrated needs assessment for Medicaid beneficiaries receiving home- and community-based long-term care services.

Dr. Saliba earned her medical degree and completed residency training in internal medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. She completed fellowships in Geriatrics and Health Services Research at UCLA and the Los Angeles VA while earning her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA.

