



## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

### ACO Innovators: Health System Transformation in Wisconsin *February 22, 2012*

**Elliott S. Fisher, MD, MPH**  
**Professor of Medicine**  
**Dartmouth Medical School**



Dr. Fisher is the James W. Squires, MD Professor at Dartmouth Medical School and Director for Population Health and Policy at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University and completed his internal medicine residency and public health training at the University of Washington. He is the director of the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

His research has focused on exploring the causes of the two-fold differences in spending observed across U.S. regions and health care systems, on understanding the consequences of these variations for health and health care, and on the development and testing of approaches to performance measurement and payment reform that can support improvement. The research revealed that most of the differences in spending are due not to differences in health status, preferences, prices or poverty, but rather to greater use of discretionary services, such as the use of the hospital as a site of care and specialist referrals or diagnostic tests that would not have been ordered in lower spending regions. The findings that per-capita spending -- on these services -- is essentially uncorrelated with either quality or health outcomes highlighted the potential opportunity to improve the efficiency of U.S. health care.

His current policy work has focused on advancing the concept of "accountable care organizations" (ACOs) and includes co-directing, with Mark McClellan, a joint Brookings-Dartmouth program to advance ACOs through research, coordination of public and private initiatives and the creation of a learning collaborative that includes several pilot ACO sites across the U.S.



**ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**Population Health Institute**  
*Translating Research for Policy and Practice*



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**George F. Kerwin, FACHE**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer of Bellin Health**



George Kerwin has served in his present capacity since 1992. Bellin is an integrated health system serving a population of 600,000 people in Northeastern Wisconsin. Bellin was an original member of the Quality Management Network, and is currently active in IHI's Triple Aim initiative. Mr. Kerwin is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a board member of the Green Bay Packers. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Collaborative on Healthcare Quality.

**Craig Samitt, MD, MBA**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Dean Health System**



As President and CEO of Dean Health System since 2006, Dr. Samitt leads one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the Midwest and oversees nearly 500+ doctors, 3000 staff, 60 facilities, retail and ancillary services, a 300,000 member health plan, and a Pharmacy Benefit Management company. Under Dr. Samitt's leadership, Dean has achieved a rapid transformation of its operational and strategic performance, and through delivery of "better care at a lower cost," has become one of the nation's leading examples of a high-performing Accountable Care Organization.

Dr. Samitt has served for over 15 years in senior leadership roles in major healthcare systems. He began his career at Harvard Community Health Plan, where he served as Chairman of Medicine and Executive Director of HCHP's flagship site. Dr. Samitt subsequently served on the turnaround team of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care as Senior Vice President of Marketing, Sales, Customer Service, and Product Development and Management. From 2002 through 2006, Dr. Samitt was Chief Operating Officer at Fallon Clinic, a leading multi-specialty group practice in New England.

Dr. Samitt is widely known within the healthcare community and lectures extensively about Accountable care, healthcare turnaround management, physician engagement and leadership, payment reform, and the future of healthcare. He serves as a coach and consultant for medical groups, hospitals and health plans seeking to transform their organizational performance, and currently serves as the Chair of the Group Practice Improvement Network ACO Collaborative and Chair Emeritus of GPIN, and as Co-Chair of the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) Center for Accountable Care.

Dr. Samitt graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree of Biology from Tufts University, received his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, completed his clinical training at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, and earned his MBA from the Wharton School. He has been designated as both an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist as well as a finalist for Modern Healthcare's Top 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare.

**Jeffrey E. Thompson, MD**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Gundersen Lutheran Health System**



Jeffrey E. Thompson, MD, is chief executive officer and chairman of the boards of Gundersen Lutheran Health System, and a practicing pediatric intensivist and neonatologist. He is a founding member and past board chair of the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality. Presently, he is chairman of the board of the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium. Since completing his professional training in 1984, Dr. Thompson has worked full time solely at Gundersen Clinic and Lutheran Hospital – La Crosse (now Gundersen Lutheran). From 1992 to 1996, he served on the former Board of Directors of Gundersen Clinic and played a key role in the negotiations and governance design that led up to the merger between Gundersen Clinic and Lutheran Health System.

Since 1996, Dr. Thompson has been a member of the Board of Governors, and a member of the Board of Trustees. He served as executive vice president from 1995 to 2001. From 2001 to present he has served as chief executive officer. Dr. Thompson is board certified in Pediatric Critical Care, Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine, and Pediatrics. He finished his Neonatal fellowship at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1984. He was a Pediatric resident, and then Chief resident from 1979 to 1982 at the same institution. He completed his Pediatric internship at the University of California-Davis from 1978 to 1979. Dr. Thompson graduated in 1978 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as their subsections in Neonatal and Critical Care Medicine and is a member of American College of Physician Executives. Dr. Thompson has authored a number of articles, book chapters and abstracts on many healthcare topics.

**Jonathan Jaffery, MD MS**  
**Associate Professor of Medicine, UW-Madison**



Jaffery received his medical degree from the Ohio State University. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Vermont, and a master's degree in Population Health Sciences from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Jaffery served as Chief Medical Officer for the Wisconsin state Medicaid program in the Department of Health Services, Division of Healthcare Access and Accountability since 2008. He completed a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow during which he interned at the Senate Finance Committee, in residence in Washington, DC, during 2010-2011. He is currently the Medical Director for Delivery System Innovation at UW Health.