

## **Meet Our Presenters**

### **Julia Abelson, PhD**

**McMaster University, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics,  
Associate Member, Department of Political Science  
Member, Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA)**

Dr. Abelson's research interests include the design and evaluation of public engagement to inform health system decision making; the analysis of the role of public values in health policy; and the analysis of the determinants of health policy decision-making. Dr. Abelson works closely with public engagement practitioners and decision makers at all levels of government where her expertise in the design and evaluation of deliberative methods is routinely sought.

Dr. Abelson received a PhD in social and policy sciences from the University of Bath in the U.K., an MSc in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health, and a BA (Honours) from McMaster's Arts and Science Program.

### **Kristin Carman, PhD**

**Co-Director, Health Policy & Research Program, American Institutes for Research (AIR)**

Dr. Carman co-leads a team of over 50 health services research professionals conducting research on issues of public importance in health care quality, access, health-related communications, financing, comparative effectiveness research, and consumer engagement. Her work developing and evaluating materials for use by consumers, purchasers, and health care providers includes a specific emphasis on explaining evidence-based information for use in decision-making. She is well regarded for her work assessing the performance of health care organizations and determining how best to enable improvement in organizational performance. In addition, Dr. Carman is a nationally known expert on reporting health care quality and delivery information and the development and testing of effective data displays of complex information (paper and web-based). Finally, Dr. Carman has developed products, materials, and technical assistance to support organizations and communities to engage the public in their health and health care.

Dr. Carman received a PhD in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University, a MA in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University, and a BA in Political Science and Sociology from Drake University.

### **Susan Dorr Goold, MD, MHSA, MA**

**University of Michigan Medical School, Professor of Internal Medicine  
University of Michigan School of Public Health, Professor of Health Management and Policy**

Dr. Goold studies the allocation of scarce healthcare resources, especially the perspectives of patients and citizens. She worked on the CHAT (Choosing Healthplans All Together) allocation game, results of which have been published and presented in national and international venues. CHAT won the 2003 Paul Ellwood Award, and Dr. Goold's research using CHAT received the 2002 Mark S. Ehrenreich Prize for Research in Healthcare Ethics. CHAT has been used by educators, community-based organizations, employer groups, and others in over 20 U.S. states and several countries to engage the public in deliberations on health spending priorities. Dr. Goold serves on several editorial boards and on the American Medical Association (AMA) Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. She has also held leadership positions with the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the International Society on Healthcare Priority Setting.

Dr. Goold received an MD from the University of Michigan Medical School, an MA in Philosophy from Michigan State University, a Masters of Health Services Administration (MHSA) from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and a BA in Molecular Biology from the University of Colorado.

## **Jyoti Gupta, MPH**

### **Public Agenda, Senior Public Engagement Associate**

Ms. Gupta works on the management, development and implementation of Public Engagement programs across a range of disciplines. She has been deeply involved in Public Agenda's work on community college student success by engaging stakeholders on promising principles and practices for stakeholder engagement, scaling interventions, and strengthening capacity to use data to inform change efforts. In addition to contributing to Public Agenda's various research and engagement programs in higher education, Ms. Gupta has worked with partners in the human service sector to build a community-based infrastructure for local problem solving around poverty and hunger; joined with partners in the urban planning and environmental sustainability sectors to develop an iterative public engagement process to create a region plan for sustainable development; and is currently working with a diverse cross-section of community stakeholders to implement neighborhood-based engagement processes on K-12 school reform. She has developed an array of deliberative discussion materials and has co-led and facilitated moderator and recorder trainings in locations across the country. Prior to joining Public Agenda, Ms. Gupta conducted qualitative and quantitative research for health policy and services research organizations, academic institutes, and environmental justice advocacy organizations.

Ms. Gupta received a MPH from Columbia University, where she focused on the use of participatory methods in research and planning for healthy communities. She received a BA in Sociology and Anthropology from Swarthmore College.

**Jill Yegian, PhD**

**Managing Researcher, Health Policy & Research Program, American Institutes for Research (AIR)**

Dr. Yegian leads the team providing staff support to the Effective Healthcare Program's national Stakeholder Group and serves as senior advisor on a number of other projects. Dr. Yegian's areas of expertise include health insurance and the uninsured, comparative effectiveness research, and health care cost and financing. Prior to joining AIR, Dr. Yegian spent 13 years with the California HealthCare Foundation, where she worked to improve the State's financing and delivery systems for health care. In this capacity, she designed and implemented a variety of programs, commissioned research and disseminated results, and provided grants and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations. Dr. Yegian rose to senior leadership roles, in which she defined strategic direction, initiated programs to achieve these goals, and built and led internal and external teams to execute the strategies. As director of research and evaluation, she led performance assessment efforts, creating systems and processes to track progress toward the identified objectives. She has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, authored a book, and delivered numerous professional presentations.

Dr. Yegian received a PhD in Health Services and Policy Analysis from the University of California at Berkeley, and a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University.