

# PCORI Webinar Series: Considering the Full Range of Outcomes in PCORI Research -- Patients, Caregivers and Consumers

## **Event Date and Time:**

Monday, October 5, 2020 - 02:30 pm to 04:00 pm EDT

## **Moderator and Panelists Biographies**

### *Moderator*



Susan Dentzer

*Senior Policy Fellow, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*

Serving as the Senior Policy Fellow at the Robert J. Margolis Center for Health Policy at Duke University, Susan Dentzer works on an extensive portfolio of health policy issues including health system transformation, the use of artificial intelligence and related technologies in health care, biopharmaceuticals policy, and improving cancer care and maternity and infant care. Dentzer is an elected

member of the National Academy of Medicine and the Council on Foreign Relations; a Fellow of the National Academy of Social Insurance; a Fellow of the Hastings Center; a member of Women of Impact; and a member of the RAND Health Board of Advisors.

She is also on the Boards of Directors of the International Rescue Policy Advisory Board; Research!America; the March of Dimes National Public Policy Advisory Board; the Board of the Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal); and the Public Health Institute. Previously, Dentzer was Senior Policy Adviser to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Editor-in-Chief of the Health Policy Journal Health Affairs. From 1998-2008 she was the On-air Health Correspondent for the PBS NewsHour. She holds an honorary Master's degree from Dartmouth and an honorary Doctorate from Muskingum University.

### *Panelists*



Gwen E. Darien

*Executive Vice President for Patient Advocacy and Engagement, National Patient Advocate Foundation*

As the Executive Vice President for Patient Advocacy and Engagement at NPAF, Darien leads programs that connect Patient Advocate Foundation's patient service programs to NPAF initiatives while aiming to improve access to affordable, impartial quality health care. Previously, she advocated for women with breast or reproductive cancer as editor and publisher of the magazine, *Mamm*. She also worked as the Executive Director of the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation; Director of the Pathways Project; and Executive Vice President of Programs and Services at the Cancer Support Community. She serves as the co-chair of PCORI's Patient Engagement Advisory Panel and as the chair on the board of the Community Engagement in Genomics Working Group of the National Human Genome Research Institute in addition to serving as the chair in multiple program committees and workshop faculties. Gwen is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College.



Eric Gascho

*Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs, National Health Council*

Eric Gascho has served as the Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs of the National Health Council and its member organizations since 2009. He helps advance policy positions on Capitol Hill and within the Executive Branch by advocating for and developing policies that aim to improve the lives of people with chronic diseases and disabilities. Gascho primarily addresses high health care costs; increasing access and coverage;

and FDA regulatory issues, such as patient engagement in medical product development. Previously, Eric worked in government relations at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. He graduated from the University of Redlands in California with double Bachelor of Arts degrees in Government and Business Management.



Leah McCormick Howard, J.D.

*Chief Operating Officer, National Psoriasis Foundation*

Leah McCormick Howard serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF). She was the head of the foundation's Government Relations and Advocacy Department, for five years. Howard also led the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) coalition, as co-chair for two years, in 2014-2015. Leah previously held positions at Blaze Sports and B&D Consulting before joining NPF. She received her J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law

and holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame.



Leigh Purvis, MPA

*Director of Health Care Costs and Access, Public Policy Institute, American Association of Retired Persons*

As the director of health care costs and Access at the AARP Public Policy Institute, Leigh Purvis leads the policy analyst and research teams on health care issues relevant to individuals above age fifty. Purvis also presides over the Institute's endeavors on prescription drug and mental health issues. She is co-author of the Public Policy Institute's annual Rx Price Watch reports, and tracks price trends for prescription drugs utilized by America's senior population. In 2005, Purvis joined AARP as a Senior Policy Research Analyst. Before that, she worked for the American Psychological Association. After graduating from the University of Mary Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, she achieved an MPA with a concentration in Health Administration and Policy from George Mason University. She also attained a certificate in gerontology from the University of Washington.



Rylin Rodgers

*Director of Public Policy, Association of University Centers on Disabilities*

Rylin Rodgers serves as the Director of Public Policy at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). She specializes in federal policy and legislative issues that affect the population with developmental disabilities and their families. Rodgers topics of expertise include special education regulations, public and private health care financing, and family/professional partnerships. She provides a unique perspective on the impact of policy and of systems issues on the consumers. Rodgers attained a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from George Mason University and is also a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Trainee graduate of Indiana University.