

# Rural Health Symposium

Advancing Rural Health Through Research, Policy, and Community Partnerships

**Dates:** Thursday May 8, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM and Friday May 9, 2025 from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

**Location:** Hanover Inn, Hanover, New Hampshire

Time	Session	Location
<b>Day 1, Evening, Thursday, May 8th</b>		
5:00pm-8:00pm	<b>Rural Health Poster Session and Networking</b> Hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments served Awarding of the Wennberg prize for best poster	Grand Ballroom
7:00pm-8:30pm	<b>Tribute to Dr. Jack Wennberg (By Invitation)</b> Amber Barnato, MD, MPH, MS; Donald Berwick, MD, MPP, FRCP; Michael Barry, MD	Hayward Room
<b>Day 2, Friday, May 9th</b>		
7:30-8:30am	<b>Light breakfast, coffee, tea</b>	Grand Foyer
8:30-9:00am	<b>Welcome</b> President Sian Leah Beilock, PhD, <i>Dartmouth College</i> CEO and President Joanne Conroy, MD, <i>Dartmouth Health</i>	Grand Ballroom
9:00-10:30am	<b>Plenary Session:</b> Jack Wennberg's Pioneering Work on Regional Variations and the Enduring Challenge of Rural Health Inequities  <b>Speaker:</b> Jonathan Skinner, PhD, <i>Research Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College, Professor of Health Policy and Clinical Practice, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine, and Aging Program Director at the National Bureau of Economic Research</i>  <b>Panel Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carrie Colla, PhD <i>Levy Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair of Health Policy and Clinical Practice, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></li><li>Matthew Houde, JD, MHCDS <i>System Vice President, Government Relations, Dartmouth Health</i></li></ul>	Grand Ballroom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Johnny Huynh, PhD <i>Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Clinical Practice, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></li> <li>Emily Walton, PhD <i>Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Director, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College</i></li> </ul>	
10:45-12:15	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Top Ranked Abstracts on Rural Health Research</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Creager, MD, <i>Emeritus Director of the Heart and Vascular Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Program Director for the Center for Rural Health Care Delivery Science, Professor of Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine</i></li> <li>Heather Schacht Reisinger, PhD, <i>Professor, Internal Medicine-General Internal Medicine, Director, Office of Rural Health Center for the Evaluation of Enterprise-Wide Initiatives, University of Iowa</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Oral presentations by faculty and trainees of highly ranked abstracts on rural health research.</i></p>	Ford-Sayre & Brewster
10:45-12:15	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Building Community and Health System Partnerships, Part 1</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Westfall, MD, MPH, <i>Professor of Family Medicine (ret), University of Colorado School of Medicine</i></li> <li>Angela Zhang, MSW, <i>Senior Population Health Coordinator, Center for Rural Health Equity</i></li> </ul> <p><i>An active learning session applying community engagement practices that support partnerships between communities, researchers, health care teams, educators, and students for advancing health and health equity in rural New England.</i></p>	Hayward
10:45-12:15	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Political Drivers of Health: Housing – diverse needs and investments in supply</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Courtney Tanner, JD, MSW, <i>Senior Director, Government Relations, Dartmouth Health</i></p> <p><i>Each year the legislature debates proposed bills that can advance or jeopardize the health of the people of the Granite State. The executive</i></p>	Drake

	<p><i>branch – the Governor, Executive Council, and agencies - also decides on funding and programming that impacts health. This interactive session will examine legislation and executive action on <b>housing</b> and consider together how we can best advocate to assure that NH policies advance the health of Granite Staters. Your voice can make a difference!</i></p>	
12:15-1:30pm	<p><b>Lunch</b> Table top discussion topics/networking</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> James N. Weinstein, MS, DO, <i>Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics, Health Policy and Clinical Practice, and Community and Family Medicine, Senior Vice President, Microsoft Healthcare</i></p>	Grand Ballroom
1:30-3:00pm	<p><b>Plenary Session:</b> Cardiovascular Health Disparities in Rural United States: Causes &amp; Solutions</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Vasan Ramachandran, MD, DM, FACC, FAHA, <i>Dean UT School of Public Health San Antonio, Frank Harrison, MD PhD Distinguished Chair in Public Health</i></p> <p><b>Panel Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Bernstein, MD <i>Chief Research Office for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Associate Dean of Clinical Research and Director of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Geisel School of Medicine</i></li> <li>• Elizabeth Carpenter-Song, PhD <i>Research Professor of Anthropology, Dartmouth College</i></li> <li>• JoAnna Leyenaar, MD, MPH, PhD <i>Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics and Professor of Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center</i></li> <li>• Tracy Onega, PhD, MA, MPAS, MS <i>Jon M. and Karen Huntsman Presidential Professor in Cancer Research, Senior Director of Population Sciences, Professor, Department of Population Health sciences, University of Utah</i></li> <li>• Douglas Sawyer, MD, PhD <i>Chief Academic Officer, MaineHealth, Interim VP of Research,</i></li> </ul>	Grand Ballroom

	<p><i>MaineHealth Institute for Research, and Co-Director, Myocardial Biology &amp; Heart Failure Research Lab</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mark Creager, MD, <i>Emeritus Director of the Heart and Vascular Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Program Director for the Center for Rural Health Care Delivery Science, Professor of Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine</i></p>	
3:15-4:25pm	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Top Ranked Abstracts on Rural Health Research</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Creager, MD, <i>Emeritus Director of the Heart and Vascular Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Program Director for the Center for Rural Health Care Delivery Science, Professor of Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine</i></li> <li>Heather Schacht Reisinger, PhD, <i>Professor, Internal Medicine-General Internal Medicine, Director, Office of Rural Health Center for the Evaluation of Enterprise-Wide Initiatives, University of Iowa</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Oral presentations by faculty and trainees of highly ranked abstracts on rural health research</i></p>	Ford Sayre & Brewster
3:15-4:25pm	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Building Community and Health System Partnerships, Part 2</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Westfall, MD, MPH, <i>Professor of Family Medicine (ret), University of Colorado School of Medicine</i></li> <li>Angela Zhang, MSW, <i>Senior Population Health Coordinator, Center for Rural Health Equity</i></li> </ul> <p><i>An active learning session applying community engagement practices that support partnerships between communities, researchers, health care teams, educators, and students for advancing health and health equity in rural New England. (You do not need to have attended Part 1 in the morning to attend Part 2.)</i></p>	Hayward
3:15-4:25pm	<p><b>Breakout session:</b> Political Drivers of Health: Systems of Care – right care, right time</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Courtney Tanner, JD, MSW, Senior Director, Government Relations, Dartmouth Health</p> <p><b>Panel:</b></p>	Grand Ballroom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH, <i>Senior Advisor, Delivery System Change, Maine Dept of Health and Human Services</i></li> <li>• Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil, FACPM, <i>Chief Medical Officer, New Hampshire Dept of Health and Human Services</i></li> <li>• Brendan Krause, MSC, <i>Director of Healthcare Reform, Vermont Agency of Human Services</i></li> <li>• Elliot Fisher, MD, MPH, <i>Professor, Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Medicine, and Community and Family Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Each year the legislature debates proposed bills that can advance or jeopardize the health of the people in our region. This interactive session will examine legislation and executive action on <b>primary care in Northern New England</b> and consider together how we can best advocate to assure that NH, VT, and ME policies advance the health of our region. Your voice can make a difference!</i></p>	
4:35-5:30pm	<p><b>Dartmouth Dialogue: Rural Health Policy</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary Alex M. Azar II, <i>24th U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (2018-2021)</i></li> <li>• Elliot Fisher, MD, MPH, <i>Professor, Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Medicine, and Community and Family Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Carrie Colla, PhD, Susan J. and Richard M. Levy <i>Distinguished Professor, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></p>	Grand Ballroom