

# 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
5:00pm-8:00pm	<b>Share your Story</b> Capture your rural health story in our pop-up Storytelling Booth Visit us to share a 2-10 minute story alone, or with a conversation partner	Moosilauke
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</i></li></ul>	Grand Ballroom

	<p><i>Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew Houde, JD, MHCDS <i>System Vice President, Government Relations, Dartmouth Health</i></li> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Supporting Informed Decisions about Breast Cancer Screening in Communities with Known Environmental Contamination: A Pre-Post Study” Christine Gunn, PhD, <i>Assistant Professor, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Practice</i></li> <li>“Association between cardiac implantable device monitoring and clinical outcomes in a population of Medicare beneficiaries in rural America” Emily Zeitler, MD, MHS, <i>Assistant Professor of Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, Staff Physician, Cardiology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center</i></li> <li>“Rural-Urban Differences in Continuity of Ambulatory Care for Children with Medical Complexity” Andrew Schaefer, PhD, <i>Senior Programmer/Analyst, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Practice</i></li> <li>“Telehealth Use Among Medicare Beneficiaries with Incident Lung or Colon Cancer” Rebecca Smith, MS, <i>Graduate Student, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, Research Project Manager, Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center</i></li> <li>“Urban-rural differences in hospital-based low-value care delivery for pediatric respiratory conditions” Samantha House, DO, MPH, <i>Section Chief, Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Dartmouth Hitchcock</i></li> </ul>	Ford-Sayre & Brewster

	<p><i>Medical Center, Associate Professor of The Dartmouth Institute, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College</i></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>	
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><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Reagan, <i>Director of Community Engagement, NH Housing Finance Authority</i></li> <li>• [Other panel members will be added.]</li> </ul> <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 branch – the Governor, Executive Council, and agencies - also decides</i></p>	Drake

	<i>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>	
<b>12:00-4:00pm</b>	<b>Share your Story</b> Capture your rural health story in our pop-up Storytelling Booth Visit us to share a 2-10 minute story alone, or with a conversation partner	Moosilauke
<b>12:15-1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Tabletop discussion topics/networking  <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>	Grand Ballroom
<b>1:30-3:00pm</b>	<b>Plenary Session:</b> Cardiovascular Health Disparities in Rural United States: Causes & Solutions  <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>  <b>Panel Members:</b> <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> </ul>	Grand Ballroom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Douglas Sawyer, MD, PhD <i>Chief Academic Officer, MaineHealth, Interim VP of Research, MaineHealth Institute for Research, and Co-Director, Myocardial Biology &amp; Heart Failure Research Lab</i></li> </ul> <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>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“When Minutes Matter: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Travel Time to Health Facilities and Perinatal Outcomes” Sanam Roder-DeWan, MD, DrPH, <i>Associate Professor of Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth College, Associate Professor of The Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy and Practice, Staff Physician, Primary Care, Dartmouth Health</i></li> <li>“Snapshots of Rural Maternity Care Access” Riley Carbone, BA, <i>Medical Student, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College</i></li> <li>“Common ophthalmologic problems and timeliness of follow up of incarcerated patients at a rural New England academic hospital” Natalie Chen, MPhil, <i>Medical Student, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College</i></li> <li>“Variation in Cancer Care in Rural and Socioeconomically Deprived Areas” Kathleen Fairfield, MD, MPH, DrPH, <i>Vice Chair, Education &amp; Professional Development, Department of Medicine, Maine Medical Center, Director, MaineHealth Institute for Teaching Excellence, Department of Medical Education, MaineHealth, Physician-Scientist, MHIR – MaineHealth Institute for Research</i></li> <li>“Rural-Urban Differences in Timing of Medicaid Enrollment during Pregnancy and Infant Outcomes” Patience Toyin-Thomas, MD, PhD, <i>Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, Staff Physician, Pediatrics, Dartmouth Health</i></li> </ul> <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</i></li> </ul>	Ford Sayre & Brewster

	<p><i>for the Center for Rural Health Care Delivery Science, Professor of Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
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> <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> </ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b> Elliot Fisher, MD, MPH, <i>Professor, Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Medicine, and Community and Family Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</i></p>	Grand Ballroom

	<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, 24th U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (2018-2021)</li> <li>Elliot Fisher, MD, MPH, Professor, Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Medicine, and Community and Family Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Carrie Colla, PhD, Susan J. and Richard M. Levy Distinguished Professor, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth</p>	Grand Ballroom