

2026 ACHE East-North-Midwest Texas Multi-Chapter Education Symposium
Architecting the Future of Care: Strategy, Leadership, and System Redesign in a Technology-Driven World

May 14, 2026

Speakers' Biographies



Clint Abernathy serves as president of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano.

Clint previously spent a decade serving as president of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Alliance where he led the hospital through remarkable growth and recognition, earning distinction as a Premier Top 100 Hospital three times. Under his leadership, the facility expanded from 50 beds to 151 beds, completing three major expansion projects with four additional projects currently being developed.

Clint's leadership elevated the hospital's clinical capabilities, achieving advanced designations including Primary Stroke, Trauma Level III, Maternal and Neonatal Level III, and Acute Heart Attack Ready.

He previously served as professional services officer at Texas Health Alliance and held operational leadership roles at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, where he advanced system efficiency, patient safety, and service line development.

Clint holds a master's degree in healthcare administration from Champlain College and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Dallas. He is also a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and Quality Engineer.



Amer Aldeen, MD, FACEP, is Chief Transformation Officer and Chief Medical Officer at USACS, responsible for performance improvement, education, clinical documentation, safety, quality, innovation, risk management, recruiting, research, Clinician engagement, and leadership development. He also serves as Chair of the Clinician Assurance Risk Retention Group Board, which manages risk and claims for the entire Practice. Dr. Aldeen joined USACS in 2014 from Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago where he had been associate medical director and associate residency director of emergency medicine.

Dr. Aldeen lives in Tampa, FL, and is originally from Northern Virginia. He received his BA in Interdisciplinary Religious Studies and his MD from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. He completed his EM residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, serving as chief resident in 2006. Dr. Aldeen was site principal investigator of the \$3.5 million Geriatric Emergency Department Innovations grant at Northwestern, developing protocols to improve the care of older adults in the ED. He founded and directs the Chicago Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation Education Service, which trains the Chicago Police Department in lifesaving skills. He is co-author of Aldeen and Rosenbaum's 1200 questions to help you pass the emergency medicine boards, has multiple peer-reviewed research publications, and won the Northwestern EM faculty teaching award for six years in a row. The Amer Aldeen Junior Faculty Teaching Award at Northwestern is named after him.



Shane Brumitt serves as Vice President of Business Development at Aramark Healthcare+, where he partners with health systems to design and implement innovative support services that advance patient care and organizational performance. With a strong focus on operational excellence, financial stewardship, and long-term partnerships, Shane works closely with hospital executives to align non-clinical services with broader clinical and strategic goals.

With more than 20 years of experience in healthcare and service-based organizations, Shane is deeply committed to enhancing the patient experience, supporting caregivers, and helping health systems operate more efficiently and sustainably. His work centers on delivering solutions that enable clinicians to focus on what matters most—caring for patients—while ensuring support services drive measurable value across the organization.

Shane holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology and Marketing from East Texas A&M University. He is also a proud member of Pi Sigma Epsilon.

At the core of Shane’s leadership approach is the belief that meaningful progress in healthcare requires both innovation and diversity of thought, experience, and perspective. He views innovation not as a one-time initiative, but as a discipline that must be embedded into how leaders develop people, design systems, and shape culture. Equally important, he emphasizes that diverse leadership teams are better equipped to solve complex challenges and serve increasingly diverse patient populations. By prioritizing mentorship, continuous learning, and inclusive leadership, he advocates for building organizations that are resilient, adaptable, and capable of delivering lasting impact in an ever-evolving healthcare environment.



Pamela Bryant is an accomplished healthcare supply chain executive with over 25 years of experience driving strategic sourcing, operational excellence, and supplier diversity. At Parkland Health—one of the largest public hospitals in the U.S.—she leads supply chain operations that support more than 1 million patient visits annually.



John P. Carter, MBA, MS, FACHE, FACHDM, is a nationally recognized healthcare executive and strategic advisor known for helping organizations lead through disruption and transformation. As Brand Ambassador for The Pinnacle Family of Companies, John serves as a trusted voice across the healthcare industry, sharing insights through national speaking engagements, executive forums, and thought leadership focused on the future of care delivery. He also partners with hospitals, health systems, physician networks, and private equity-backed

enterprises to accelerate strategic alignment, operational excellence, and the transition to value-based care.

With nearly two decades of healthcare experience and fourteen years of military service as an Army artillery and strategy officer, John brings a disciplined, yet adaptive leadership style rooted in mission clarity, decentralized execution, and cross-functional team alignment. His leadership philosophy, shaped in complex adaptive environments, empowers healthcare organizations to execute transformation with purpose and resilience.

John's operational background includes leading network operations for one of North Texas's largest Independent Physician Associations, where he oversaw payor contracting, physician engagement, performance improvement, and value-based care programs for 650+ physicians across 250+ practices. His expertise spans strategy, operations, clinical integration, provider alignment, growth strategies, and organizational leadership development.

John holds a Healthcare MBA and an MS in Healthcare Leadership and Management. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American College of Health Data Management and is certified in Healthcare Informatics Leadership. With a unique blend of military precision, cross-sector insight, and informatics-driven strategy, John helps healthcare leaders move from complexity to clarity, bridging strategic vision with operational reality to achieve sustainable transformation.



Stacy Dorsey is the Senior Vice President and Chief Workforce Officer at Parkland Health, where she leads systemwide workforce strategy, including Talent Acquisition, Compensation, Workforce Planning & Analytics, Supplemental Staffing, and Occupational Health. With more than six years of executive leadership at Parkland, she partnered with operational leaders to guide the organization's workforce through the COVID-19 crisis and provides senior oversight for executive compensation strategy, ensuring alignment with organizational performance and sustainable workforce design. Stacy previously held key leadership roles at Conifer Health and Tenet Healthcare, advancing enterprise workforce initiatives across large, complex health systems. Her leadership philosophy centers on integrating people-first strategies, modern technology, and evidence-based workforce design to strengthen organizational effectiveness and support positive patient outcomes.



Cory Edmondson, MBA, FACHE, serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Regional Health Care System in Wichita Falls, Texas. In this role, he is responsible for the overall leadership and operational performance of the organization, advancing strategic initiatives, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of the health system.

Raised in Amarillo, Texas, Edmondson developed core values centered on hard work, community, and service to others—principles that continue to guide his leadership approach. He earned his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University and later completed a master's degree in healthcare administration from William Taft University.

With more than 30 years of experience in healthcare leadership, Edmondson brings a broad and practical perspective to executive management. His career began as the owner and general manager of a durable medical equipment business, followed by progressive leadership roles in clinical operations management and hospital administration.

Prior to joining United Regional, Edmondson served as President and CEO of Peterson Health in Kerrville, Texas. During his tenure, Peterson Health became recognized as a regional leader in healthcare delivery, achieving significant growth in revenue and market share while advancing quality outcomes, patient experience, and employee satisfaction.

A strong advocate for healthcare at the state and national levels, Edmondson has worked with U.S. and state representatives to educate and advance key healthcare initiatives. His service includes leadership roles with the Texas Hospital Association, where he serves as a Board of Trustees member and Chairman of the Finance Committee. He has also served on the President's Advisory Council for Schreiner University and represented the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals.

Edmondson is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is committed to professional excellence, ethical leadership, and continuous improvement in healthcare administration.

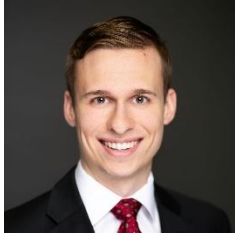


David Gano is a strategic healthcare leader with nearly 30 years of experience driving operational excellence across the non-profit, venture capital, consulting, and healthcare sectors. As the Executive Director of Performance Improvement for CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic, David provides strategic oversight for a network of over 400 clinics and 2,200 employed clinicians.

Throughout his 15-year tenure at CHRISTUS, David has been instrumental in aligning clinical operations with enterprise goals. He leads high-impact initiatives in patient access, advanced analytics, cost reduction, and revenue cycle enhancement. His team is the primary engine for operationalizing over 200 clinic Epic implementations, ensuring seamless integration between data and frontline clinical workflows.

David's leadership is grounded in the principles of Organizational Development and Change, a field in which he has completed all doctoral coursework at the University of Texas at Tyler. A Lean Six-Sigma Black Belt professional (Purdue University), he holds an M.S. in Organizational Development from Murray State University and a B.S. from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Beyond the clinic, David is a classic car enthusiast—specifically dedicated to the restoration of vintage Volkswagen Beetles—an avid brewer, and a devoted family man.



James Griffin is the founder of Invene, a boutique consulting firm built with a 20-year vision to become the world's leading partner for healthcare innovation. A Forbes Next 1000 honoree, James specializes in helping mid-market and enterprise healthcare companies build AI-driven solutions with measurable PnL impact. Under his leadership, Invene has worked with 20 of the Fortune 100, achieved 22 FDA clearances, and launched over 400 products for their clients. James is known for driving results at the intersection of technology, healthcare, and business



Cody Hunter, FACHE, was born and raised in Austin, Texas before moving to College Station, Texas to pursue higher education. He received two degrees from Texas A&M and spent time during his collegiate years working at College Station Medical Center and Duke University Hospital. After completing his education, Cody was selected to be a Fellow within The Houston Methodist Hospital System in Houston, Texas. This Fellowship was the beginning of his 11 year journey with the #1 hospital in Texas where he designed, built and operated hospitals across the greater Houston metroplex. In 2021 Cody was called home to family in the DFW area where he joined Methodist Health System. In his initial role with the health system, Cody was selected as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Methodist Richardson Medical Center and Methodist Hospital for Continuing Care, both located in Richardson, Texas. In this role Cody had leadership responsibility for all non-nursing operations for both campuses and championed efforts for continued growth and expansion alongside the CEO. In late 2023, Cody was selected as the first President of Methodist Celina Medical Center – a \$237M hospital project located in Northern Collin County. He relocated to Celina, TX in 2024 and the hospital opened successfully in March 2025. Even though the hospital is still in its inaugural year of operation the impact has been exceptional – over 300 new jobs created, 1000s of patients treated and a number of new 'Born in Celina' birth certificates stamped.

On a personal note, Cody actively mentors numerous high school and college students and is an avid Texas A&M football fan. He has been married for 13 years to his beautiful wife Cara and they have, one son (Cayson, 9), one daughter (Caylee, 6) and a wonderful dog (Shiner) – all of which are proud Celina Bobcats!



Ken Hutchenrider, Jr., FACHE, joined Methodist Richardson Medical Center as President in July, 2010.

He has more than 30 years of executive experience with a result oriented record of substantially increasing financial stability and strengthening team management to build a tradition of providing the best care possible to the communities served.

During his tenure, Ken administered the assimilation of the hospital into the Methodist Health System, as well as the development of a \$120M replacement hospital and its subsequent and ongoing expansions. Additional accomplishments include the establishment of a new wound care center, Level III Nursery, development of the Da Vinci surgical program, Level 3 Trauma Program, Comprehensive Stroke program and the successful recruitment/employment of new medical staff members. Under his

direction, Methodist Richardson has received accreditations as a Chest Pain Center, a Stroke Center, and achieved nursing Magnet Designation.

Prior to July 2010, Ken served as the Chief Executive Officer of Galesburg Cottage Hospital, in Galesburg, Illinois. Previously in his career, Ken served in executive roles including Chief Executive Officer of the Terre Haute Regional Hospital in Terre Haute, Indiana and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. Ken started his career in a clinical position as a Paramedic Shift Supervisor in Pasadena, Texas.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Healthcare Administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

In 2018, Ken was proudly elected to serve on the Richardson City Council in Place 5.

He is actively involved in the community and has served as the Chairman of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and President of the Plano Independent School District Foundation. Ken is an enthusiastic supporter of the PISD and RISD Health Sciences Academy. Currently, Ken serves as the Regent for Northern Texas for the American College of Healthcare Executives

Ken has received many accolades, including the Chamber's Education Hero Award, the American Heart Association SOAR Award, the Community Health System Outstanding Achievement Award, and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

On a personal note, Ken and his wife Melinda have two teenage daughters. When he's not spending time with his family, you are most likely to find Ken on the golf course.



Brandi Jaco, MS, LBBH, is an accomplished healthcare leader with more than 15 years of transforming experience, driving behavior-change strategies, and improving system-wide performance through data-driven innovation. As Director of Patient Experience for CHRISTUS Health, she leads the strategy and execution of a comprehensive ambulatory patient experience program spanning 400+ clinics across three states and more than 1,400 clinicians.

A Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Brandi specializes in leveraging analytics, human-centered approach, and workforce development to influence patient and staff behavior in ways that improve satisfaction, engagement, and outcomes. She oversees system-level Net Promoter Score initiatives and has demonstrated measurable success, including increasing the organization's NPS from 88% to 91.5%, while implementing a robust service recovery program that was the first of its kind at CHRISTUS Health.

Brandi's work incorporates motivational and transparent design, feedback loops, and reward-based engagement—tools that have proven effective in activating both patients and care teams. She also

integrates insights from complaints, grievances, and survey data to identify behavioral drivers and create targeted improvement initiatives that span both digital and in-person care.

Before joining CHRISTUS Health, Brandi led major organizational development and culture-change initiatives for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, where she helped reduce staff turnover by 30% and strengthened performance through leadership coaching, process redesign, and workforce capability building.

Brandi holds a Master of Science in Human Resource Development from the University of Texas at Tyler and is certified in Lean Six Sigma, Revenue Cycle by HFMA, Fierce Conversations, and DiSC. Her expertise sits at the intersection of human behavior, operational excellence, and experience design—making her a dynamic contributor to conversations on patient engagement and the future of healthcare experience.



Nick Kagal, FACHE, brings nearly three decades of healthcare leadership experience, having served in key roles across North Texas health systems including Parkland Health, HealthSouth, and Medical Center of Plano. He is currently a Customer Success executive at Press Ganey and previously held positions such as VP of Marketing and Business Development at SpinSci Technologies and Senior Director of Customer Success for Premier Inc.'s Western U.S. region.

He holds a BA in Biology and Psychology from Austin College and an MBA from Texas A&M University. Nick is a Fellow of both ACHE and HIMSS and serves on the boards of ACHE of North Texas and DFW HIMSS. He is also Co-Chair of the Texas Regional HIMSS Conference and contributes to the HIMSS Governance and Operations Chapter Task Force. Outside of healthcare, Nick is deeply involved in the local arts community, having served on the Plano Cultural Arts Commission and currently on the McKinney Arts Commission. A McKinney resident, he's an avid sports fan, long-distance cyclist, weekend warrior athlete, and musician who plays guitar and bass in local cover bands Sonic Dissonance and The Grohl Models.



Dr. Junaid Kalia is a leading specialist in Neurocritical care, stroke, and epilepsy, and a visionary in integrating AI-driven solutions into neurology, radiology, and clinical automation to transform healthcare. As the founder of Savelife.AI™, he focuses on advancing medical imaging and documentation through innovative AI technologies, emphasizing accuracy and efficiency. Dr. Kalia completed a Neurocritical Care and Epilepsy fellowship at UT Southwestern Medical Center, a neurology residency at Saint Louis University, and pursued further education in digital transformation at Harvard Medical School and AI in medicine through the American Board of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine.

Through his nonprofit, the Institute of Health Innovation & Education, Dr. Kalia is committed to democratizing AI in healthcare by providing no-cost solutions to low-income countries.



Patty Kallal, MBA, CSSBB, CMQ/OE is an enterprise healthcare leader with more than 20 years of experience developing and implementing comprehensive organization wide quality and performance improvement programs, quality management systems, and leadership capability, across complex health systems. She is known for building and scaling enterprise programs, designing organizational structures, and driving culture change aligned with mission, values, and operational excellence.

Patty currently serves as Director of Quality Outcomes for the THPG & Hospital Channel at Texas Health Resources, where she leads system-wide quality, performance, and culture initiatives impacting clinical transformation, workforce capability, and enterprise readiness. She partners with executives, physicians, and clinical leaders to strengthen organizational capacity, embed quality improvement principles into operations, and influence decision-making through data-driven insights and system-level reporting.

In addition to her tenure at THR, Patty served as the Chair on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Collin County for two years and continues to serve as a Board Director.

She holds an MBA, is a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt, Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence, and is recognized as a trusted advisor and cross-functional collaborator across clinical, operational, and leadership teams. In addition, she is certified as an Advanced Manufacturing Specialist through the University of Missouri Rolla and Missouri Business Enterprise.

Patty is married to Mark, and they are proud parents to two children and first-time grandparents to their granddaughter, Hunter June. In her spare time, she enjoys Gigi snuggles, running, working out, playing bass guitar in the worship band at church, and spending time with her family.



Lisa Kilgore is a seasoned leader in enterprise healthcare IT with expertise in EMR platforms, connected medical devices, network and server infrastructure and enterprise security. She has a proven track record of designing, executing and building support teams for enterprise-scale technology strategies across complex health systems.

With nearly 30 years of hands-on experience in hospitals coast to coast, a career rooted in enterprise medical device integration and digital health transformation, Lisa operates at the convergence of biomedical engineering, health IT, and executive operations. She partners with clinical, technology, and executive leadership to ensure connected medical technologies not only function reliably at scale but also generate actionable clinical data that strengthens outcomes, operational performance, and regulatory compliance.

As a panelist on *The Growth of AI in Healthcare*, Lisa brings a systems-level perspective on how connected devices, real-time data streams, and intelligent automation are reshaping care models. Her focus is on building secure, scalable infrastructures that responsibly enable AI-driven innovation while safeguarding patient safety and enterprise stability.



Pete LaRose is the Associate Vice President of Healthcare Technology Management at Texas Health Resources, where he leads an enterprise program supporting over 100,000 medical devices across a multi-hospital system.

With more than 25 years of experience in biomed and a master's degree in healthcare administration, Pete leads a team of 100+ professionals and provides strategic oversight across biomedical engineering, imaging services, physics, and medical device cybersecurity. His focus includes strategic planning, technology integration, capital lifecycle management, and operational excellence.



Dr. Brandon Lewis is President of US Acute Care Solutions' South Division. In his role, Dr. Lewis oversees 200+ acute care service line partnerships in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, West Virginia and Tennessee. These include programs in Emergency medicine, Hospitalist medicine, Critical Care medicine and OB/Hospitalist medicine. His ongoing clinical work is mostly in Texas in the Houston Methodist and St. Joseph Health Systems.

Dr. Lewis is still a practicing Emergency Medicine clinician and began his administrative career as an ED Medical Director at the St. Joseph Health System in Bryan, Texas. Between 2009 and 2017, he served as the Medical Director and Chair of Emergency Services, Vice President of Medical Affairs, and ultimately as the Chief Medical Officer for the health system. Starting in 2017, he served as Regional Vice-President for US Acute Care Solutions managing service line partnerships in North Texas and Oklahoma.

Dr. Lewis is a Past-President and Board member of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians and a past President and Board Member of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a clinical assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at the Texas A&M Health Science Center and earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, his medical degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his emergency medicine residency at Lehigh Valley Hospital. He later earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Jackie Lopez, MHA, BSN, CPQH, CSSMBB is an accomplished healthcare quality leader with more than 15 years of experience driving process optimization, operational efficiency, and strategic quality improvement across the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. As the Vice President of Ambulatory Quality and Safety for CHRISTUS Health, Jackie leads initiatives that elevate clinical performance, strengthen care delivery systems, and improve patient outcomes across the ambulatory enterprise. She is recognized for her ability to transform complex processes, foster cross-functional collaboration, and execute data-driven strategies that consistently demonstrate measurable improvements in quality of care.

Jackie holds a Master of Healthcare Administration from Western Governors University, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Woman's University, and a Bachelor of Biology and Organic Chemistry from Baylor University. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality and a Certified Six Sigma

Master Black Belt, bringing advanced expertise in statistical analysis, process engineering, and quality methodologies that support sustained organizational excellence.

With a reputation for innovation, accountability, and operational impact, Jackie continues to champion a culture of continuous improvement that supports CHRISTUS Health's mission to deliver compassionate, high-quality care to every patient served.



Nelson Mann, FACHE, is a senior partner in WittKieffer's Healthcare Practice, who strengthens each search with his knowledge of the complete healthcare ecosystem and external market and social dynamics that impact care and wellbeing. He brings more than 25 years of experience identifying CEOs, COOs, CFOs, and other C-suite executives and senior leaders on behalf of not-for-profit and for-profit hospitals, health systems, integrated delivery systems, managed care organizations, academic medical centers, medical schools and group practices. Prior to joining WittKieffer, Nelson launched the Texas office for a top 10 retained executive search firm, served as the leader of the company's diversity

and for-profit organizations practices and conducted searches for the firm's academic medicine leadership, CEO and financial leadership practices. He began his career with a nationally known firm, ultimately assuming the role of manager of the healthcare division, guiding significant growth of the division. Early in his career, he spent several years as an area manager within the sales and marketing division at Johnson & Johnson. Based in Austin, TX, Nelson is a member and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), and regularly speaks at events hosted by ACHE, the Healthcare Financial Management Association and other industry organizations. He is also a guest lecturer within the Masters of Health Administration program at Trinity University in San Antonio, and serves on the board of two not-for-profit organizations in Austin.



Susan K. Moats, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, serves as Regional Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Services for Baylor Scott & White Health's East Region. A nationally recognized nurse executive, Dr. Moats is known for advancing quality, patient experience, nursing excellence, and innovative care delivery across complex health systems. Her leadership has supported multiple ANCC Magnet® and Pathway to Excellence® designations, enterprise clinical programs, and technology integration initiatives. Dr. Moats is a passionate advocate for equitable, safe, and high-reliability care and brings both clinical expertise and business acumen to every stage she joins.



Vern Rennier is the Chief Executive Officer of Oceans Healthcare- Longview, Texas, where he leads both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services with a focus on quality, access, innovation, and community impact.

A U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Vern's commitment to healthcare was born from his own journey of recovery after being wounded in combat. This experience instilled in him a deep understanding of the patient journey and the critical importance of compassionate, patient-centered care.

In 2024, Vern was honored with the Early Careerist Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) of Louisiana, recognizing his outstanding leadership and meaningful contributions to

the healthcare field. He currently serves on the ACHE of Louisiana Board of Directors, representing Region 4, where he works to shape the future of healthcare leadership across the state. Vern was recently awarded the Humanitarian Award through Humbly Committed for his advocacy for mental health. Vern also sits on the board for the Greater Longview United Way. Vern was accredited for overseeing the necessary steps to have the City of Longview recognized as a Veteran Friendly Community Designation opening up more opportunities for the veterans in Longview with state and federal funding for housing and job rehabilitation.

Prior to joining Oceans, Vern held key executive leadership roles at CHRISTUS Health, where he led initiatives in behavioral health transformation, telehealth expansion, and operational strategy. A graduate of the CHRISTUS Leadership and Ethics Academy, Vern is known for developing high-performing teams, producing measurable outcomes, and advancing long-term wellness initiatives.

Deeply committed to mental health advocacy, Vern uses his platform to drive systemic change, improve access for underserved populations, and lead mission-driven care with integrity and purpose.



Hamid Sediq is Executive Director of Operations for the Northeast Region at Texas Oncology, where he leads strategy and operations for 25 ambulatory oncology centers and more than 1,300 team members across a billion-dollar regional network.

A stage III colon cancer survivor, Hamid brings a deeply personal perspective to healthcare leadership. His experience navigating the healthcare system—from emergency care to clinical trials—shaped a leadership philosophy grounded in both operational rigor and empathy for the patient experience.

Over a 15+ year career, he has led transformational initiatives at organizations including UT Southwestern Medical Center and Cleveland Clinic, advancing digital health, improving patient access, and driving major operational improvements.

Hamid is passionate about building high-performing teams and translating complex strategy into practical changes that improve how care is delivered.



Cassandra Self, FACHE, is the Professional Services and Finance Officer at Texas Health Azle in North Texas and has worked in healthcare administration for over 20 years. Her experience spans managed care contracting, clinic management, business operations, and supply chain procurement. She holds a BBA from TAMU-Corpus Christi, an MS in Healthcare Administration from Texas Tech University HSC, and a Doctorate of Healthcare Administration from Oklahoma State University.

Cassandra is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), holds CVAHP certification through AHVAP, and actively serves in the North Texas chapter of ACHE. She is currently servicing on the executive board of ACHE North Texas as the Community, Culture and Inclusion

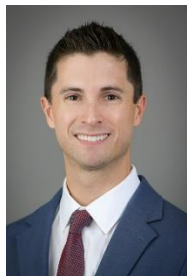
Officer and also volunteers with several of the committees. Cassandra is also an executive board member at Texas Native Health and a proud citizen of the Muscogee Nation. Outside of work, she enjoys volunteering to promote health equity and supporting rare disease advocacy through Soft Bones, Inc., and spending time with her husband Zeb and their five children.



Jeff Stewart, FACHE, is a strategic marketing executive with progressive leadership roles in health care. As Vice President of Strategic Marketing at CHRISTUS Health, Jeff spearheads comprehensive brand and marketing strategies for the system, driving significant improvements in marketing efficiency, ROI and digital consumer experiences.

Before CHRISTUS Health, Jeff served as AVP of Digital Communications at VITAS Healthcare, where he led transformative internal and external digital marketing initiatives for the nation's leading provider of hospice care. His career also includes roles at TriHealth and the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati.

Jeff is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), holds an MBA from Xavier University and master's in information systems from the University of Cincinnati. He is also an adjunct professor for Informatics and Technology in Healthcare at the Good Samaritan College of Nursing.



Graham Torres joined Children's HealthSM in 2012 and currently serves as Vice President of Operations at Children's Medical Center Plano. In this role, he oversees engineering, environmental services, family support services, spiritual care, inpatient rehabilitation and therapy services, and serves as the administrator for the Integrated Therapy Unit.

Graham also provided operational oversight for the hospital's expansion in 2024, which included a 140-bed, 400,000-square-foot inpatient tower. He played a crucial role in its design, ensuring it supported both an exceptional patient and family experience as well as the hospital's clinical program growth.

He earned a BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Mississippi State University and an MS in Healthcare Administration from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Gavin Bert Witherspoon, MS, MBA, FACHE, is the Founder, Managing Partner of Triaxiom Advisors.



Mary Wylie, FACHE, serves as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center Plano, overseeing ancillary services and service line development. She developed a virtual health care program that was expanded statewide in Texas and is now marketed to employers. Dr. Wylie holds a Doctorate in Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina and contributed to implementing a system-wide palliative care program across 24 hospitals. Her interests include teaching, golf, and spending time with her grandchildren.