

VA Healthcare

2025 SUMMIT

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July 22-23, 2025

MGM Hotel and Casino, National Harbor, MD

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EVENT CHAIRMAN:

- **Jim Gfrerer**, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; Former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

- **Dr. Bobby Mukkamala**, President, **American Medical Association**
- **Dr. David Shulkin**, **Former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs**
- **Darin Selnick**, Former Trump Administration Veterans Affairs Advisor, **White House Domestic Policy Council**; Former Senior Advisor to the VA Secretary, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Dr. Brian Lein**, Assistant Director, Health Care Administration, **Defense Health Agency**
- **Jeff Neill**, Associate Executive Director, Technology Acquisition Center, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Chris Parker**, Associate Executive Director, Strategic Acquisition Center; Acting Associate Executive Director, National Acquisition Center, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Michael Heimall**, **FACHE**, President and CEO, **HealthWell Foundation**; Former Director (CEO), Washington D.C. VA Medical Center, **Veterans Health Administration**
- **Nicholas Meyer**, Patient Experience Coach, Veterans Experience Office, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Dr. Arthur L. Kellermann, MD, MPH, FACEP, FACP**, Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, **American Red Cross**; Special Medical Advisory Group, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Holly Joers**, President, **CareSource Military & Veterans**
- **Katelyn Moser**, Senior Director of Patient Experience, Executive Liaison to the President, **MedStar Washington Hospital Center**
- **Priya Sheriff**, Associate Director of Support Services, **Amputee Coalition**
- **Dr. Amy Hrin**, Vice President of Program Development, **American Humane Society**
- **Michael (Mike) Bundrick**, **Pups4Patriots**, and **Justice the Service Dog**
- **Gabriel Heath**, Government Accounts Sales Executive, **AvaSure**
- **Paula Cobb**, VP of Marketing, **AvaSure**
- **Nicholas Muhlenbruch**, Director of Connected Healthcare Technology, **CGI Federal**
- **Matthew G. Garoufalidis**, **DPM, FASPS, FACPM, CWS, FFPM RCPS (Glasg), FRSM**, Chief Medical Officer, **Advanced Oxygen Therapy**
- **Dr. Edgar Rios, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP**, Vaccines Field Medical Director, US Medical Affairs, **Pfizer**
- **Margaret Martin, PharmD, BCPS**, Sr. Medical Science Liaison, Medical Affairs, **Intra-Cellular Therapies, Inc.**
- **Dr. Kel Pults**, Chief Clinical Officer & VP, Government Strategy, **MediQuant**
- **Jill Davis**, Senior Director, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, **Endo Pharmaceuticals**
- **Alison Bagwell**, CEO, **Nephron Nitrile, LLC**
- **Jim St. Clair**, President, **Compass Rose Solutions**

ADVISORY BOARD AND TRACK CHAIRS:

- **Don Prisby**, President, **Northpoint Advocates**
- **Bill James**, President, **Federal Business LLC**; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Program Management Office, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Kurt Finke**, Healthcare Technology Management (HTM) Associate Consultant, **Federal Business LLC**; Former Director, Office of Healthcare Technology Management, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Michael Parrish**, Acquisition Associate Consultant, **Federal Business LLC**; Former Chief Acquisition Officer, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **David Sloniker**, Former Program Executive Director, OESM, **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Tonya Oxendine**, Spokesperson, **Wounded Warrior Project**

DAY 1 – JULY 22, 2025

0715 REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

0815 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, Federal Business LLC; former CIO, Department of Veterans Affairs

0830 OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF VETERAN CARE

- Connecting benefits to health: An outline of the top priorities and long-term vision for enhancing healthcare services for veterans
- Modernization initiatives: Key updates on ongoing and upcoming efforts to modernize the VA's infrastructure, technology, and care delivery systems, including the Electronic Health Records rollout and areas of collaboration between the DoD and the VA
- Expanding access to care: A focus on expanding healthcare access through the Community Care Network (CCN)

Darin Selnick, Former Trump Administration Veterans Affairs Advisor, White House Domestic Policy Council; Former Senior Advisor to the VA Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

0900 PRECISION MEDICINE AND DIGITAL TWINS IN HEALTHCARE: THE NEXT LEVEL IN MEDICAL SIMULATION

- Understanding the implications of digital representations in healthcare
- Innovations within the field that are driving better healthcare outcomes
- Updates on progress of modelling and simulation software in recent years, how the VA is leading the way on research and application of digital twins

Moderator:

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, Federal Business LLC; former CIO, Department of Veterans Affairs

Speaker

Jim St. Clair, President, Compass Rose Solutions

0930 COVID IN LONG TERM CARE

- First objective: COVID in Long-Term Care Facilities ("nursing homes") today
- Second objective: What's new in our understanding of COVID from work in the NH space- US perspective
- Third Objective: current vaccines and vaccine targets

Stefan Gravenstein, MD, MPH, Greer Professor of Geriatrics and Director, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Department of Medicine, Alpert Medical School; Professor, School of Public Health, Brown University



1000 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN EXHIBITION HALL

HOSTED BY VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS



1045 FIRESIDE CHAT: THE ROLE OF AI IN THE FUTURE VA HYBRID CARE MODEL

- Where AI can deliver the biggest value in a hybrid care model (and where it can't).
- How to integrate AI tools in ways that support, not overwhelm, clinical teams.
- Practical steps to scale AI thoughtfully across the VA system.

Moderator:

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Speaker:

Gabriel Heath, Government Accounts Sales Executive, **AvaSure**

**1115 LEVERAGING DHA DATA CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT CLINICIANS AND PATIENTS**

- Implications of AI/ML capability adoption across DHA facilities, ongoing challenges for data management and data governance
- Opportunities for VA/DHA collaboration on data issues, ways that clinicians and patients can realize the benefits of data focused technologies
- Supporting the use of DHA data for researchers, including MHS BioBank and bioinformatics capabilities

Moderator:

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Speaker:

Dr. Brian Lein, Assistant Director, Health Care Administration, **Defense Health Agency**

1145 FIRESIDE CHAT: OVERVIEW OF INNOVATION EFFORTS AT THE VA TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION CENTER

- TAC's strategic focus on innovation, agility, and mission-aligned procurements
- Updates on ongoing acquisition programs supporting cybersecurity, electronic health records, AI, cloud infrastructure, and telehealth
- How the TAC engages with industry and the latest opportunities for collaboration
- Lessons learned and future acquisition priorities as the VA continues to pursue modernization

Moderator:

Bill James, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Program Management Office, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Speaker:

Jeff Neill, Associate Executive Director, Technology Acquisition Center, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

1230 NETWORKING LUNCH IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

DAY 1 – JULY 22, 2025

1330 HELPING VETERANS GAIN ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE - HOSTED BY UHS PATRIOT SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Identifying technology innovations, such as predictive analytics, to identify risk and improve mental health outcomes
- Exploring new treatment protocols to address the unique challenges veterans face, with a focus on suicide prevention and creating proactive solutions
- Collaboration among the Department of Veterans Affairs, healthcare professionals, and the veteran community will be emphasized to build a more efficient and comprehensive mental health care system

Dr. David Shulkin, Former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs



1400 PUPS 4 PATRIOTS: HOW SERVICE ANIMALS CAN HELP IMPROVE VETERAN HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES

- Research shows that specially trained service dogs can reduce stress and anxiety levels, mitigate depression, ease social reintegration, provide comfort and restore confidence in affected veterans. Unfortunately, many obstacles often prevent veterans from gaining access to service dogs.
- By providing exceptionally trained service dogs at no cost, American Humane Society's Pups4Patriots™ bridges a critical gap of care and companionship for veterans and retired first responders suffering from Post-traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- Meet an expert in the human-animal bond and one Pups4Patriots pair (a service dog and veteran) and learn about the efficacy of service dogs as a treatment method for veterans and first responders with PTS and TBI.

Dr. Amy Hrin, Vice President of Program Development, American Humane Society
Michael (Mike) Bundrick, Pups4Patriots
Justice the Service Dog

1430 CARING FOR SERVICE MEMBER AND VETERAN POPULATIONS: A DEEPER LOOK AT BIPOLAR DISORDER

Margaret Martin, PharmD, BCPS, Sr. Medical Science Liaison, Medical Affairs, Intra-Cellular Therapies, Inc.



1500 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

IN THE EXHIBITION HALL



1500 WOMEN LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE NETWORKING ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARIA BALLROOM – HOSTED BY REGENESIS

Hosted by Elisa Cardnell, President and CEO, Service Womens Action Network



DAY 1 – JULY 22, 2025

1545 FIRESIDE CHAT: SMARTER, SAFER, STRONGER - DRIVING EFFICIENCY WITH AI-AUGMENTED VIRTUAL CARE

- The role of AI in easing workforce strain and supporting care team capacity
- Why government and VA hospitals are prioritizing proactive, scalable solutions to meet evolving care demands
- How AI-enhanced virtual sitting improves patient monitoring and reduces staff burden

Moderator:

Kurt Finke, former Director, Office of Healthcare Technology Management, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Speaker:

Paula Cobb, VP of Marketing, **AvaSure**

Nicholas Muhlenbruch, Director of Connected Healthcare Technology, **CGI Federal**



1615 FIRESIDE CHAT: ADAPTING TO EVOLVING VETERAN NEEDS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE DC VAMC

- How VAMC directors address the changing healthcare needs of veterans, including mental health, chronic diseases, and aging populations.
- Innovations in Care Delivery at the Facility Level: Highlighting new models and technologies being implemented at individual medical centers to improve patient care and reduce wait times.
- Tackling Staffing and Resource Challenges: Strategies for overcoming staffing shortages and optimizing resources to ensure high-quality care in VA Medical Centers

Moderator:

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Speaker:

Michael Heimall, **FACHE**, President and CEO, **HealthWell Foundation**; Former Director (CEO), Washington D.C. VA Medical Center, **Veterans Health Administration**

1645 THE VA WAY: THE VA'S EXPERIENCE MODEL

- The Experience is the sum of all interactions shaped by the VA's culture
- VA's Shared Purpose is to build trusted lifelong relationships with our customers
- The VA Way is the cultural mechanism that bonds and connects all VA employees to our customers

Nicholas Meyer, Patient Experience Coach, Veterans Experience Office, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

1715 CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

1730 NETWORKING DRINKS RECEPTION IN EXHIBITION HALL HOSTED BY AVASURE



1830 END OF CONFERENCE DAY 1

DAY 2 – JULY 23, 2025

0755 REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

0855 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, Federal Business LLC; former CIO, Department of Veterans Affairs

0900 SUPPORTING PHYSICIANS IN PROVIDING TOPFLIGHT CARE FOR VETERAN POPULATIONS

- Addressing Physician Challenges in Veteran Care: Strategies to reduce administrative burdens, enhance training, and improve physician support systems
- Leveraging Technology and Innovation: How AI, telemedicine, and data-driven tools can empower physicians to deliver high-quality, efficient care to veterans
- Building a Sustainable Healthcare Workforce: The role of professional development, mentorship, and policy advocacy in ensuring long-term physician engagement and retention in veteran healthcare

Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, President, American Medical Association

0945 VACCINE PREVENTABLE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN ADULTS AT RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS

- Describe the importance of Vaccination in Adults at Increased Risk of Respiratory Disease
- Describe Adult Vaccination Challenges and Best Practices
- Describe Select Respiratory Vaccines for Adults and ACIP Recommendations

Dr. Edgar Rios, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, Vaccines Field Medical Director, US Medical Affairs, Pfizer



1015 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN EXHIBITION HALL

1100 THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF DATA MANGEMENT IN SUSTAINING VETERAN CARE DURING AND AFTER EHR TRANSITIONS

- Streamlining Access to Veteran Legacy Health Records: Why secure, accessible, and complete historical health data is critical to care continuity, especially during system transitions
- Reducing Burden for Clinicians and HIM Professionals: How simplifying access to veteran legacy health data supports compliance and empowers care teams to maintain trust with veterans and serve them more effectively
- Lessons from DHA's Legacy Health Record Consolidation: Hear insights from DHA's initiative to centralize legacy health records across military health systems—and learn how it's informing a veteran-first approach to care

Dr. Kel Pults, Chief Clinical Officer & VP, Government Strategy, MediQuant



1130 PANEL DISCUSSION: FEDERAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD ROLLOUT - LESSONS LEARNED AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Share Federal EHR Deployment Challenges and Lessons Learned
- Describe Federal EHR Successes and Benefits
- Reveal Critical Factors for End-User Adoption
- Envision the Federal EHR of the Future

Moderator:

Holly Joers, President, **CareSource Military & Veterans**

Speakers:

Dr. Neil Evans, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and CIO; Chief Officer for the Office of Connected Care; Acting Program Executive Director (PED), Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Mr. James Perkins, Deputy Program Executive Officer, Defense Healthcare Management Systems, **Department of Defense**

Bill Tinston, Director, **Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization Office (FEHRM)**

1230 NETWORKING LUNCH IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

TRACK A: SUPPLY CHAIN TRACK

David Sloniker, Former Program Executive Director, OESM, Department of Veterans Affairs

TRACK B: PROSTHETICS & REHABILITATION TRACK

Moderated by Tonya Oxendine, Spokesperson, Wounded Warrior Project

1330 FIRESIDE CHAT: SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES ACROSS THE VA FOR STRATEGIC ACQUISITION, AND PRIORITIES FOR MEDICAL SURGICAL PRIME VENDOR PROGRAM (MSPV)

- Engagement in acquisition partnerships across the VA enterprise and across the federal government to help reduce cost and streamline logistics
- Maintaining comprehensive support for value-added acquisition and logistics business solutions, future of the Denver Logistics Center (hearing aids, CPAP etc.), warehouse modernization efforts
- High Tech Medical Equipment (HTME) from acquisition perspective
- Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment Act (ARCA) and what it will mean for the VA
- Reducing Losses and Waste: Using advanced systems to minimize overstock, expiration, and inefficiencies in the supply chain
- Streamlining Operations: Enhancing automation and efficiency to improve inventory flow and reduce manual interventions
- Overview of the MSPV program, efficiency, cost savings opportunities
- Managing and promoting a streamlined system for purchasing medical and surgical supplies
- Ensuring timely delivery and supply management for healthcare facilities



REDUCING AMPUTATIONS AND IMPROVING PAVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL VETERANS UTILIZING CYCLICALLY PRESSURIZED TOPICAL WOUND OXYGEN (TWO2) THERAPY

Major and Minor DFU related amputations continue to rise globally. The Veterans Administration's PAVE program is intended to prevent or delay amputations for veterans at risk of limb loss. Evidence based wound care therapeutics proven to heal DFUs more durably are now available. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) awarded topical oxygen therapy an "A" grade treatment recommendation in their 2023 and 2024 Standards of Care. Additionally, the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) and Wound Healing Society (WHS) has also recommended its use in their latest clinical practice guidelines. Multiple RCT & RWE studies conducted within the Veterans Administration have demonstrated that AOTI's unique cyclically pressurized patient applied at home TWO2 therapy heals DFUs more sustainably. These studies showed TWO2 healed DFUs with a six-fold reduction in recurrence, resulting in an 88% reduction in hospitalizations & 71% reduction in amputations over 12 months.

Matthew G. Garoufalidis, DPM, FASPS, FACPM, CWS, FFPM RCPS (Glasg), FRSM, Chief Medical Officer, **Advanced Oxygen Therapy**



DAY 2 – JULY 23, 2025

1400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability of American Made PPE <p>Moderator: David Sloniker, Former Program Executive Director, OESM, Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Speaker: Chris Parker, Associate Executive Director, Strategic Acquisition Center; Acting Associate Executive Director, National Acquisition Center, Department of Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>EMPOWERING THE VETERAN AMPUTEE COMMUNITY: ADVOCACY, ACCESS, AND INNOVATION IN PROSTHETIC CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran-Centered Advocacy: How the Amputee Coalition is championing policy reforms and expanding access to high-quality prosthetic care for veterans nationwide. Bridging Gaps in Access: Addressing disparities in prosthetics access across the VA system and ensuring inclusive care for all amputees. Lived Experience and Innovation: Bringing the voice of the veteran amputee community into prosthetic design, delivery, and technology innovation. <p>Priya Sheriff, Associate Director of Support Services, Amputee Coalition</p>
1430	<p>SECURING THE SUPPLY CHAIN: INNOVATION AND RELIABILITY IN AMERICAN-MADE MEDICAL PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of supply chain certainty for critical healthcare materials. Nephron Nitrile’s role as one of only two U.S. producers of a critical class of nitrile gloves. Meeting the technical and performance standards for VA glove contracts. Strategies for maintaining a resilient domestic PPE supply chain. Leveraging innovation to support both clinical performance and environmental responsibility. <p>Alison Bagwell, CEO, Nephron Nitrile, LLC</p> 	<p>DETERMINING COSTS AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF COLLAGENASE CLOSTRIDIUM HISTOLYTICUM (XIAFLEX®) VERSUS SURGERY FOR TREATMENT OF DUPUYTREN’S CONTRACTURE</p> <p>Authors utilized Time Driven Activity Based Costing Methodology to estimate resources associated with two treatments for Dupuytren’s contracture: Xiaflex, an injection given in the outpatient setting, and fasciectomy, a surgery. Treating more Dupuytren’s contracture patients in the outpatient setting with Xiaflex requires less surgeon and staff time, and frees up the opportunity for a surgeon to conduct more hand procedure</p> <p>Jill Davis, Senior Director, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, Endo Pharmaceuticals</p> 
1500	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN THE EXHIBITION HALL	
1500	<p>WOMEN LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE NETWORKING ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARIA BALLROOM</p> <p>Hosted by Elisa Cardnell, President and CEO, Service Womens Action Network</p>	

1545 AMERICAN RED CROSS RESUSCITATION SUITE ADVANCED RESUSCITATION EDUCATION

The American Red Cross has a longstanding partnership with the U.S. military to enhance the health and well-being of America's Armed Forces. Five years ago, the Military Training Network (MTN) turned to the Red Cross to help it train and certify servicemembers in basic and advanced life support. This presentation will provide an overview of the Red Cross' development and implementation of these training programs, the process the military health system followed to consider and ultimately adopt them, and highlight the substantial cost and time savings it has realized. Insights gained from the MTN's success could help the Veterans Health Administration achieve similar, if not greater, efficiency and effectiveness with resuscitation training.

Dr. Arthur L. Kellermann, MD, MPH, FACEP, FACP, Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, **American Red Cross**; Special Medical Advisory Group, **Department of Veterans Affairs**

**1615 LESSONS LEARNED ON OPTIMIZING PX ACROSS THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: INSIGHT FROM MEDSTAR**

- Key Strategies for Improving Patient Satisfaction: Insights into successful initiatives that have enhanced patient experience
- Addressing Common Barriers to Positive PX: Lessons learned from overcoming challenges such as wait times, communication gaps, and care coordination
- Sustaining Long-Term Improvements: How continuous feedback loops and performance metrics are used to maintain and optimize patient experience

Katelyn Moser, Senior Director of Patient Experience, **MedStar Washington Hospital Center**

1645 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS AND END OF CONFERENCE

Jim Gfrerer, CEO, **Federal Business LLC**; former CIO, **Department of Veterans Affairs**