

LTC Medical Directors and Pharmacists Senior Care Conference

Speaker Bios

Chris Barten, RN, BSN, works at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, IA. It is a 550 bed facility serving Iowa veterans and their spouses. He has been an Infection Control and Preventionist and an APIC member since 2003. In July 2015, he became the Iowa District E APIC Consultant. He has done presentations for Central Iowa APIC, IADONA, INA, Iowa Department of Public Health, Department of Inspections and Appeal, other healthcare organizations/local businesses, churches, and schools regarding infection control and prevention, influenza, and hand hygiene.

Ryan Carnahan, PharmD, is a Clinical Associate Professor of epidemiology at the University of Iowa. He serves as the Co-Principal Investigator of the Iowa Geriatric Education Center and Associate Director of the Health Effectiveness Research Center. He also works with the Food and Drug Administration's active medical product safety surveillance program, Mini-Sentinel. Dr. Carnahan completed a PharmD, a MS in epidemiology, and a three-year post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psycho-pharmacology at the University of Iowa.

Mary Jane Carothers, RN, LNHA, ALMC is the Vice President, Quality Improvement & Clinical Services for Iowa Health Care Association. MJ works closely with the IHCA and ICAL Quality Improvement Committees. She is knowledgeable regarding issues related to quality improvement, regulatory compliance and clinical practice in post-acute care settings. MJ is a registered nurse, a licensed nursing home administrator, certified assisted living manager, and a former clinical manager for a home health agency with many years of provider experience. Her responsibilities also include assisting IHCA/ICAL members with the AHCA Quality Initiative, the AHCA Quality Awards Program, and other state and national efforts which promote improved quality of clinical practice and improved quality of life for the consumers that IHCA/ICAL members serve.

David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, AHCA/NCAL Senior Vice President of Quality and Regulatory Affairs. In this capacity, Dr. Gifford leads AHCA/NCAL's internal quality department while pioneering initiatives on quality improvement in long term care. Dr. Gifford has been Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health since March 2005. Dr. Gifford participates or chairs numerous national, state and local health-related committees.

Patrick Hogan Pharm D is a 2013 graduate of Drake University. He did an experiential experience at Iowa Veterans Home and later had a rotation there. He has been employed by the Iowa Veterans Home since graduation. He is on the hospice committee, coordinates Clozapine patients, performs medication reviews, does sterile compounding and educates employees on proper use of pharmaceutical products. He is now a preceptor to Drake University pharmacy students. He has been on the antibiotic stewardship committee since inception.

Kate LaFollette is a Program Specialist at Telligen. She received her RN from the Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in Des Moines. Over the course of her 20+ year nursing career, Kate has worked as a charge nurse in a skilled care unit, adult med/surg, internal medicine triage and as an outpatient quality director. Kate has been with Telligen for four years. Currently her duties at Telligen include the coordination and implementation of Medicare quality improvement initiatives reducing hospital readmissions and improving transitions of care.

Mark Levy, MD, MPH, currently serves as the Managing Medical Director for Amerigroup Iowa where he has overall accountability for care coordination and medical management functions. In addition, Dr. Levy provides strategic leadership to guide Amerigroup innovation, community engagement, and provider network approaches. Dr. Levy is a Board Certified Internist and Geriatrician with a Masters Degree in Epidemiology and extensive and successful physician executive experience in both provider and managed care organizations. Dr. Levy completed his post-graduate training in medicine and geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Levy received his MD from Rush University in Chicago and his Masters of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh. His BA is from Amherst College.

Dr. Susan M. Levy is board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, as well as Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is the President of the American Medical Directors Association and is a Certified Medical Director since 1996. She is currently an independent consultant and provides medical director services to facilities in Sussex County, DE.

Sheryl Marshall, RN, CDP is a Quality Improvement Manager with Telligen's Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization Clinical Aims Team. Sheryl received her nursing degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and has over 30 years of nursing experience in the hospital, nursing home, home health and hospice settings. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner, Master Trainer for TeamSTEPPS.

Justin Rash, PharmD is a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Drake University. Dr. Rash serves as the Vice President of Clinical Services for Martin Health Services, as well as a consultant pharmacist, serving about 1000 patients in 16 facilities each month. He was the founding Chair of the Long-term Care/Senior Care Advisory Committee for the Iowa Pharmacy Association, and recently completed his term as a Board of Trustees member with IPA. Dr. Rash serves on a number of local and national organizations, working to advance quality patient care through pharmacy practice in LTC.

Victoria Walker MD, CMD, joined the Good Samaritan Society family in September 2013 as the organization's first Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Walker earned a double major in biology and chemistry at Mt. Marty College in Yankton, S.D. She attended medical school at the University of South Dakota, where she was honored by election to the elite Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AOA). She was drawn to the multigenerational and holistic approach of family medicine, and completed residency at the Washington Hospital Family Medicine program in Washington, PA.