



# Speaker Biographies

---

## **Adda Alexander, RN, MBA**

Ms. Alexander is the Executive Vice President for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA). She has operational and financial responsibility for the AzHHA communications, education, finance, and support services departments; as well as for the grant administration for the Campaign for Caring project. Ms. Alexander also serves on the board of directors for the Service Corporation—a \$2.5 million for-profit branch of the association—and provides executive support to the Arizona Patient Safety Initiative, the Nursing Leadership roundtable, the Human Recourses' roundtable, and the Chief Medical Officers' roundtable. Prior to AzHHA, Ms. Alexander was Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Services at Maricopa Integrated Health System. She has over 30 years of health care experience, as well as a master's of business administration degree from Century University, and a Nursing diploma from Methodist Medical Center in Central Illinois. Ms. Alexander is an active member of the Arizona Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association.

## **Diane Brunelle, MS, RN, CNAA, BC**

Ms. Brunelle is an experienced nursing executive with diverse and progressive health care management experience in small and mid-sized community hospitals, as well as a large tertiary care medical center. Ms. Brunelle is currently the nurse manager of the emergency department at Franklin Medical Center. In this role, she is responsible for clinical, human, and fiscal direction of the emergency department and is also the chair of the Medication Reconciliation Task Force. She completed her bachelor's of science in nursing at Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts and her master's of Science in Nursing Administration at the University of Massachusetts. She has served as a consultant with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors and was Assistant Vice President of Nursing at Holyoke Medical Center.

## **Howard J. Eng, MS, DrPH, RPh**

Dr. Eng is the Associate Director for Education and Research of the Rural Health Office, Director of the Southwest Border Rural Health Research Center, and Assistant Professor at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona. Dr. Eng has 30 years of experience in health care and training that includes health services and policy research, health economics, epidemiology, public health, and pharmacy. He has 20 years of teaching experience and has served as a faculty member of the Colleges of Pharmacy, Medicine, and Public Health. Dr. Eng's research interest include: issues related to access to health services, especially for the socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved; minority population and health disparities; border and tribal health; health care financing (i.e., managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program); barriers to health care utilization; health care delivery systems; health care quality improvement; and pharmaceutical usage patterns.

# Speaker Biographies

---



## **Linda K. McCoy, Pharm. D.**

Ms. McCoy is currently the Director of Clinical Patient Safety at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center. She is the past president of both the Arizona Pharmacy Association and the Arizona Society of Health System Pharmacists. For the past several years, Dr. McCoy has focused the majority of her attention on medication error reduction efforts and has presented to numerous state and national organizations on the issues related to medication errors. Dr. McCoy is currently co-team leader for the JCAHO Medication Use Function for the Arizona Division of Banner Health and serves as a member of the Banner Health Patient Safety Consultation Team. In January 2002, Governor Hull appointed Dr. McCoy to serve a 5-year term as a member of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy where she is currently Board President.

## **Debra L. Nixon, MSHA, BSN**

Ms. Nixon is the Vice President of Corporate Development for HSAG and is responsible for developing collaborative professional working relationships with health care partners, identifying new business opportunities, oversight and direction of new product development, and marketing and sales. Ms. Nixon has over 20 years of health care management and consulting experience in managed care, health claims, and health care quality improvement. She has a master's of science degree in health administration from the University of Colorado and a bachelor's of science in nursing from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Nixon is an advisory board member of the University of Arizona School of Nursing as well as a committee member for the Governor's Council on Aging. She is also a member of Arizona HealthQuery, the Interim Health Care Advisory Committee, the Healthcare Administrators Forum, Women in Healthcare, and the Arizona Rural Hospital Flexibility program. In addition, Ms. Nixon serves as an adjunct professor at Grand Canyon University School of Nursing.

## **Kurt A. Patton, BS, MS**

Kurt Patton, is the Executive Director of Accreditation Services at the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). In this role, Mr. Patton is responsible for working with accredited organizations seeking to be re-surveyed and new organizations seeking accreditation. He oversees staff involved in pre-survey support and analysis of organizational data to design a survey duration and complement as well as the logistics and routing of surveyors throughout the nation. Mr. Patton also supervises the post-survey process, which includes issuance of accreditation decisions and reports as well as monitoring the organizational database for intra-cycle monitoring events. In addition, Mr. Patton is responsible for business development in the Hospital Accreditation Program. Before joining the Joint Commission, Mr. Patton was the deputy director for the Division of Strategic Initiatives and Managed Care in the New York State Office of Mental Health. In that position, he was responsible for analyzing national health care reform trends and planning managed Medicaid, Medicare, and community support initiatives designed to serve individuals with serious mental illness. Previously, Mr. Patton served as the administrator for a state operated behavioral health managed care



## Speaker Biographies

---

program and director of the Bureau of Health Services. Additionally, he has lead or participated on a number of statewide task forces on such diverse subjects as assessment procedures for admission to special needs plans, strategies for serving individuals with HIV disease, management of tuberculosis, and improved purchasing practices in state facilities. Mr. Patton earned his bachelor's degree in Pharmacy and his master's degree in Institutional Administration from St. John's University, Jamaica, NY.

### **Judith Richard, RN, MS, CPHQ**

Ms. Richard is currently the Acute Care Team's Clinical Quality Specialist for rural hospitals at HSAG. She has been with the company since 1988, and brings over 20 years of clinical nursing experience in a variety of settings, including hospital medical/surgical, home health, nursing home, and psychiatric. Ms. Richard is Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality by the Healthcare Quality Certification Board and has a master's of Science degree in nursing from Arizona State University.