



Midwest Healthcare Management Conference

August 17, 2023

Gies College of Business | Carle Illinois College of Medicine

Venue: I Hotel & Illinois Conference Center, 1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820

Conference website link:



Download conference booklet:



8–8:30 am | Registration & Breakfast

8:30–9 am | Inauguration & Welcome

Ujjal Kumar Mukherjee, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

Mark S. Cohen, Dean, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC and Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of Carle Health

Mark Peecher, Deloitte Professor of Accountancy and Executive Associate Dean of Faculty and Research

9:00–10:15 am | Managing a pandemic to reduce societal cost

Stockpiling at the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Empirical Analysis of National Prescription Drug Sales and Prices.

Anita Carson, Questrom School of Business, Boston University

Minje Park, Columbia Business School, Columbia University

Managing in-person operations in educational institutions during the pandemic: The pivotal role of testing (Opt-in/Opt-out).

Sebastian Souyris, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

COVID vaccine mandates and nursing homes safety.

Ian Larkin, Anderson School of Management, UCLA

Moderator: Mehmet Eren Ahsen, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

10:15 –10:30 am | Break

10:30 am–12:00 pm | Role of data analytics in healthcare

Pathways to NetZero in Healthcare: A Goal-Oriented Valuation Perspective

Selvaprabhu Nadarajah, University of Illinois Chicago

Delta Coverage: The Analytics Journey to Implement a Novel Nurse Deployment Solution

Pengyi Shi, Purdue University

Data-Driven Surgical Tray Optimization to Improve Operating Room Efficiency.

Sandeep Rath, Kenan Flagler Business School at UNC

Analysis of Compensation Contracts for Providers in Clinical Studies

Mili Mehrotra, University of Illinois

Xueze Song, University of Illinois

Moderator: Dmitrii Sumkin, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

12:00 –12:30 pm | Lunch

12:30 –1:15 pm | Competition Award Ceremony and Presentations

Moderator: Anton Ivanov, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

1:15–2:30 pm | Addressing Challenges in Food and Health Safety

Budget Allocations for Public Health Procurement

Iva Rashkova, Washington University in St Louis

Designing a Mental Health Service Recommender System: Sensing and Responding to the Personalized Support Needs and Advancing Equity in Mental Healthcare Delivery.

Yi Tang, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Enabling the last-mile administration of vaccines, equitably: a county-level analysis.

Bhupinder Juneja, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

Moderator: Gopesh Anand, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

2:30–3:15 pm | Keynote Address

Challenges of Healthcare Delivery to a Diverse Population post COVID-19.

Sameer Vohra, Director of Illinois Department of Public Health

Arti Barnes, Chief Medical Officer of Illinois Department of Public Health

Moderator: Ron Watkins, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

3:15 –3:30 pm | Break

3:30–5:00 pm | Role of AI and Social Financing on Managing Future Challenges of Healthcare

Mainstreaming analytics in Illinois Medicaid

Andy Allison, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Unveiling the Data Potential: Personalized and Compassionate care in a Diverse Post-Pandemic World

Roopa Foulger, VP Digital & Innovation Development at OSF Healthcare

Opportunities in Medicaid

James Parker, Director of Office of Medicaid Innovation, University of Illinois

Supply Chain Resiliency for Healthcare

Rajesh Rangaswamy, Accenture

Moderator: Mili Mehrotra, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

5:00 –5:15 pm | Break

5:15–6:30 pm | Panel Discussion on Healthcare Research of Future

Panelists:

J. George Shanthikumar

Richard E. Dauch Chair of Manufacturing and Operations Management and Distinguished Professor of Management, Krannert School of Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Kingshuk K. Sinha

Professor, Department Chair and Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Sustainable Supply Chain, Supply Chain and Operations, Carson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Ron Watkins

Associate Vice President, University of Illinois, SHIELD Illinois, UIUC

Lee Kuhn

Managing Director, Claro Healthcare

Rodney Parker

Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

Ian Brooks

School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois

Moderator: Sridhar Seshadri

Alan J. and Joyce D. Baltz Endowed Professor, Information Systems/Operations Management/Supply Chain/Analytics Area, Gies College of Business; Health Innovation Professor, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

6:30–6:45 pm | Closing Remarks

Amy Wagoner Johnson, Head, Department of Biomedical and Translational Sciences, Carle Illinois College of Medicine; Professor, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering, UIUC

Carlos Torelli, Department Head and Professor of Business Administration and Zimmerman Faculty Fellow, Gies College of Business, UIUC

7:00–8 pm | Dinner & Networking

Session 1: Managing a pandemic to reduce societal cost:

Stockpiling at the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Empirical Analysis of National Prescription Drug Sales and Prices.

We examine sales of prescription drugs and find that hospitals stockpiled COVID-19 related drugs during the first two months of the pandemic. Sales decreased significantly after this period, despite an increase in COVID-19-related hospitalizations. Counter to concerns of price gouging, we find no evidence of price inflation for these drugs.

Presenters:



Anita Carson, Questrom School of Business, Boston University

Professor Carson is the Larz Anderson Professor of Management, and chair of the Operations & Technology Management department at Boston University's Questrom School of Business. She is an expert on operations improvement in healthcare. Her research explores how organizations can learn from failures, and improve efficiency, quality and patient experience. A sought-after speaker, she is viewed as a leading scholar of healthcare operations management. She is a department editor at M&SOM and has won numerous awards for her research, teaching, and service.



Minje Park, Columbia Business School

Minje Park is a postdoctoral research scholar in the Division of Decision, Risk, and Operations at Columbia Business School, Columbia University. His research investigates how organizations can be more resilient when facing supply chain disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, with a particular focus on healthcare supply chains. He completed his PhD in Business Administration at Boston University.

Managing in-person operations in educational institutions during the pandemic: The pivotal role of testing (Opt-in/Opt-out).

The CDC promoted the Test-to-Stay (TTS) program to facilitate in-person instruction in K-12 schools during COVID-19. This program delineates guidelines for schools to regularly test their students and staff to minimize risks of infection transmission. TTS can be administered via two different enrollment policies: opt-in where students do not test regularly by default unless they volunteer and the opposite, opt-out policy. We study the relative impacts of the two enrollment policies on the testing and positivity rates with data from 259 schools in Illinois. Our results indicate a 42.6% higher testing rate and 33.1% lower positivity rate in schools that chose the opt-out policy. If all schools adopted an opt-out policy, 20% of the total lost school days could have been saved. The lower positivity rate among the opt-out group is largely explained by the higher testing rate in these schools, which we believe is a manifestation of status-quo bias.



Presenter: Sebastian Souyris, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Sebastian Souyris is an Assistant Professor of Supply Chain and Analytics, holding the Dean R. Wellington '83 (Junior) Chair at the Lally School of Management, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Professor Souyris' research addresses challenges and the means of achieving environmental and human sustainability, combining data-driven optimization, machine learning, and econometrics. He has developed impactful solutions for sustainability, healthcare, logistics, media, and sports. His work appears in Operations Research, Production and Operations Management, among other outlets. In addition, he is an INFORMS Franz Edelman Laureate, a finalist of the EURO Excellence in Practice Award, and a prizewinner of the INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Practice Award.

COVID vaccine mandates and nursing homes safety.

We study the effect of vaccination mandates for staff at nursing homes on subsequent patient health and employment, compared to a control group of homes without mandates. We find large health effects – approximately one fewer death per year per two homes. Employment effects are small, with a reduction in staff time of two minutes per day.



Presenter: Ian Larkin, Anderson School of Management, UCLA

An associate professor in the UCLA Anderson strategy group, Ian Larkin's research is focused on compensation, incentives, employee motivation and human resources. His interest in the discipline comes compliments of his first job, with McKinsey & Company, where he spent four years as an associate and engagement manager.

in McKinsey's Hong Kong and Silicon Valley offices, advising senior executives on corporate strategy in the banking and high technology industries. His primary research has ranged from the examination of corporate awards and programs that companies utilize to recognize employee performance and their potential unintended costs to decision-making influenced by various sales tactics and their respective cost outcomes in numerous industries, including technology and medicine. He is currently looking at the effects that workplace wellness programs have on employee motivation and productivity, as well as “gamification” in the workplace, which uses nonmonetary rewards to encourage improvements in employee behavior.

Session 2: Role of data analytics in healthcare

Pathways to NetZero in Healthcare: A Goal-Oriented Valuation Perspective

NetZero commitments to decarbonize the healthcare sector have gained momentum among hospitals and health systems. We propose a framework to determine fiscally and socially responsible decarbonization pathways that value options to accelerate existing carbon-negative activities (e.g., preventative care), decelerate carbon-positive efforts (e.g., anesthetics), and add green investments (e.g., onsite renewables).



Presenter: Selva Nadarajah, University of Illinois Chicago

Selva Nadarajah is an Associate Professor of Information and Decision Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Business. He addresses challenges at the interface of operations and finance using reinforcement learning and optimization. His research focuses on the operations of commodity and energy conversion assets, their valuation and risk management, and responsible NetZero pathways. Selva has received the Energy, Natural Resources and The Environment Young Researcher Prize from INFORMS and best paper awards from the finance (Commodity and Energy Markets Association) and machine learning (NeurIPS) communities. He also serves as AI advisor at Varuna Tech.

Delta Coverage: The Analytics Journey to Implement a Novel Nurse Deployment Solution

We partner with IU Health to create a groundbreaking internal travel nursing program that floats nurses in 16 hospitals, addressing staffing shortages. Its success during the pandemic led to an adapted version for regular operations, combining cutting-edge AI technologies with traditional supply chain models to ensure optimal staffing.



Presenter: Pengyi Shi, Purdue University

Pengyi Shi is an associate professor at the Daniels School of Business, Purdue University. She received her Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology before joining Purdue in 2014. Her research interests include data-driven modeling and decision-making in healthcare and service operations. She has collaborated with practitioners from different healthcare organizations, including major hospitals in the US, Singapore, and China. Most recently, she is collaborating with community correctional programs to develop data-based evaluation and human-in-the-loop machine learning algorithms. Her research has won the first place of MSOM Responsible Research in OM Award in 2021, the first place of INFORMS Pierskalla Best Paper Award in 2018, and the second place of POMS CHOM Best Paper Award in 2019 and 2020.

Data-Driven Surgical Tray Optimization to Improve Operating Room Efficiency.

Hospitals spend several million dollars annually on instrument sterilization, tray assembly, and repurchase costs. However, less than 20-30% of reusable instruments supplied to surgery are used. We obtained actual surgical instrument usage data at UNC Rex Hospital in partnership with OpFlow, a healthcare software company. We formulate and solve a data-driven mathematical optimization model for surgical tray configuration and assignment that scales to thousands of instruments and hundreds of surgical trays. Our solution was implemented at the UNC Rex Hospital, and we estimate savings of \$1.39 million per year from using the model-recommended solution at the hospital.



Presenter: Sandeep Rath, Kenan Flagler Business School at UNC

Sandeep Rath is an Assistant Professor in Operations at Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In his research, he develops practical and implementable solutions which bring together operational and clinical data to aid hospital managers in their resource planning decisions. He has partnered with healthcare technology firms and major healthcare organizations such as the Veterans Health Administration, UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, and UNC Healthcare. Prior to joining UNC he received his PhD in Management from UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Analysis of Compensation Contracts for Providers in Clinical Studies

Participant retention is a significant challenge faced by clinical studies. In this work, we consider how the sponsor of a clinical study can motivate investigators and coordinators to improve participant retention for the study. We identify three different clinical study settings observed in practice and derive the optimal compensation contracts.



Presenters: Mili Mehrotra, University of Illinois

Mili Mehrotra is an Associate Professor of Business Administration in the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D. in Operations Management in 2010 from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research lies in the domain of socially-responsible supply chains and operations management. In particular, she is interested in developing and analyzing incentive schemes, and studying coordination and optimization issues that arise in practice due to the actions taken by a wide variety of stakeholders to achieve broader social objectives. She is also interested in using discrete models for analyzing problems in service operations, production planning, and logistics. Her papers have been accepted for publication in Management Science, Manufacturing and Service Operations Management, Operations Research, and Production & Operations Management. She currently serves as an Associate Editor for Manufacturing and Service Operations Management, Production & Operations Management, and Naval Research Logistics.



Xueze Song, University of Illinois

Xueze Song is a fourth-year PhD student in Operations Management at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research is dedicated to streamlining the delivery of innovative healthcare solutions through the optimization of the research and development process, and the integration of novel decision-making strategies. His dissertation focuses on investigating mechanisms to enhance participant retention in clinical studies, and examining their impact on reducing the risk of premature study termination. Xueze's anticipated graduation is in May 2024.

Session 3: Addressing Challenges in Food and Health Safety

Budget Allocations for Public Health Procurement

Although medicine procurement decisions are seemingly complex and impact public health, published guidelines to assist donors and grant recipients with ordering are lacking. We formulate a budget allocation problem supported by an empirical analysis of Global Fund-related activities and provide a well-performing, theoretically grounded index-based heuristic for the problem.

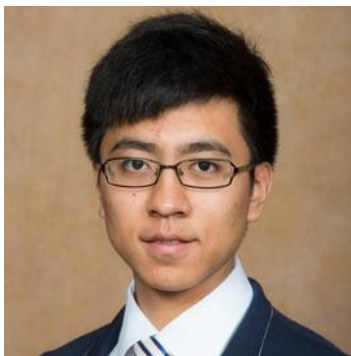


Presenter: Iva Rashkova, Washington University in St Louis

Iva Rashkova is an Assistant Professor of Supply Chain, Operations and Technology at the Olin Business School, Washington University. Her research interests in sustainability and OM-Marketing interface include topics in product line design, food safety, global health and pharmaceutical supply chains. Iva has collaborated with various organizations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Express Scripts. Iva holds a PhD in Management Science and Operations from London Business School in the United Kingdom.

Designing a Mental Health Service Recommender System: Sensing and Responding to the Personalized Support Needs and Advancing Equity in Mental Healthcare Delivery.

There is a huge gap between the supply and demand of mental health services. One primary reason for such gap is the lack of awareness of available mental healthcare resources. In this study, we propose a novel AI-powered mental health service recommender system delivered through a chatbot that would sense and respond to mental health mobile app users' personalized support needs.



Presenter: Yi Tang, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Yi Tang is a PhD candidate in the Supply Chain & Operations Department at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. His dissertation research examines the application of mobile health technology (e.g., mobile apps, telehealth) in mental healthcare delivery with a focus on identifying mechanisms that explain the inequities associated with population socio-demographics (e.g., gender, sexual orientation, and race-ethnicity) in mental healthcare supply chain and enhance its equity and inclusiveness via innovative technology. Yi is the

recipient of several research grants and awards including University of Minnesota Leadership in Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Fellowship, Cisco Research Grant, and the finalist of 2023 POMS College of Service Operations Management Best Student Paper.

Enabling the last-mile administration of vaccines, equitably: a county-level analysis.

Vaccine coverage can minimize the impact of the pandemic. However, there is a wide spatial disparity in vaccine coverage. While the significance of vaccine hesitancy and associated socio-economic factors are well-acknowledged, the factors related to vaccine delivery and administration from a supply-chain efficacy perspective are poorly understood. We analyze the effect of the enablers of the last mile of vaccine supply chains along 3-dimensions: logistical connectivity, delivery infrastructure, and informational connectivity. Our results suggest that all three dimensions of the last-mile delivery and administration of vaccines improve vaccine coverage. Further, we demonstrate that improving enablers of the last mile of the vaccine supply chain is more beneficial for locations with relatively higher prevalence of socio-economic and demographic risk factors.



Presenter: Bhupinder Juneja, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

Bhupinder (Bhupi) is a Senior Lecturer of Supply Chain and Operations at the Carlson School of Management. He received his PhD in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology from UMN Twin Cities, MN. His dissertation is Socio-Economic and Clinical Drivers of COVID-19 Mortality: An Empirical Analysis of the Supply-side and Demand-side Moderators. At Carlson School, Bhupi was awarded 2023 Undergraduate Instructor of the Year. He teaches Business Statistics using R and coteaches Global Operations Capstone. Additionally, he has 17 years of industry experience including 10 years as product data scientist with IBM SPSS, 7 years as Business Systems Analyst, Software Developer.

Keynote Address

Challenges of Healthcare Delivery to a Diverse Population post COVID-19.



Sameer Vohra, Director of Illinois Department of Public Health

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA, was appointed as the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, effective August 1, 2022, by Governor JB Pritzker.

Dr. Vohra is a general pediatrician who holds degrees in law and public policy. He is a cross-disciplinary leader in state and national health policy formulation, and his recent focus has been on improving health outcomes in Central and Southern Illinois. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Vohra was the Founding Chair of the Department of Population Science and Policy, a practicing primary care pediatrician, and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health, Medical Humanities, and Law at the Southern Illinois University – School of Medicine (SIU-SOM) in Springfield, Illinois, where he also served the State of Illinois as the Interim Chair of the Children’s Mental Health Partnership.

A graduate of the University of Chicago, where he earned a Master of Arts in public policy, Dr. Vohra completed his medical residency in pediatrics at the University of Chicago. He holds a medical doctorate from SIU-SOM; a juris doctorate from SIU School of Law graduating first in his class; and a Bachelor of Arts in political science. Dr. Vohra previously served on the Illinois State Board of Health, the Illinois Medicaid Advisory Committee, the Governor’s Rural Affairs Council, the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund Steering Committee as well as national committees for the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Medical Association, and on the Board of Trustees for the Illinois State Medical Society and Chicago Medical Society.

He has received numerous honors including a United States Fulbright Scholarship in 2009, an American Medical Association Foundation’s Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award in 2014 and was named an Edgar Fellow in 2016 as one of 40 emerging political and policy leaders in Illinois. In 2020, he was named a Presidential Leadership Scholar, chosen by the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the Clinton Presidential Center, the George and Barbara Bush Foundation, and the LBJ Foundation.

Dr. Vohra resides in Springfield with his wife, Tasnim, and two children.



Arti Barnes, Chief Medical Officer of Illinois Department of Public Health

Dr. Barnes joined as the Chief Medical Officer of IDPH in 2021. Prior to that she was the Medical Director for the Departments of Infectious Diseases and Specialties at the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center in New Haven where she had also served as the Infection Prevention Officer. She has an M.P.H. with a focus in International Health and Humanitarian Aid from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Barnes has an extensive background in academia as clinical faculty at the Yale School of Medicine, UT Southwestern Medical Center and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has also served as the Clinical Director for the South Central AIDS Education and Training Centers (HRSA Region 6). She has experience in various public health systems across different states and expertise in Infection Prevention, HIV, transgender care, sexually transmitted infections and HPV. She has helped organize the Covid 19 clinical and policy response in her current and former roles and is honored to have remained a front line provider during the entire pandemic.



Moderator: Ron Watkins, Gies College of Business, UIUC, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, UIUC

Ron Watkins, Associate Vice President for the University of Illinois System and Clinical Professor at the Gies College of Business in the organizational behavior area. Ron, as Managing Director of SHIELD Illinois, was responsible for deploying the COVID-19 saliva-based PCR test across Illinois at over 2000 locations serving over 2 million people. Ron's research interests are community health and scaling organizations.

Session 4: Role of AI and Social Financing on Managing Future Challenges of Healthcare

Mainstreaming analytics in Illinois Medicaid

Illinois Medicaid provides vital services for 3+ million people each year at a cost of ~\$25 billion. Data accumulated for program management is probably the most impressive collection of digitized information in state history. We will review recent successes and present a collective challenge for fully exploiting this data store.



Presenter: Andy Allison, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Andy Allison is an economist by training and has studied, advised, served or led state health care programs for nearly 30 years. He began his career as a Medicaid budget analyst at the federal Office of Management and Budget (1992-1995) and later directed Kansas' Medicaid program (2006-2011), initiating KanCare, the nation's most comprehensive Medicaid managed care program. As Arkansas' Medicaid Director (2011-2014), he helped establish the state's influential health care payment reforms and led in the design and implementation of a Medicaid-funded coverage expansion through the Marketplace. He has been Illinois HFS' Deputy Director for Strategic Planning and Analytics since 2019, where he led in the study, design and implementation of sweeping payment reforms for the state's nursing facilities. He has a bachelor's degree in History from Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), a master's degree in Public Policy from Duke, and a PhD in economics from Vanderbilt.

Unveiling the Data Potential: Personalized and Compassionate care in a Diverse Post-Pandemic World

In a diverse post-pandemic world, delivering healthcare requires a nuanced approach. This presentation explores the challenges and opportunities of providing personalized and compassionate care to a diverse population. By leveraging data-driven insights, healthcare professionals can adapt their practices to meet individual needs, ensuring equitable and effective healthcare delivery for all.

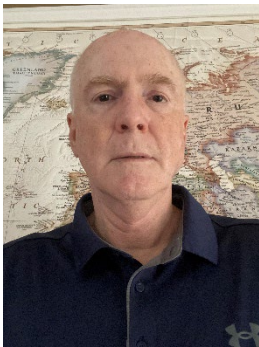


Presenter: Roopa Foulger, OSF Healthcare

Roopa Foulger has 25 years' cross industry experience in Data and Enterprise Information Management, Analytics and Product Development. She is currently the Vice President –Digital & Innovation Development at OSF HealthCare System and has been with the organization for 14 years. At OSF, she is responsible for Technology strategy for Digital Transformation and is Research lead for Jump ARCHES Data and Advanced Informatics Lab building Adjacent and Breakthrough solutions. As a Research Investigator in Data Science and AI, she is working on several research projects aimed at addressing cancer, promoting health equity, and finding solutions for chronic disease conditions. In her role as VP Data Delivery, she played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the Enterprise Data Warehouse and Business Intelligence Infrastructure for OSF, improving the organization's capabilities in enabling more efficient and effective data-driven decision-making across the organization.

Opportunities in Medicaid

I will discuss emerging developments in Medicaid that may present opportunities for research to further the goals of these initiatives. Delivery and payment for services to address health related social needs. Expanded and improved telehealth Finding the most efficient and effective way to incorporate community health workers into health care delivery. Alternative payment methodology for primary care to practice redesign. Workforce issues.



Presenter: James Parker, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Jim Parker is the Director of the Office of Medicaid Innovation at the University of Illinois. His offices leverages the resources of the University to improve and strengthen the Illinois Medicaid Program. Jim spent time in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Healthcare and Family services before becoming Deputy Administrator of the Division of Medical Programs for Operations. After a stint with a private healthcare consulting firm, he joined the University in 2019

Supply Chain Resiliency for Healthcare

A resilient supply chain is at the heart of the new future of companies. Yet COVID-19 revealed that today's supply chains, including Healthcare, are far from resilient. Too many are challenged by supply shortages, poor visibility, antiquated technology and unreliable suppliers. To compete in the new future, healthcare providers, manufacturers must move beyond these limitations and reimagine the supply chain to support customers, patients, frontline healthcare workers and the business. This transformation requires swift action. Rajesh will discuss and share Accenture PoV on building resilient supply chains.



Presenter: Rajesh Rangaswamy, Accenture

Rajesh is a Strategy and Consulting Managing Director at Accenture in the Supply Chain and Operations practice focused on Data and AI. He leads the Supply Chain Analytics for the Mid West region and focuses on CPG, Auto, Industrial, Healthcare industries. He has 25+ years of Industry (Auto, Healthcare, Industrial), Consulting, Analytics experience and has worked across all supply chain functions. Rajesh is passionate about using Data and AI to solve some of the challenging problems in supply chains today. He has led transformational programs for leading manufacturing clients using advanced AI techniques and collaborating with Academia, Ecosystem Partners for innovation. He lives in Aurora, Illinois and loves to cook in his free time

Session 5: Panel discussion on Healthcare Research of Future



J. George Shanthikumar

Richard E. Dauch Chair of Manufacturing and Operations Management and Distinguished Professor of Management, Krannert School of Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

J. George Shanthikumar is the Richard E. Dauch Distinguished Chair Professor of Manufacturing and Operations Management at the Mitchell E. Daniels Jr. Business School, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN and a Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the University of California, Berkeley, CA. Before joining Purdue, he was a Chancellor's Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the University of California, Berkeley, CA. His most recent research interests are in model uncertainty, learning, and data-integrated operations management



Kingshuk K. Sinha

Professor, Department Chair and Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Sustainable Supply Chain, Supply Chain and Operations, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Kingshuk K. (KK) Sinha is a Professor and Chair of the Supply Chain and Operations Department, and is the holder of the Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Sustainable Supply Chain at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. He is also a graduate faculty in the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology program. His current research projects are focused on: (i) managing supply chain risks with the rapid growth in adverse events and recalls related to medical devices and drugs; (ii) reducing the disparities in physical and mental healthcare delivery in underserved communities with a focus on improving affordability, access and awareness of care; (iii) leveraging technological advancements (e.g., surgical robots, precision medicine, telemedicine and mobile apps) to improve healthcare delivery; and (iv) the design and sustenance of pandemic (COVID-19) care supply chain.



Ron Watkins

Associate Vice President, University of Illinois, SHIELD Illinois, UIUC

Ron Watkins, Associate Vice President for the University of Illinois System and Clinical Professor at the Gies College of Business in the organizational behavior area. Ron, as Managing Director of SHIELD Illinois, was responsible for deploying the COVID-19 saliva-based PCR test across Illinois at over 2000 locations serving over 2 million people. Ron's research interests are community health and scaling organizations.



Lee Kuhn

Managing Director, Claro Healthcare

Lee Kuhn is a Managing Director with Claro Healthcare, a Kaufman Hall company, and is based in Chicago. He specializes in healthcare performance improvement consulting. He has over 25 years' experience consulting with healthcare providers to accurately reflect quality of care and capture appropriate reimbursement. His experience has been focused on providing Clinical Documentation Improvement ("CDI") services to clients including the inpatient, outpatient facility, and professional settings of care. Lee has worked with over 100 healthcare providers ranging from small rural facilities to large urban academic medical centers to multi-hospital health systems. Lee has responsibility for managing the firm's professional encounter CDI practice which is focused on assisting health systems across the country to improve their performance under risk-based agreements through more accurately capturing clinical documentation. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Accountancy).



Rodney Parker

Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

Rod Parker is Fetting-Whirlpool Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Operations Management at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. His research interests include multi-echelon inventory theory, operations/finance interface but especially healthcare operations management research where he has studied kidney transplantation allocation policies, Medicare reimbursement in the hospice industry, capacity decentralization to address underserved rural communities, and an integrated system approach during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ian Brooks

School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois

Ian Brooks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Health Informatics, the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Information Systems for Health, at the University of Illinois and leads the PAHO/WHO Anti-infectious Virtual Center for the Americas. His research focuses on the use of data from traditional and non-traditional sources to understand population health and support public health decision makers.

