Meeting of the
President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)
September 21, 2022

Invited Speaker Biographies

(in order of presentation)

SUSAN E. SHERIDAN, MIM, MBA, DHL

Susan E. Sheridan is a founding member of Patients for Patient Safety (PFPS) U.S. and currently serves as the Director of Patient Engagement, Emeritus for the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM) and Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO). Prior to her work at SIDM, Sheridan served as Patient and Family Engagement Advisor at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She also served as the Director of Patient Engagement for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and led the Patients for Patient Safety program at the WHO. Sheridan had previously spent 10 years in patient advocacy inspired by adverse family experiences in the healthcare system. She cofounded and is past president of Parents of Infants and Children with Kernicterus that successfully changed the standard of care for neonatal jaundice in the United States. She is also the cofounder of Consumers Advancing Patient Safety, which helps organizations engage patients as partners in developing patient-safety solutions. In 2009, Sheridan was named to Modern Healthcare’s list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare as well as Modern Healthcare’s 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. Sheridan and her family have been featured in USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and the international documentary, To Err is Human. Prior to her leadership in patient engagement, she worked as a finance banker for international trade. Sheridan received a BA from Albion College, a MIM and MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a DHL from Adrian College.

RUTH ANN DORRILL, MPA

Ruth Ann Dorrill is a Regional Inspector General in the Office of Evaluation and Inspections, Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dorrill has served in the OIG for 27 years and led national teams in evaluating HHS programs. This work includes a series about patient harm that established the first national incidence rates for adverse events among hospitalized and post-acute patients. She has also led evaluations of program management, including a 2016 case study of CMS’s implementation of HealthCare.gov, a 2019 review of HHS’s Indian Health Service, and studies in 2020 and 2021 on hospital responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dorrill received the Bronze Medal for Outstanding OIG Service in 2000 and 2010, the HHS Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Management in
2016, and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021. She has been a featured speaker at healthcare conferences, including the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the National Association for State Health Policy, and interviewed on healthcare quality by The New York Times, The Washington Post, and National Public Radio. She was the keynote speaker for the 2018 American Health Lawyers Association National Clinical Conference, and the 2020 and 2021 Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors Annual Conference. In September 2018, she testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee regarding nursing home quality of care. Dorrill is a Senior Fellow at the Partnership for Public Service in Washington, D.C., and holds a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Bachelor of Science from Baylor University.

**CHRISTOPHER A. HART, JD, MSE**

Christopher A. Hart is the founder of Hart Solutions LLP, which specializes in improving safety in a variety of contexts, including the safety of automation in motor vehicles, workplace safety, and process safety in potentially hazardous industries. He is also Chairman of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, a three-jurisdictional agency (Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC) that was created in 2019 to oversee the safety of the Washington DC area subway system. In addition, in 2019 he was asked by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to lead the Joint Authorities Technical Review that was created to bring together the certification authorities of 10 countries, as well as NASA, to review the robustness of the FAA certification of the flight control systems of the Boeing 737 MAX and make recommendations as needed to improve the certification process. Also, in 2021 he was asked to join the Board of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the non-government organization that accredits hospitals, to help improve healthcare safety. He was also invited in 2021 to be on the FAA Management Advisory Council. After an Uber test vehicle struck and killed a pedestrian in Tempe, AZ in 2018, and Uber terminated such tests on public streets, Hart was included in the team of experts that Uber engaged to recommend how to safely resume street testing, which it has done. From 2009 until 2018, Hart was Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), having been nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate. The NTSB investigates major accidents in all modes of transportation, determines the probable causes of the accidents, and makes recommendations to prevent recurrences.

**PETER PRONOVOST, MD, PHD**

Peter Pronovost is a patient safety champion, physician executive, critical care physician, prolific researcher with more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications, innovator founding several technology companies, and thought leader informing U.S. and global health policy. Pronovost’s transformative work leveraging checklists to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections has saved thousands of lives. The intervention has been implemented across the U.S., and central line-associated infections that used to kill as many people as breast or prostate cancer have been reduced by 80 percent. In recognition of this innovation, his accolades include being named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine and receiving a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant.” Pronovost serves Chief Clinical Transformation Officer at University Hospitals (UH) in Northeast Ohio and Professor in schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Management Case Western Reserve University. He co-chairs with the deputy secretary of HHS, the Healthcare Quality Summit, an effort in response to a White House Executive Order to modernize and improve quality measures for HHS, VA, and DOD. He previously served as Johns Hopkins Medicine Senior Vice President for Patient Safety and Quality and was the founder and director of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. He also served as the Senior
Vice President for Clinical Strategy and the Chief Medical Officer for UnitedHealthcare. Pronovost is an advisor to the World Health Organization’s World Alliance for Patient Safety and regularly addresses the U.S. Congress on patient safety issues. He is a founder of VisICU, a tele ICU company, and Doctella, a health information platform for quality of care and advises several healthcare technology companies.

**JULIE MORATH, RN, MS, CPPS**

Julie Morath has more than three decades of experience as a healthcare executive, following her work as a registered and advanced practice nurse, specializing in psychiatry and mental health. She has held C-suite positions as Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Clinical Services, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer at major US health systems, including serving as President and CEO for the development of the Hospital Quality Institute of California.

- Founding and current member of the Lucian Leape Institute of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.
- Former elected member of the Board of Commissioners of The Joint Commission.
- Served in C-suite positions at academic medical centers and health systems nationwide.
- Affiliate faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine.
- Board president, Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement, University of Washington School of Medicine.
- Inaugural recipient of the John Eisenberg Award for Individual Lifetime Achievement in Patient Safety, National Quality Forum and The Joint Commission.
- Recipient of the Beau Biden Humanitarian Award, Patient Safety Movement Foundation.
- Author of *Do No Harm* and *The Quality Advantage*.
- More than 50 publications, including six major reports from the Lucian Leape Institute, such as *Shining a Light: Safer Health Care through Transparency* (contributor).

**GINA RAIMONDO, JD, DPHIL, MA**

Gina M. Raimondo serves as the 40th U.S. Secretary of Commerce and was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris on March 3, 2021. As Secretary of Commerce, she is focused on a simple but vital mission—to spur good-paying jobs, empower entrepreneurs to innovate and grow, and help American workers and businesses compete.

Secretary Raimondo was formerly the 75th Governor of Rhode Island and its first woman governor. She grew up in Smithfield in a tight-knit Italian-American family. Her family history and her childhood experiences shaped her core beliefs in hard work, opportunity for all, and the importance of financial security.

After arriving from Italy at age 14, Secretary Raimondo’s grandfather learned English studying in the Providence Public Library and later lived with her family. Her mother was a homemaker, who dedicated her life to teaching her children about the importance of hard work and determination. Her father was a World War II Navy veteran from a family of butchers and became the first in his family to attend college thanks to the GI Bill. After working for 26 years in manufacturing, Joseph lost his job along with hundreds of others when the factory moved overseas, and the Raimondo family lost their sense of financial security.

As a teenager, Secretary Raimondo rode a public bus to LaSalle Academy in Providence, where she was valedictorian of her graduating class. She went on to graduate with honors from Harvard, where she was
recognized as the top economics student in her class. She won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University where she earned a doctorate. She later graduated from Yale Law School. Secretary Raimondo clerked for U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood and served as founding employee and senior vice president at Village Ventures.

Wanting to start her own business and be close to family, she returned home to Rhode Island and founded Point Judith Capital, a venture capital firm. In November 2010, Secretary Raimondo was elected to serve as General Treasurer of Rhode Island, receiving the largest number of votes of any statewide candidate. When she took office as General Treasurer, she tackled the state's $7 billion unfunded pension liability. Secretary Raimondo was sworn into office as Governor in January 2015 and won a second term in 2018. She also served as chair of the Democratic Governors’ Association in 2019.

During her time as Governor, Secretary Raimondo kick-started the state’s economy and made record investments in infrastructure, education, and job training. She focused tirelessly on creating economic opportunities and good-paying jobs for all Rhode Islanders. Early in her administration, she launched an innovative workforce development program that develops business-led partnerships to address unique workforce challenges.

**ERWIN GIANCHANDANI, PHD, MS**

Erwin Gianchandani is the U.S. National Science Foundation’s (NSF’s) assistant director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, leading the newly established TIP Directorate. He has worked at NSF since 2012. Prior to becoming the assistant director for TIP, he served as the senior advisor for Translation, Innovation and Partnerships, where he helped develop plans for the new TIP Directorate in collaboration with colleagues at NSF, other government agencies, industry, and academia. During the previous six years, Gianchandani was the NSF deputy assistant director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, twice serving as acting assistant director for CISE. Gianchandani’s leadership and management of CISE included the formulation and implementation of the directorate’s $1 billion annual budget, strategic and human capital planning, and oversight of day-to-day operations for a team of over 130. Gianchandani has led the development and launch of several new NSF initiatives, including the Smart & Connected Communities program, Civic Innovation Challenge, Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research, and the National Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes. Before joining NSF, Gianchandani was the inaugural director of the Computing Community Consortium, providing leadership to the computing research community in identifying and pursuing bold, high-impact research directions such as health information technology and sustainable computing. Gianchandani has published extensively and presented at international conferences on computational systems biology. He holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science and master’s and doctoral degrees in biomedical engineering, all from the University of Virginia. In 2021, Gianchandani received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, awarded to members of the Federal Government’s Senior Executive Service for sustained extraordinary accomplishment. In 2018, he was awarded the Outstanding Young Engineering Graduate Award from the University of Virginia.

**ALEJANDRA Y. CASTILLO, MPA, JD**

Alejandra Y. Castillo was sworn in as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development on August 13, 2021. She has served in leadership positions for three presidents - Biden, Obama, and Clinton. Her professional career spans two decades, focusing on creating equitable and inclusive opportunities for all Americans. Prior to EDA, Castillo was the Chief Executive Officer of YWCA USA, where she championed the 163-year-old organization delivering critical social, educational, and economic development services.
throughout its 204 associations. In 2014, Castillo was appointed by President Obama to serve as the national director of the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), becoming the first Hispanic woman to lead the agency. During her tenure, she led MBDA's efforts to boost the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises (MBEs). Under her leadership, MBDA expanded its effort to help MBEs gain access to capital, contracts, and business opportunities, assisting MBEs in growing in size and scale. Castillo first joined the Department of Commerce in 2008 as a Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA). Additionally, Castillo served as a Senior Policy Analyst in the White House during the Clinton Administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin, and earned a Juris Doctor degree from American University's Washington College of Law.