Strategies to Better Align Investments in Innovations for Therapeutic Development with Disease Burden and Unmet Needs Webinar 3

PUBLIC WEBINAR AGENDA

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

3:00 PM	**Welcome and Introduction to the Study** **Don Berwick**, Committee Co-Chair
3:05 PM	**Presentation** **Michael Mejia,** Advisory Board
3:20 PM	**Discussion** **Timian Godfrey**, Committee Member and Moderator
4:00 PM	**Presentation** **Rachel Sachs,** Washington University in St. Louis
4:15 PM	**Discussion** **Lisa Ouellette**, Committee Member and Moderator
4:55 PM	**Closing Remarks** **Adjourn**

Speaker Biographies

Michael Mejia

Michael Mejia is the Director of Life Sciences Research at the Advisory Board, an editorially independent research division of Optum and UnitedHealth Group. In this role, Michael leads research initiatives that explore how advancements in healthcare technologies—such as remote patient monitoring, artificial intelligence, and other innovations—can reshape patient care pathways, optimize delivery systems, and improve health outcomes. By combining deep insights into industry trends, best practices, and shifts in policy and practice, Michael helps life sciences executives and healthcare leaders make more informed, data-driven decisions that enhance organizational strategy, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen competitive positioning. His work empowers clients to not only deliver more personalized and patient-centered care but also to drive innovation, maximize value, and navigate a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape with confidence.

Michael has received recognition for his contributions to health equity research in psychosocial oncology, earning the title of Health Equity Scholar from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS). He serves in advisory roles on multiple NIH-funded initiatives, including as a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Specialty Board of the Somatic Mosaicism across Human Tissues (SMaHT) Consortium and the Community Advisory Board for the Developmental Genotype-Tissue Expression (dGTEx) Project. He also contributes to the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Research Program.

In addition to his NIH-related work, Michael is a member of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Standards Committee of the PROMIS Health Organization and serves on the Advisory Group for Implementation Research and Practice, the official journal of the Society for Implementation Research Collaboration. He is also a Partner with the non-commercial initiative "Clinical Trials for All."
Previously, Michael was a member of the development team for the National Cancer Institute's Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE), a measurement system designed to improve the assessment of patient toxicity and symptomatic adverse events in cancer treatment. He also chaired the Health Disparities Committee of the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC) for five years, and served on the Advisory Board of Experts on Patient Perspectives and Partnering in Clinical Trials with Informa Connect Life Sciences.

Rachel Sachs, JD
Rachel Sachs is a Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a scholar of innovation policy, exploring the intersection of health law, food and drug regulation, and patent law. Her work analyzes problems of innovation and access to new health care technologies. Professor Sachs' scholarship has appeared in journals that include the Duke Law Journal, the NYU Law Review, the Michigan Law Review, the Harvard Law Review, the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and Health Affairs.

Professor Sachs recently served in the Biden-Harris Administration as a Senior Advisor at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the General Counsel, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Division. She has testified before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce and the United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means. She currently serves as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Prior to joining Washington University in St. Louis, Professor Sachs was an Academic Fellow at the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics and a Lecturer in Law at Harvard Law School. She also clerked for the Honorable Richard A. Posner of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She received her J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She received her A.B. in Bioethics from Princeton University.